Call for papers and guide to submissions

Teaching and Learning Conference 2027

Shaping futures, reimagining education and empowering society for a changing world

6 July – 8 July 2027
Venue: Nottingham Trent University

Deadline for submissions: midnight 24 November 2026

Submissions should be made on **our online site**.

Overview

Shaping futures, reimagining education and empowering society for a changing world

Higher education has long been a catalyst for societal progress, enabling individuals to thrive in their lives and careers. But amidst rapid, macro-level global changes; from the acceleration of artificial intelligence and shifting demographics to the urgent realities of sustainable development, our mission must expand. To be successful in a changing world, higher education must be proactive in empowering society with renewed purpose.

Student success and societal impact are intrinsically linked across the whole learning journey. For today's students, success means securing meaningful employment, but it also means developing the cognitive agility, global perspective, and resilience to navigate profound global complexity. For governments and society, it is about universities acting as anchors of truth, innovation, and civic responsibility. At its heart, delivering this expanded vision is the shared responsibility of everyone who contributes to the higher education experience: academics, professional staff, technicians, careers experts, learning developers, librarians, marketers, and more.

Institutions that navigate these challenges most effectively will be those that prepare students as global citizens, develop their staff, and ensure educational excellence makes a difference to society.

Shaping futures, reimagining education and empowering society for a changing world will support you and your teams to move beyond incremental improvement and plan for bold, outward-looking institutional change.

We want to explore:

1. *Shaping futures;* knowledge for a changing world, empowering people and society
2. *Advancing borderless knowledge;* building transnational education and preparing students for a hyper-connected, globalised world.
3. *Embedding and integrating sustainability;* across curricula and institutional practice.
4. *Learning in the age of AI:* navigating generative AI while strengthening scholarship, critical thought and academic rigour
5. *Championing civic engagement*; building public trust and fostering democratic resilience through community-engaged teaching and learning.
6. *Designing flexible pathways;* expanding access and lifelong learning models to meet the needs of changing demographics and non-traditional learners.
7. *Educational excellence*; turning quality, evidence and insight into impact
8. *Wellbeing and belonging;* creating psychologically safe, inclusive environments where the wellbeing and flourishing of staff and students are prioritised.
9. *Forging collaborative partnerships*; breaking down boundaries between academic, professional and third-space roles to tackle complex, wicked problems together.

This conference is for everyone shaping the global future of higher education. Whether you teach, work in student services, careers, technical teams, marketing, or strategy, your role is central to advancing this mission.

At a time when higher education is facing unprecedented global challenges and opportunities, #TLConf27 brings together voices from across the world, spanning small and specialist providers, research-intensives, teaching-focused institutions, technical universities, and college-based HE to share bold practice, test ideas, and reimagine the future.

Conference aims

The conference will:

Ignite fresh thinking; creating the space for bold, creative exploration of how teaching, learning, and the wider student experience can be redesigned for the future.

Build confidence and capability; equipping delegates with the insights, tools, and connections to drive innovation in their own practice, teams, and institutions.

Connect changemakers across the sector; bringing together leaders, educators, and professionals from every corner of higher education to share ideas, challenge assumptions, and co-create the future of student success.

Theme and strands

The conference will explore seven interconnected strands beneath the overarching theme of *Shaping futures, reimagining education and empowering society for a changing world*.

- How can we build learning environments where authentic scholarship thrives alongside technological disruption?
- Where are ecological resilience, civic engagement, and borderless knowledge woven into the fabric of the university?
- How do we make the right choices to equip our institutions, our colleagues, and our students for the future?

Each of the following strands offers a distinct perspective while recognising that the challenges and opportunities facing higher education rarely sit neatly within a single area. There will therefore be natural overlap between strands, with contributions encouraged to explore the connections between them and the wider educational landscape in the main theme of the conference.

1. **Shaping futures; knowledge for a changing world, empowering people and society**

This strand will explore:

- The role of higher education in creating, challenging and sharing knowledge that responds to real-world challenges
- Connecting scholarship, research, professional expertise and lived experience to make a meaningful difference to people and society.
- Empowering students to become active creators of knowledge.
- Exploring new approaches to knowledge creation, collaboration and dissemination across disciplines, professions and communities.

