



UNIVERSITY *of*  
WORCESTER

# University of Worcester

## Learning and Teaching Conference

**Student Belonging at Worcester: Maximising Pastoral and Pedagogical Approaches for Building Success**



**17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> June 2025**

## **Programme**

## INTRODUCTION

This year's [University Learning and Teaching Conference](#), has 'Belonging and Mattering' as its core theme due to the growing sector interest in the significant role that this is now playing in the development of student success strategies. Student populations across Higher Education are rapidly becoming more diverse, not only culturally, but also through a combination of both purposeful and circumstantial environmental factors that are influencing students' decisions on what and where to study. We now see more students choosing to commute to university, choosing to undertake employment whilst studying and choosing to come to university from more diverse educational backgrounds. All of this is changing the landscape of what a 'typical' student community now looks like and it's important that Universities continue to adapt, in order to ensure that all students continue to have an equal opportunity to connect, belong and thrive.

We are delighted to confirm that we have three fantastic keynote speakers supporting this year's event.

Professor Abigail Moriarty began her career as a nurse and is now the Pro-Vice Chancellor for Education and Students at the University of Lincoln. Professor Moriarty's research interests focus on student learning and professional practice, particularly on understanding and overcoming barriers to student success in Higher Education and has recently concentrated on designing a universally inclusive student experience that is both profession-facing and inspiring to learners. She has delivered numerous presentations on Universal Design for Learning to local, national, and international audiences.

Our second keynote speaker is Dr Susan Kenyon, who will focusing her presentation on developing a sense of belonging for commuter students and the positive steps that educators and institutions can take to meet the needs of their commuters. Dr Kenyon is a Principal Lecturer at Canterbury Christ Church University and winner of the 2025 Vicky Randall Prize for her outstanding contribution to advancing teaching and learning in political studies.

Our final keynote speaker is Dr Mark Flisher, our newly appointed Head of the Institute of Arts and Humanities at the University of Worcester who will be sharing his insights into his work around EDI and wellbeing, particularly in the area of neurodivergence, as well as his aspirations for his new role at Worcester.

## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

**Professor Abigail Moriarty**  
**University of Lincoln**

**Title: A Student-Centric University: Redefining Higher Education Today**

'In today's higher education landscape, placing students at the heart of decision-making is more than just a buzzword. This presentation will challenge and provoke thought, repositioning students as true co-creators of their educational experience, rather than a mere tick box.'

Professor Abigail Moriarty joined the University of Lincoln in April 2024 as Pro Vice-Chancellor for Education and Students. Prior to this, she spent four years as Pro Vice-Chancellor and Professor of Learning and Teaching at the University of Sunderland.

Before her tenure at Sunderland, Professor Moriarty served at De Montfort University (DMU) in Leicester. There, she was Director of Learning and Teaching and later interim Pro Vice-Chancellor Academic. Abigail has extensive experience in enhancing student experience in Higher Education.

Her research interests focus on student learning and professional practice, particularly on understanding and overcoming barriers to student success in Higher Education. Abigail has recently concentrated on designing a universally inclusive student experience that is profession-facing and inspiring to learners. She has delivered numerous invited keynote presentations on Universal Design for Learning to local, national, and international audiences. Additionally, she is a Trustee for the United Kingdom Advising and Tutoring association.

Professor Moriarty has significantly influenced the student experience throughout her career. During her time at the University of Sunderland, she contributed to improved student outcomes, leading to the university being ranked in the top 30 of the 2024 Guardian Complete University Guide. The University of Sunderland was also nominated for University of the Year in the Times Higher Education Awards in 2021 and 2024 and named University of the Year for Social Inclusion in The Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2021. Since her time at Lincoln, she has completed an academic governance review and implemented changes, along with the realisation and execution of the University Teaching, Learning and Student Experience strategy.

