



Symposium Schedule

UQ Exeter Institute Symposium 2026

Collaborative Research in Action: Shaping a Positive Future

1–2 July University of Exeter, Streatham Campus

A partnership between



TIME	SYMPOSIUM SESSION	VENUE
09:30-11:00	<p>Workshop: Optimising Hybrid Work Design and AI for Wellbeing and Performance: Research and Industry insights Chaired by: Dr Caroline Knight (UQ) & Prof Ilke Inceoglu (UoE)</p> <p><i>Hybrid work - splitting work between home and office - and artificial intelligence (AI) are rapidly transforming the world of work. Together, they are influencing what tasks employees perform, how decisions are made, and the skills organisations increasingly value. Yet despite their growing impact, we still know surprisingly little about how hybrid work design and AI shape one another and what this means for employee wellbeing and organisational performance. As part of a successful UQ–Exeter Workshop Grant, we invite you to join an interactive session with experts from industry and research, as well as PhD students, to explore the opportunities and challenges created by hybrid work and AI.</i></p> <p><i>The session will include:</i></p> <p>Research insights from multidisciplinary perspectives, including, work design, human–AI systems, leadership and organisational behaviour Industry perspectives from a panel of organisational leaders discussing how hybrid work and AI are reshaping practice Audience discussion and Q&A exploring future research directions and practical implications</p>	Newman Purple
10:00-11:00	<p>Lego Serious Play (UQ-Exeter Institute PhD Students Only) Chaired by: Dr Caitlin Kight</p> <p><i>An interactive ice-breaker session for PhD students to kick off the Symposium. Led by Dr Caitlin Kight, students will be tasked to use Lego to demonstrate their research project!</i></p>	Newman Collaborative
11:15-11:20	Official Opening by Prof Lisa Roberts, President & Vice Chancellor	Newman Green
11:20-12:15	<p>Opening Plenary: A Smorgasbord Of Phytochemicals And Nutrients For Human Health And Performance Speaker: Prof Jo Bowtell</p> <p><i>Join Professor Jo Bowtell as she delivers our opening plenary talk. As the Deputy Pro-Vice Chancellor for Health and Life Sciences and a former founding theme lead for the UQ-Exeter partnership, Jo brings a wealth of expertise to an engaging presentation spanning both our Healthy Living and Global Environmental Futures themes</i></p>	

TIME	SYMPOSIUM SESSION	VENUE
12:30-13:15	Lunch buffet	Peter Chalk Centre
13:30-15:30	<p>Showcasing the UQ-Exeter Institute Research Themes Chaired by: Stephen Viller (tbc)</p> <p><i>This session aims to introduce our four research themes to the audience: Healthy Living, Digital Worlds and Disruptive Technology, Global Environmental Futures, and Mineral Security and Sustainability. Each theme lead will present a short overview of their theme to demonstrate the depth and breadth of its remit, the potential for cross-theme and interdisciplinary collaboration, and past and current projects. Speakers who have received UQ-Exeter Institute funding via PhD studentships, workshop, and accelerate grants to showcase the type of work undertaken within each theme and the potential for cross-theme working. This session will also be an opportunity to get to know the theme leads who can advise on opportunities for collaboration and funding.</i></p>	Newman Collaborative
15:30-17:00	<p>Workshop: Demystifying International Research Funding Chaired by: Jen Siggs</p> <p><i>This session aims to provide an overview of key considerations when preparing a research funding application with international partners. Grant conditions are variable between funders, and few funders include costs for international researchers. Research Services will lead conversations and audience engagement in the following topics:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cost recovery expectations • due diligence • open fireside chat on common pitfalls • sharing learning from preparing more complex grants • reflections on the current funding landscape 	Newman Collaborative

