



Professional Development Conference

Career progression toolkit

Thursday 1st May 2025, 9:45 – 15:15

Online (Zoom)

9:45-10:00 Registration and Welcome

10:00-10:45 - Events and Project Management - Andrew Jackson, Recruitment Events Manager, University of South Wales

This session will explore strategies and tips for planning, executing, and evaluating successful events and projects. Focussing on best practices for budgeting, stakeholder management, risk mitigation, and post-event analysis. Gain practical insights and tools to enhance efficiency, maximize impact, and deliver seamless experiences.

10:45-11:00 Comfort Break

11:00 - 12:00 - Maximising potential – making the most of opportunities!

Oliver Johnson, Sales Event Executive, UK University Search, Emma Price, Head of Postgraduate Recruitment, University of Derby, Lauren Vernon, Access and Participation Officer, The University of Staffordshire, Sarah Linington, Head of Marketing, The University of Sheffield

This session will focus on opportunities that are available to those working within the Student Recruitment and Widening Participation teams at HE institutions. We will delve into the many potential directions your career can take you and the skills you need to navigate your way around the complex university systems and beyond. We will also explore the importance of adapting and diversifying at such a critical time in the HE world. This will be a panel discussion with a wide range of professionals from the HE and private sector, and you will have the opportunity to engage in a Q&A.

12:00-12:30 Breakout/Networking Session

Attendees will be split into breakout rooms based on the level of experience they have (as filled in on the booking form). This will be an opportunity to discuss topics relevant to the conference today and to network with fellow professionals.

12:30-13:30 Lunch Break

13:30-14:15 Compassionate Leadership: Leading with Humanity, Elliot Newstead, Associate Director of Future Students, DeMontfort University and

Fiona Curry, Strategic Lead, Access and Participation at the University of Cumbria

What does compassionate leadership really look like in action? In this session, we'll break it down with real-world examples, explore the environments that enable it, and—most importantly—identify practical steps you can take, big or small, to lead with empathy, authenticity, and impact. Whether you're a seasoned leader or just starting out, this session will equip you with the tools to create a culture where people feel valued, supported, and motivated to do their best work.

14:15-14:30 Comfort Break

14:30-15:15 Sector update and key takeaways, Kim Eccleston, Head of Strategy and Reform, UCAS.

An overview of the current climate in HE and key developments under the Labour government. Overview of sessions covered and some top takeaways for delegates, including signposting to relevant CPD and opportunities available in the sector.

15:15 Finish

****Please note this programme is subject to change***