

Technician Commitment: self-assessment 2023

Universities UK (UUK) is a formal supporter of the Technician Commitment. The initiative aims to make sure there is visibility, recognition, career development and sustainability for technicians working in higher education and research. This document outlines out actions to meet the values of the Technician Commitment.

Visibility

- In June 2023, we hosted the Research Culture and Practice Forum, in partnership with the Technician Commitment and Researcher Development, Research Integrity and Knowledge Exchange Concordats. It included a session on the changing landscape for technical professionals in higher education and research.
- In July 2023, we hosted a Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation) Seminar, with a dedicated session on supporting talent and developing skills, and supporting research culture.
- In July 2023, we published a webpage highlighting the importance of university research to finding discoveries and solutions: Why does university research matter? This was updated in 2024.
- In November 2023, we hosted the Research and Innovation Conference. The conference included a session on supporting talent through a positive university research culture. This session discussed how to create an inclusive research environment, by removing barriers, supporting researchers' career development, and enhancing the movement of talent between academia and industry. The session included input from the UK Institute for Technical Skills and Strategy.

Recognition

- We continued to be an active member of the R&D People and Culture Ministerial Coordination Group.
- We are engaging in the Higher Education Statistics Agency evaluation of the Staff Record as appropriate.

Career development

- As secretariat to the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers, we led discussions with the sector on issues such as addressing career precarity.
- In May 2023, with the Researcher Development Concordat Strategy Group, we published an annual report on the Researcher Development Concordat, which included analysis of signatories' action plans.

Sustainability

- We have supported discussions on the development of the UK Institute for Technical Skills and Strategy.
- We have supported discussions on the role of People, Culture and Environment in the Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2029.
- We responded to the Independent Review of the Research, Development and Innovation Organisational Landscape.
- We published phase two of the Concordats and Agreements Review, which included engagement with the Technician Commitment.