**Dr Susan Kenyon**  
**Canterbury Christ Church University**

**Title: Developing a Sense of Belonging and Mattering for Commuter Students**

Dr Susan Kenyon is a Principal Lecturer in Politics at Canterbury Christ Church University and winner of the 2025 Vicky Randall Prize for her outstanding contribution to advancing teaching and learning in political studies, awarded by the UK Political Studies Association. Dr Kenyon has dedicated her career to advancing social inclusion, working initially as an academic researcher, moving into industry and politics at the Department for Transport and Transport for London. Dr Kenyon returned to higher education in 2015, as a Director of Learning and Teaching, working across the institution to influence individuals' pedagogy and university policies and practices, before returning to teaching, to focus on empowering her students with the knowledge, skills and understanding to make the change that they wish to see. Dr Kenyon has changed pedagogy, policy and practice in her own institution and across the sector, through impactful research and engaging dissemination and continues to advance inclusion in the transport industry, as a consultant on transport and social inclusion, to multiple government bodies.

**Dr Mark Flisher**  
**University of Worcester**

**Title: A Call for Spicy Curricula: Towards a More Provocative and Inclusive Curriculum Design for Higher Education**

Dr Mark Flisher is Head of the Institute of Arts and Humanities at the University of Worcester and has been a pedagogue for two decades across multiple organisations including Secondary, Further and Higher Education. His research and practice are primarily concerned with the body in performance and the ways that embodiment can challenge established norms, particularly in reference to identity. Most recently, Mark has established a research enquiry into student mental health and wellbeing in artistic curriculums where he has advocated for a radical rethink of Higher Education curriculum design through inclusive practice.

## REGISTRATION

Registration for this conference can be completed via the online form until 17:00 on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2025. The conference comprises presentations, posters, workshops, and keynote speeches. When registering, we ask you to select which day you will be attending (Tuesday or Wednesday). Each day is different so delegates are welcome to join both days or pick one.

Delegates are free to choose any presentation session to attend but are advised to stay in a section until its conclusion. This will help limit distractions for the presenters, chair and audience. For the workshops we will ask you to register on the day.

**Please note that this programme version is subject to change in the event of unforeseen circumstances.**

# SUMMARY SCHEDULE

**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> June**

- 8:30-9:00**                      **Arrival and refreshments**  
Cotswold Gallery
- 9:00-9:10**                      **Welcome**  
Professor Sally Moyle, Pro Vice Chancellor for Health and Science  
Cotswold Suite (EE 1106/1107)
- 9:10-9:55**                      **Keynote speaker**  
A Student-Centric University: Redefining Higher Education Today  
Professor Abigail Moriarty, University of Lincoln  
Cotswold Suite (EE 1106/1107)
- 10:00-11:00**                      **Presentations (attend session A, B or C):**

<b>A</b> <b>EE 1106/1107</b>	<b>B</b> <b>EE G087</b>	<b>C</b> <b>EE G089</b>
Chair: Dr Kerry Whitehouse	Chair: Helen Watts	Chair: Rebecca Stack
<b>Educating Student Athletes in Sport Citizenship for Positive Social Impact</b> School of Health and Wellbeing/School of Sport and Exercise Science: Charlotte Beaman-Evans, Dr Gill Harrop, Matthew Spokes	<b>Welcome to Teaching; Creating a Sense of Belonging for Trainee Primary Teachers</b> Institute of Education: Kate Howen	<b>Exploring the learning impact of structured quizzes within a year 1 pre-registration nursing module</b> School of Nursing and Midwifery: Dr Kay Norman, Claire Walder, Hayley Knickenberg
<b>Belonging: The Silver Bullet? An exploration of the BSc Sport &amp; Exercise Science strategy to enhance student experience and retention</b> School of Sport and Exercise Science: Dr Jennifer Joyce, Emma Lawrence (Level 6 student)	<b>Social Pedagogy: Showcasing the potential of the University of Worcester Graduate Attributes in a Community Project</b> Institute of Education: Sarah Hutchins, Sue Baylis, Dr Emma Laurence	<b>Empowering learners through the Personal Academic Tutoring (PAT) system through PAT Workbooks and PAT discussion guides</b> Institute of Arts and Humanities: Dr Aisha Shah
<b><i>The Play's the Thing: Introducing Organic Method; raising agency of young people deprived of opportunities through playwriting and how to incorporate this praxis within existing creative pedagogies in HE settings</i></b> Institute of Arts and Humanities: Zoe Lewis	<b>GenAI in the Institute of Arts &amp; Humanities: Student evaluation of current guidance and the librarian's role in building GenAI-literate learning communities</b> Library Services: Tom Mandall	<b>Simplifying Academia: The PCR Approach to learning (PCR = Point, Context, Reference)</b> School of Health and Wellbeing: Oliver Nightingale, Dawn Goodall