2. **Advancing borderless knowledge; building equitable transnational alliances and preparing students for a hyper-connected, globalised world**

This strand will explore:

- Developing meaningful international partnerships and transnational approaches to teaching and learning.
- Internationalising curricula and creating globally connected learning experiences for all students.
- Ensuring global engagement is equitable, reciprocal and mutually beneficial.
- Preparing graduates to work, collaborate and contribute across increasingly interconnected societies and economies.

3. **Embedding and integrating sustainability; across curricula and institutional practice**

This strand will explore:

- Embedding sustainability and climate literacy across disciplines, curricula and student learning.

- Preparing students for the social, economic and professional implications of ecological transition.
- Developing climate-resilient institutions, communities and educational practices.
- Moving from sustainability as an aspiration to meaningful action, impact and institutional change.

4. Learning in the age of AI: navigating generative AI while strengthening scholarship, critical thought and academic rigour

This strand will explore:

- Moving beyond AI adoption to consider how generative AI can genuinely enhance learning, teaching and scholarship.
- Protecting and developing critical thinking, creativity, academic integrity and authentic intellectual engagement.
- Designing assessment and curricula for an AI-enabled world, including what students need to know, do and question.
- Developing AI literacy and responsible use across academic and professional communities.

5. Championing civic engagement; building public trust and fostering democratic

This strand will explore:

- The role of higher education in strengthening civic participation, public trust and democratic resilience.
- Connecting learning with communities, public life and real-world social challenges.
- Developing students' confidence, agency and capacity to engage constructively with difference and disagreement.
- Reimagining universities as active civic partners and contributors to the public good.

6. Designing flexible pathways; expanding access and lifelong learning models to meet the needs of changing demographics and non-traditional learners

This strand will explore:

- Designing flexible pathways into, through and beyond higher education.
- Responding to changing learner demographics, expectations and patterns of participation.
- Expanding lifelong learning, modular provision, microcredentials and alternative routes to learning.

- Removing structural barriers and creating genuinely inclusive opportunities for learners at different stages of life and work.
- Rethinking how institutions recognise, evidence and demonstrate the value and impact of flexible and lifelong learning.

7. Educational excellence; turning quality, evidence and insight into practice

This strand will explore:

- Quality enhancement as a driver of educational improvement rather than compliance.
- Using evidence, evaluation and insight to strengthen teaching, learning and student outcomes.
- Making educational quality visible, meaningful and valuable to students, staff and society.
- Rethinking how we define, recognise and measure educational excellence and impact.
- Using the Professional Standards Framework as a mechanism to enhance teaching and supporting learning practice and as a catalyst for change.

8. Wellbeing and belonging; creating psychologically safe, inclusive environments where the wellbeing and flourishing of staff and students are prioritised

This strand will explore:

- Creating cultures where staff and students can thrive, contribute and belong.
- Building psychologically safe and inclusive learning and working environments.
- Rethinking institutional approaches to workload, wellbeing, belonging and sustainable performance.
- Building individual and organisational capacity to respond to uncertainty, change and increasing demands.

9. Forging collaborative partnerships; breaking down boundaries between academic, professional and third-space roles to tackle complex, wicked problems together

This strand will explore:

- Moving beyond traditional professional boundaries to enable genuinely collaborative approaches to educational excellence.
- Recognising the contribution of academic, professional and third-space colleagues to student success and institutional impact.
- Developing new models of interdisciplinary and cross-institutional collaboration.

- Tackling complex educational and societal challenges through shared expertise, collective leadership, co-creation and evidence-informed improvement.

Conference structure and strands

The conference will take place over three days, with delegates welcome to attend the entire three days or choose from individual days and evening events.

All submissions should also demonstrate how the project or initiative has ensured inclusion for all students and you may wish to review the Advance HE 2030 strategy for the wider context in which we have used to develop our thinking around this format: https://advance-he.org/about/2030-strategy/

Day 1	Day 2	Day 3
Theme 1: *Shaping futures; knowledge for a changing world, empowering people and society*	**Theme 4:** *Learning in the age of AI: navigating generative AI while strengthening scholarship, critical thought and academic rigour*	**Theme 7:** *Educational excellence; turning quality, evidence and insight into impact*
Theme 2: *Advancing borderless knowledge*	**Theme 5:** *Championing civic engagement*	**Theme 8:** *Wellbeing and belonging*
Theme 3: *Embedding and integrating sustainability*	**Theme 6:** *Designing flexible pathways*	**Theme 9:** *Forging collaborative partnerships*

Each day will feature a programme of keynote speakers and panel sessions, plus parallel workshops/interactive breakout sessions, oral presentations, and a poster exhibition.

