N8 Research Partnership

Technician Partnership Virtual Conference
What is the N8 and why do we exist?

How we have developed and evolved over time

What we have learned works and some examples
An exceptionally effective cluster of research, innovation, and training excellence;

Delivering benefits to the economy and communities in the North of England and beyond.
A population of 16 M people
5 of the UK’s top 10 major urban areas
GDP of 350Bn – 9th largest economy of Europe
8 world class universities
The Power of 8

N8 Universities
Individually

Imperial, Oxford, Cambridge, UCL

N8 Universities together
Direct Impact on Northern Economy

- N8 universities deliver into the North a collective income of £4.1 billion p.a.
  - 12% of the entire UK higher education (HE) sector income
- N8 university economic activities generate an additional £5.2 billion impact in other industries.
  - Of this, £4.8 billion is spent in the North
- Adding in the regional impact of N8 students, the overall impact on the North is £12.2 billion p.a.
The increase the Government are aiming for is the equivalent of:

- 4 new Rolls-Royces, 4 new GSKs and 4 new Oxford Universities,
- also making Manchester and Birmingham as R&D-intensive as the East of England.
- and a new Tech City

“I want to see the N8 Alliance of Northern Universities become powerhouses of economic growth in their area, and to ensure we back innovation wherever it may be. That’s how we build real strength in places across the country”.

Sam Gyimah July 2018
N8 Programmes

Major collaborative research programmes:
- N8 Policing Research Partnership
- N8 AgriFood Resilience Programme
- DecarboN8

Centre of Excellence:
- N8 Computationally Intensive Research

Equipment Sharing:
- N8 equipment database
- ResoN8 (NMR)

International
- African Research Universities Association (ARUA)
- African Union Development Agency (AUDA)

Strategic Partnerships
- NHSA
- iBioIC
- RIBA North
- Biohub at Alderley Park
Research Careers:
- PDR working group
- ‘Prosper’ - Enhancing first-time postdoctoral career development and success
- Technician Commitment

Strong links in doctoral training:
- Regional and excellence based centres across the N8 and beyond

Showcasing excellence:
- #N8women
- #N8Lifesavers
- #N8PostDocs
#N8Women

#N8WOMEN

Professor Sue Black, University of Durham
#N8PostDocs

THANK YOU POSTDOCS

#N8POSTDOCS
#NPAW2019
#N8TECHNICIANS

TWEET US YOUR 'T FOR TECHNICIANS' SELFIE
TELL US ABOUT ONE OF YOUR FANTASTIC PROJECTS OR ACHIEVEMENTS
INCLUDE THE HASHTAG #N8TECHNICIANS

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TWEET US YOUR 'T FOR TECHNICIANS' SELFIE IN SUPPORT OF OUR FANTASTIC TECHNICIANS
GIVE A SHOUT OUT TO CELEBRATE A TECHNICIAN IN YOUR DEPARTMENT
INCLUDE THE HASHTAG #N8TECHNICIANS

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On behalf of the Technician Champions we want to say 'Thank You' to every member of the technical team @UniversityLeeds. To find out what we do and see how varied our roles are watch youtu.be/EJMXTue2n8s

#N8technicians

Proud to be part of a team of technicians working within the creative arts.

Collaborating across Film, Media, Music, Sound, Performance, Fine Art and Cultural Studies.

'T for technicians': @UniofNewcastle @N8research #n8technicians

Printmaking Technician for 15 years at Newcastle University. Fine Art! Proud to be part of the best team.

We are a passionate team and we love what we do.
Great initiative @N8research @NTDCtweets - celebrate the vital roles technicians play in teaching and research across the N8 with your T for Technicians selfie #N8Technicians
Dr Annette Bramley, director, N8 Research Partnership said:

- “It is difficult to do justice to the vital work that technicians play across research, yet the importance of their role can sometimes be overlooked.
- “The N8 Research Partnership’s decision to become a partner affiliate to the NTDC reflects the importance of technicians to the work our universities undertake and to the many innovative businesses that are helping to drive forward the Northern Powerhouse. We look forward to working closely with the NTDC to explore ways to promote the resources it has for technician development and to assist in creating a sustainable future for technical staff and services.”