**11:00-11:30**      **Refreshment break**  
Cotswold Gallery

**11:30-12:20**      **Workshops sessions (attend session A, B, or C):**

<b>A</b> <b>EE 1106/1107</b>	<b>Immersive virtual reality (VR) simulation designed to develop medicines management proficiencies and enhance theoretical knowledge in nurse education. Sharing good practice and avoiding the pitfalls of VR simulations in the classroom</b> School of Nursing and Midwifery/University of Manchester: Kirsty Wedgbury, Sarah Wilson Sam Rogers, Dr. Hilary Mairs, University of Manchester
<b>B</b> <b>EE 1102</b>	<b>Creating a Socially Conscious Learning Environment</b> Institute of Education: Kate Howen
<b>C</b> <b>EE 1104</b>	<b>A practical exploration of the Study Skills Portal</b> Library Services/School of Sport and Exercise Science/Institute of Education: Kate Courage, Michelle Malomo, Dr Darren Cooper, Sarah Purcell, Allie Taylor

**12:30-13:00**      **Visual performance**  
How to be an Opera Queen: Issue of Identity, Form & Content  
Dr Daniel Somerville, Institute of Arts & Humanities  
Cotswold Suite (EE 1106/1107)

**13:00-13:45**      **Lunch**  
Conference Centre (Worcester room CC 004)

**13:45-14:30**      **Keynote speaker**  
Developing a Sense of Belonging and Mattering for Commuter Students  
Dr Susan Kenyon, Canterbury Christ Church University  
Cotswold Suite (EE 1106/1107)

**14:30-14:45**      **Presentation**  
Using Feedback to Shift Institutional Thinking about Commuter Students  
Carolyn Moir, Val Yates  
Cotswold Suite (EE 1106/1107)

**14:55-15:55**      **Presentations (attend session A, B or C):**

<b>A</b> <b>EE 1106/1107</b>	<b>B</b> <b>EE G087</b>	<b>C</b> <b>EE G089</b>
Chair: Helen Hope	Chair: Dr Darren Cooper	Chair: Lerverne Barber
<b>Creative Medics: Medical students expressing their understanding through art</b> Three Counties Medical School: Dr Aiman Dilnawaz, Alice Anderson, Kerry Jones, Lucca Maraston Oliveira, Nathan Scott, Zeke Ortiz	<b>Navigating Barriers: Supporting First-Generation and Graduate Entry Medical Students to Explore Diverse Career Pathways</b> Three Counties Medical School: Habiba Abbasi, Toni Koroye	<b>'Please sir, can we just play a game this week?'</b> <b>Transforming Physical Education: Innovative Pedagogical Approaches in SPRT2063</b> School of Sport and Exercise Science: Richard Pepperell, Charlotte Beaman-Evans, Helen Hope