The conference will also feature two evening networking activities that can be purchased separately.

- **6 July 2027**, from 6 pm onwards – An informal networking meal and drinks reception.
- **7 July 2027**, from 6 pm onwards – The Advance HE Annual Dinner.

The conference is being delivered as an in-person event, and presenters are expected to attend in person to deliver their sessions.

Proposals/session type options

Proposals are sought against any of the seven thematic areas above across all disciplines; however please be aware of the day(s) these thematic areas are scheduled.

Submissions can be discipline-focused, interdisciplinary or multi-disciplinary.

Proposals are welcomed from individuals or teams across a single institution or involving multiple institutions, employers and other partners, especially from individuals of underrepresented groups. Proposals are also welcomed from students, student unions or other student bodies. Creative collaborations between academic teams, professional service teams and students are welcomed. The conference aims to showcase a wide and diverse range of work, activities and creative practice. Individuals may submit against multiple session types but should select the most relevant thematic area.

Submissions can be for any of the following session formats:

1. **Oral presentation/provocation paper** (15 minutes)
   Provocation papers should aim to be short, sharp challenges to current thinking. Each presentation should last no longer than 15 minutes of bold ideas that disrupt accepted wisdom. Designed to spark debate and inspire new ways of thinking. Three Provocation papers with an interlinking theme will be grouped in an hour-long session or two papers in a 40-minute session facilitated by an Advance HE conference team member to maximise audience engagement and ensure a fair time allocation. The remaining 5 minutes of the session will be allocated to delegate questions and discussion.

2. **Case study** (15 minutes)
   Next practice case studies should aim to be emerging practice we should all learn from. Each presentation should last no longer than 15 minutes of moving beyond “best practice” towards experimental, innovative and scalable approaches. Focusing on what’s new, why it matters, and what others can adopt. Also, include lessons learned and what you would do differently next time. Three case with an interlinking theme will be grouped in an hour-long session or two papers in a 40-minute session facilitated by an Advance HE conference team member to maximise audience engagement and ensure a fair time allocation. The remaining 5 minutes of the session will be allocated to delegate questions and discussion.

3. **Workshop/Interactive session/Design clinic** (60 minutes)
   Interactive design clinics should aim to engage participants with hands-on workshops to co-create usable tools. This is your opportunity to be inventive in your mode of delivery and activities to achieve optimum engagement and learning with delegates. At a minimum, half of the session should be activity-based or interactive. Facilitators are to guide participants through creating templates, frameworks, or models that other can take away and apply. These clinics are aimed at producing practical sharable outputs. These sessions will be scheduled into the programme in parallel sessions alongside other Design clinics.

4. **Poster presentation**

   Posters give an alternative approach to presenting current research or new work where impact is measurable. Highlighting both successes and failures, provided there is robust learning from the outcome. Posters should be an eye-catching visual representation of a topic, including graphics, tables, charts, text, and images (additional details can be shared via URL links or QR codes). Posters will be displayed throughout the conference for informal browsing, but contributors will be asked to be available for discussion at a dedicated time within the programme.

   Posters should be **professionally printed and brought to the conference for display**. Both portrait and landscape orientation are acceptable, although please note the following size restrictions:

   - Landscape – maximum size should be A1.
   - Portrait – both A0 and A1 are acceptable.

Submission guidelines

Submissions should be made on **our online site**.

Deadline for submissions: midnight 24 November 2026.

The following provides an outline of the information required in your submission.

1. **Accept Conditions of Conference**

Privacy statement:
You will be asked to read and agree to Advance HE's privacy statement, explaining how we will use and store any data you submit.