TIME	SYMPOSIUM SESSION	VENUE
09:00-11:00	<p>UQ-Exeter Institute: Creating Effective Partnerships Chaired by: Theme Leads</p> <p><i>This session will facilitate a core aim of the UQ-Exeter Institute, to connect researchers, students and partners across hemispheres to co-create impactful solutions in health, technology, sustainability, and resource security. In this session we would like to learn from colleagues on how to forge partnerships and collaborations across our institutions and with outside partners in business, policy and practice. Leads of our four research themes, Healthy Living, Digital Worlds and Disruptive Technology, Global Environmental Futures, and Mineral Security and Sustainability, will share their own experiences and invite colleagues to a panel discussion to share lessons learned on building partnerships and cross-disciplinary working. We will then invite anyone who is interested to join a pitching session to look for partners for one of the UQ-Exeter Institute funding schemes. You will get a 3-5 minute slot to showcase your project idea, required expertise of prospective collaborators and expected impacts, to find complementary expertise. At the end of this session there will be time for informal interactions and meeting potential new collaborators.</i></p>	Newman Collaborative
11:00-11:15	Refreshment break / walk to Innovation Centre	Peter Chalk Centre
11:15-12:45	<p>Interactive Workshop: Sustainability & Impact For Your Research Chaired by Nicholas Pearson and Exeter Innovation Colleagues</p> <p><i>Have you considered how your research might have a lasting impact on real world challenges? This interactive workshop will introduce tools and techniques to help you identify opportunities to convert research outputs into solutions, products and services and to plan the first steps towards making this a reality.</i></p> <p><i>Workshop aims:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce research commercialisation – what is it, why it is important and who can help you • Understand what 'impact' from research means with some real-world examples • Introduce design thinking and the Ideas Canvas • Enable you to conceptualise and iterate research-led solutions to address real-world problems • Enable you to articulate what problem your research solves using the Idea Canvas 	Sky Deck (1st Floor)
12:45-13:30	Lunch buffet .	Peter Chalk Centre

TIME	SYMPOSIUM SESSION	VENUE
13:30-14:30	<p>3MT Competition! MC: Peter Clack Judges: Prof Stacey Hynd, Dr Pierre Benckendorff, Alicia O’Grady, Prof Steven Micklethwaite (tbc)</p> <p><i>Competition time! A mix of both PhD students and academics will have just 3 minutes to present their thesis/research project. Prizes will be available for judges first place and the audience vote! Please come along to support and cast your vote.</i></p>	Newman Collaborative
Walk to Innovation Centre		
14:45-16:00	<p>Working with Industry & Government Chaired by: Josephine Butcher (UoE) & Shannon Willoughby (UQ)</p> <p><i>Discover the power of industry and government collaboration. This session will demystify the process of engaging with industry partners and government agencies, highlighting the opportunities, benefits, and real-world impact these partnerships can create. Gain valuable insights from our strategic partner representatives as they share first-hand experiences and perspectives on collaborating with academia, and learn how meaningful partnerships can drive innovation, influence policy, and create lasting value.</i></p>	Sky Deck (1 st floor)
16:00-17:00	<p>Launch of the UQ-Exeter Institute Accelerator Grant Scheme Chaired by: Prof Richard Follett & Lucy Herbet</p> <p><i>Join us for the launch of the refreshed UQ-Exeter Institute Accelerator Grant Scheme, to support collaborative projects with the aim of securing external funding and deliver significant research, policy or societal impact. Attendees will learn about the scheme’s objectives, eligibility and application process, hear from previous award holders, and have the opportunity to network with colleagues from both institutions.</i></p>	Sky Deck (ground floor)
16:00-17:00	<p>Alumni Q&A (UQ-Exeter Institute PhD Students & Supervisors only)</p> <p><i>The UQ-Exeter Institute alumni network is rapidly growing since our first cohort of students started graduating back in 2022 and during this session we will hear from some of those students to find out where their PhD has taken them and how they got there. An informal Q&A will follow, allowing our current students to find out more or seek advice from their peers. Colleagues from our Global Advancement office will also be in attendance to discuss alumni opportunities and how to stay connected once you graduate.</i></p>	Sky Deck (1 st floor)



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