<p><b>'People use a different kind of English here than back home'</b>  <b>Understanding how language contributes to culture shock</b>  Centre for Academic English and Skills/Institute of Education:  Melanie Jarman, Isabelle Schafer</p>	<p><b>Students' perspectives of the use of Riff Bot AI tool to support the development of the skill of reflection within ECIS1102 Transition to Studying in Higher Education</b>  Institute of Education:  Sarah Hutchins</p>	<p><b>Learner voices, perspectives, and positionings: providing agency to empower learning</b>  Institute of Education:  Simon Taylor</p>
<p><b>Using pastoral and pedagogical support to enhance student experience and success in non-accredited continuing professional development</b>  School of Health and Wellbeing/Barchester Healthcare:  Dr Chris Russell, Nicola Jacobson-Wright, Dr Catrin Hedd Jones, Dionne Mant</p>	<p><b>Bridging Theory and Practice: Immersive Simulation in Occupational Therapy Education</b>  School of Health and Wellbeing:  Mary Archer, Dr Terri Grant</p>	<p><b>Global Coaching Journeys: Insights from the First International Cricket Coaching Placements in the Integrated Masters in Cricket Coaching &amp; Management Degree</b>  School of Sport and Exercise Science:  Craig Williams, Ritchie Harley</p>

**15:55-16:25**

**Professional Administrative Services (PAS) presentation**

Digital Course Handbook Project: Empowering Learners to Access and Engage with Essential Information

Katie Gayton, Michelle Brinkworth, Hannah Smyth and Hannah Bates  
Cotswold Suite (EE 1106/1107)

**16:25**

**Day 1 close**

Ann Jordan, Provost  
Cotswold Suite (EE 1106/1107)



## Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> June

- 8:30-9:00**      **Arrival and refreshments**  
Cotswold Gallery
- 9:00-9:10**      **Welcome**  
Dr Kerry Whitehouse  
Cotswold Suite (EE 1106/1107)
- 9:15-10:15**      **Presentations (attend session A, B or C):**

<b>A</b> <b>EE 1106/1107</b>	<b>B</b> <b>EE G087</b>	<b>C</b> <b>EE G089</b>
Chair: Dr Helen Frank	Chair: Dr Rachael Paige	Chair: Rachel Kyte
<b>Bridging the Gap: Integrated Support for Student Belonging</b> Other: Tao Sampson, Laura Bond, Rosie Melville, Kim Dawson	<b>Work-based learning: strategies for growth, empowerment, and student success</b> Institute of Arts and Humanities: Jenny Watkins	<b>IN-DEARS: a national student-led conference to increase peer support and research engagement among graduate-entry medical students</b> Three Counties Medical School: Professor Lisa Jones, Anis Abdul Majid, Emma Herbert, Thirumalaiappan Muthukumaraswamy
<b>Enhancing student interactivity through technology in anatomy teaching at medical school: an action research project</b> Three Counties Medical School: Dr Pavandeep Kaur Virdee	<b>'24 weeks later' - Reflections on our learning journey while delivering a new social work degree apprenticeship</b> School of Health and Wellbeing/Quality and Educational Development: Dr Peter Ayling, Diane Asamoah	<b>Enhancing Student Comprehension: The Impact of Pre-Recorded Theory Sessions on Understanding Foundational Concepts</b> School of Sport and Exercise Science: Dr Christopher Holland, Dr Darren Cooper, Emma Gregory
<b>Empowering Students through Inquiry-Based Approaches: Some reflections on practice</b> School of Sport and Exercise Science: Richard Pepperell, Christian Edwards	<b>"I would like to call the first witness": An innovative simulation of a Coroners' Court inquest for pre-registration mental health nursing students</b> School of Nursing and Midwifery: Carmina Scott, Dr Fazilah Twining, Amanda Griffin, Stuart Guy	<b>Let's get this (working) party started: An exploration of improved student satisfaction and the role of a student/staff working party</b> School of Health and Wellbeing: Annabel Heaslop, Dr Terri Grant + Occupational Therapy Students