Conditions:
Before submitting a proposal for the Teaching and Learning Conference 2027, please be aware that the following terms and conditions apply. Presenters are required to:

- attend the in-person conference for a minimum of one day to present their session should it be accepted into the conference programme. Please note, presenter places are not free of charge, but are offered at a discounted rate;
- agree to information about themself, their co-presenters, their institution and their session details being promoted externally on the web-based conference programme;
- permit their slide decks and resources from the session being shared with conference attendees;
- allow their session to be photographed or videoed during the conference at Advance HE's discretion;
- allow their and their co-presenters' details (name, institution, job title and biography) being shared with delegates during the conference on the Advance HE's events app.

You will have to agree to these conditions and storage of data before progressing with your submission.

2. Lead Presenter Details

Contact details:

Please include your details as the lead presenter. As lead presenter, all correspondence regarding the session will be sent to you, but not to any co-presenters. It is the lead presenter's responsibility to share information and correspondence with all their co-presenters.
Your title (Dr, Professor, Mr. etc.), first and last name, institution, job title, e-mail address, mobile phone number, and a short biography should be provided.

Biographies should be no longer than 100 words and should be written in the **third person singular**. Mobile phone numbers will not be shared outside of the conference administrative team and will be used to contact you only if we cannot get in touch via e-mail.

Before completing this section, you will be asked whether your proposed session includes any additional presenters. Please select the appropriate answer. If you have additional presenters, you will be asked to include contact information (as above) for each additional presenter.

You should only list colleagues attending the conference to co-present your session in person.

3. Session Details

Title of session:

Please give your session a name that describes your session **concisely** and **attractively** to audiences. On request, the title of your session can be changed before publishing the programme, but as standard, this will be the title used for the programme and all publicity of your session online or on the conference app.

Session Theme Selection/Delivery day:

From the drop-down list of seven themes, please select the theme that most closely aligns with the content of your session. Details of each theme can be viewed when that option is selected.

Session type:

Please select the session types you prefer to deliver at the conference (you may choose more than one session type).

- Oral presentation (15mins + 5mins Q&A)
- Case study (15mins + 5mins Q&A);
- Interactive breakout/workshop session (60mins);
- Poster presentation

Further details about session types can be found by clicking the 'Show more' button under each.

Session outline:

Session outlines should be written in full paragraphs. Please remember that our reviewers do not view the information provided in the 'abstract' section, so it is

important to provide background information and possibly repeat information. Outlines should include as much of the following information as possible:

- Brief background information about your project, research or initiative;
- How your proposal links to the overall theme of the conference and the chosen sub-theme;
- Who your intended audience is;
- What impact, take-aways or learning outcomes will your session provide;
- How delegates will be able to implement that learning in their own institutions/practices;
- If a workshop/interactive session: how your session will be delivered, how you will engage participants in interactive activities, and how your session delivery demonstrates originality/innovation;

The outlines should be no longer than 500 words.

This information will be used in the review process to select and schedule conference sessions.

Promotional abstract:

This section will only be used for publicity purposes to promote your session via the Advance HE website, the conference app and social media. This should set out the aims and objectives of the session and be written in a way that will attract delegates to your session. Abstracts should be no longer than 100 words. This information will **not be reviewed** or form part of the submission that reviewers will assess when deciding on suitability for inclusion in the conference.

4. Presenter Requirements

Room layout:

Where possible, session rooms will be arranged in either theatre style for oral presentations or cabaret style for interactive sessions. If your session has layout requirements outside of these styles, please select ‘other’ and explain your requirements.

Please note that while we will attempt to accommodate each presenter’s preference, it may not always be possible to arrange the rooms in your preferred style due to limitations placed on us by the venue.

Additional equipment:

As standard, breakout rooms will be supplied with a Windows laptop, a projector and a screen. Interactive breakouts and workshop sessions will also contain flip charts, pens, post-it notes, and other stationery.

If you require equipment in addition to the above list, please state it in this section. Please be conscious of the limitations of spaces within venues and try to adapt your sessions accordingly. We cannot accommodate sessions requiring multiple delegate access to computer terminals/laptops or other specific equipment.

Additional Requirements:

If you anticipate having any additional requirements when attending the conference, please inform us of these here. These may include accessibility, access, or other additional requirements enabling you to attend and present your session.

Support dogs, carers and assistance staff are welcome at the conference and will not be charged an attendance fee. Please let us know about this by including the details here. A quiet room, prayer room and baby feeding room will be provided throughout the conference and available to all delegates.