Kate Jones, University of Liverpool, is going to pick up some real-world case studies and lead you through the next section
Valuable Contribution of Technicians (N8 AgriFood)
Valuable Contribution of Technicians (N8 Ag…)

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Quantifying the recent expansion of native invasive species in a UK upland environment

Mark A. Ashby | James Duncan Whyatt | Karen Rogers | Rob Honey | Carly J. Stevens

1Lancaster Environment Centre, Lancaster University, Lancaster, UK
2Natural England, Manchester, UK
3School of Environmental Sciences, University of Liverpool, Liverpool, UK

Correspondence
Mark A. Ashby, Lancaster Environment Centre, Lancaster University, Library Avenue, Lancaster LA1 4YU, UK. Email: m.a.ashby@lancaster.ac.uk

Funding Information
N8 Agri-food Research Partnership Funding

Abstract
Rushes, such as soft rush (Juncus effusus L.), hard rush (Juncus inflexus L.), and tall rush (Juncus conglomeratus L.), have become problematic in grasslands across the United Kingdom and the coastal grasslands of the UK. Indeed, being largely unpalatable to livestock and having a localised distribution, these species have a high ecological value and can rapidly come to dominate swathes of land. This invasion results in a reduction in grassland biodiversity and productivity. A wealth of historical aerial photography is available showing the presence of these species in upland grasslands has increased considerably in recent decades. To date, there is no published evidence to support this observation in these areas, and therefore no published evidence to support this observation. This study used a combination of historical Google Earth imagery to measure changes in rush biomass within four survey periods: 2005, 2009, 2015, and 2020. Each year, we quantified rush presence or absence using a survey team within 300 upland grassland plots in the West Pennine Moors.
Valuable Contribution of Technicians (Health Economy)

Tackling the COVID-19 pandemic

Valuable Contribution of Technicians (Health Economy)

Tackling the COVID-19 pandemic

- Supporting NHS in fight against COVID-19
- Supporting restart of non-COVID clinical research
- Ensuring COVID safe campuses
- Supporting the restart of non-COVID research

An exceptional programme led by three of the UK’s top universities

The Doctoral Training Partnership between Newcastle, Liverpool and Durham, funded by the BBSRC provides an opportunity for the next generation of young researchers to address outstanding scientific questions in the biosciences, this is an exceptional programme of research training which emphasises the interdisciplinary nature of modern biology. This partnership is referred to as NLD BBSRC DTP. The DTP delivers cutting edge technologies and state-of-the-art facilities to deliver world-class results and around 16 fully-funded studentships across the partnership each year.
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Technical support and expertise to address scientific questions in the biosciences

Use of cutting edge technologies & state of the art facilities
Valuable Contribution of Technicians (Teaching & Doctoral Training)

Collaboration To Drive Positive Change: The Technician Voice

Pledging action to support our technicians through visibility, recognition and development

Take a look at some of the brilliant 'T for Technicians' tweets we've seen so far - in celebration and support of the fantastic #technicians who help make #N8research happen! Tweet us your 'T' and tell us about the work you do: n8research.org.uk/n8-technicians/

This week is the launch of our #N8Technicians campaign with @NTDCtweets - giving a platform to our fantastic technicians who play a vital role in research across the north, to shout about the valuable work they do!
Collaboration To Drive Positive Change

• Technical community unaware of EDI challenges
• No technical involvement with Athena SWAN initiatives
• Lack of female role models in some disciplines
• Developmental programmes – paths to leadership roles especially for under-represented groups
• Look outside HE for examples of best practice?
• Improved data recording
• Outreach / public engagement / technical showcase activities promoting the technical careers
Over to you.....

Your thoughts...
What initiatives you would like to see in the North to improve the recognition and impact of the technical workforce?

What do you think would be the barriers and opportunities to such a collaboration would be?

Email feedback to kate.jones@Liverpool.ac.uk