**10:20-11:10**

**Workshops sessions (attend session A, B, or C):**

<b>A</b> <b>EE 1106/1107</b>	<b>Building belonging. Staff-student partnerships in diverse communities: insights from the Library Student Team and beyond</b> Library Services: Madalene George, Anastasia Kennett, Eleni Brooks, Victoria Collins, Kate Courage, Leo Crowfoot, Olivia Game, Imani Haven
<b>B</b> <b>EE 1102</b>	<b>Supporting the emotional resilience of undergraduate students seeking careers in health, education and social care</b> School of Nursing and Midwifery/Institute of Education: Dr Alison Prowle, Gilda Davis
<b>C</b> <b>EE 1104</b>	<b>Enhancing Interprofessional Learning: The Impact for Five Healthcare Courses</b> School of Nursing and Midwifery: Pegeen Fisher, Rachel Ashworth, Mark Gillett, Dr Richard Singleton

**11:10-11:30**

**Refreshment break**

Cotswold Gallery

**11:30-12:15**

**Keynote speaker**

A Call for Spicy Curricula: Towards a More Provocative and Inclusive Curriculum Design for Higher Education

Dr Mark Flisher, Head of Institute of Arts & Humanities

Cotswold Suite (EE 1106/1107)

**12:20-13:00**

**Presentations (attend session A, B or C):**

<b>A</b> <b>EE 1106/1107</b>	<b>B</b> <b>EE G087</b>	<b>C</b> <b>EE G089</b>
Chair: Dr Mark Flisher	Chair: Richard Pepperell	Chair: Dr Simon Hardy
<b>Transforming Research Education in Allied Health Professions through Experiential Learning</b> School of Health and Wellbeing: Dr Terri Grant, David Matthews + Students	<b>Aligning Assessment Practice with Graduate Attributes: Innovation in the BSc Nursing program</b> School of Nursing and Midwifery: Pegeen Fisher	<b>Clinical Teaching Fellows' experiences of the novel "Resource Carousel" process; a new role at a new medical school</b> Three Counties Medical School: Dr Tasnim Chowdhury, Dr Elizabeth Moor, Dr Pavandeep Virdee, Dr Aiman Dilnawaz
<b>Exploring undergraduate student perspectives of feedback within the formal assessment process</b> School of Sport and Exercise Science: Karen Broughton, Debra Price	<b>Nexus of Openly Developing Skills (NODS); An innovative framework delivered via weekly 'Lunch Club' sessions to support and empower students</b> School of Sport and Exercise Science: Matthew Davies	<b>Constructing culturally safe learning spaces</b> School of Health and Wellbeing/School of Nursing and Midwifery: Sethu Sundari, Lisa Mauro-Bracken

**13:00-14:00**                      **Lunch**  
Conference Centre (Worcester room CC 004)

**14:00-14:40**                      **The Students' Union Takeover**  
Elliot Atkinson, Current Student and Outgoing Vice President for Education  
Sophie Smith, Student Activities Manager  
Cotswold Suite (EE 1106/1107)

**14:45-15:35**                      **Workshops sessions (attend session A, B, or C):**

<b>A</b> <b>EE 1106/1107</b>	<b>IMPACT of a World Café: Applying Lived Experience to Authentic Assessment</b> School of Health and Wellbeing: Rebecca Weston, Kay Bennett, Dawn Goodall, Naomi Blaikie, Daniel Howarth
<b>B</b> <b>EE 1102</b>	<b>Unlocking Academic Reading: Helping Students Navigate and Belong in the Academic Community</b> School of Sport and Exercise Science: Dr Louise Martin
<b>C</b> <b>EE 1104</b>	<b>PAT Leads Workshop</b> Other: Emma Williams, Sophie Layfield, Amy Johnson, Dave Woodward

**15:35-15:50**                      **Closing presentation**  
Dr Kerry Whitehouse  
Cotswold Suite (EE 1106/1107)

**15:50**                                **Day 2 close**

For further information please contact:

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