Review criteria

Each proposal is subject to review by a panel of peer reviewers against the following criteria:

- relevance to the conference theme and sub-themes;
- clarity of the proposal;
- originality/innovation of the subject matter;
- anticipated interest;
- originality/innovation of the mode of presentation (for workshops/interactive sessions only);
- potential for delegates to be actively engaged.

AI may be used to support the paper review and scheduling process. However, **no session proposal will be rejected based solely on AI assessment**; all rejection decisions will be subject to human review and oversight.

Additional information

Important dates

Date	Milestone
9 September 2026	Call opens
24 November 2026	Deadline for submissions (midnight)
w/c 18 January 2027	Lead presenters informed of submission outcome
w/c 18 January 2027	Draft conference programme published online
19 February 2027	Lead presenter acceptance of session place
30 April 2027	End of presenter 10% discount offer
22 June 2027	PPT presentations and poster PDFs to be submitted

Conference prices

Following confirmation of acceptance into the conference programme, presenters will be eligible for a **time-limited** 10% discount offer on ticket prices. The presenter discount closes on **30 April 2027** and to ensure presenters and co-presenters take advantage of this offer, places must be booked before this date. Presenter bookings after this date will be charged at the full conference rate.

To book your place at the conference, please click here

	Ticket type	Member institutions	Non-members
Early booking rate	**1 day**	**£355**	**£475**
Standard rate	**1 day**	£375	£500
Early booking rate	**2 days**	**£680**	**£955**
Standard rate	**2 days**	£715	£955
Early booking rate	**3 days**	**£965**	**£1,285**
Standard rate	**3 days**	£1,015	£1,355

Optional networking events	Price
Networking meal/BBQ (6 July 2027)	£45 excl. VAT
Dinner (7 July 2027)	£65 excl. VAT

Pre-conference

Following the review process and scheduling of the conference programme, presenters will be informed of their acceptance and the time and date of their session, and they will be asked to confirm acceptance of the offer to present. All presenters (regardless of session type) must register and pay for their place at the conference by **30 April 2027** to benefit from the 10% presenter discount rate. Contributors must send presentation slides or PDFs of posters to the conference team by **22 June 2027**.

Slide decks (in pdf format) and poster PDFs will be made available to all delegates ahead of the conference for accessibility purposes, and presentation details, drawing on information supplied on the submission form, will be available on the Advance HE website. Please ensure that permission has been sought for the use of any copyrighted images contained within your slide deck.

Post-conference

Slide decks (in pdf format), poster PDFs, and details of presentations, drawing on information supplied on the submission form, will be available to access on the conference app. Please ensure that permission has been sought to use any copyrighted images.

Presenter availability

The conference runs from 6-8 July 2027. Presenters will be informed of the date and time of their session in the week commencing **18 January 2027**. We are unable to consider presenter availability when timetabling the sessions, so it is essential that you are available to present your session on all three days of the conference, until the specific time and date are confirmed with you. Presenters must attend the conference for at least one day to present their session and participate as delegates during the day.

Co-presenters and responsibilities

Please include all co-presenters on the submission form. All presenters listed on the form should attend the conference, and each will be expected to register if the session is accepted. Please note:

- All presenters, including co-presenters, need to have booked onto the conference by **30 April 2027**.

- It is the lead presenter's responsibility **to pass on all relevant details to any co-presenters**, as correspondence in the first instance will be sent only to the lead presenter.
- It is the lead presenter's responsibility to inform Advance HE at the earliest opportunity of any changes to the session title or content or any circumstances that prevent presenters from attending the conference that could lead to the session being withdrawn.

Materials and handouts

Presenters are invited to share handouts or resources with delegates during their session. Please note that Advance HE will not be able to undertake printing of accompanying materials on your behalf.

Attendee numbers

We cannot guarantee exact audience numbers at any single session, which may result in delegates' attendance being uneven between sessions running in parallel.

Accessibility

We will provide presenters with guidance on accessibility, and it is expected that presenters adhere to this guidance and also ensure that any presentations meet Advance HE's accessibility requirements.

Contact us:

If you have any queries about your submission for the conference, please get in touch with us at events@advance-he.ac.uk