Dear UBMA members,

Please see below for the October 2026 UBMA newsletter.

In today's newsletter:

- Wednesday March 24th 2027 is pencilled in for the 2027 UBMA conference—please put it in your diary, further details to follow!
- Another call for your diary: UBMA webinar: 12th November 1300-1400 on human sample storage and acquisition.
- Final call for you to fill out a survey on Professional Registration to assist us with our Technician Commitment action plan: 12 responses so far so we need your input! Initial results suggest you want more information, so please now see our freshly launched UBMA webpage on Professional Registration!
- Sector news: latest training opportunities & news from the sector
- IST conference review: Victoria Talbot & Jiteen Ahmed awarded IST fellowships
- Reminder to spread the word to you colleagues about the UBMA and encourage them to join our community
- A reminder to please follow us on LinkedIn and share our posts, lots of useful content will be posted there in-between newsletters

James Fox (Communications Officer)
communications@ubma.org.uk

ubma

University Biosciences Managers' Association

26th October 2026

UBMA news

Terri Blohm was elected to the position of Committee member 2 following the UBMA extraordinary committee election result of September 7th. Find out more about your committee members on the UBMA website.

UBMA Conference

Conference preparation for 2027 has commenced—please put Wednesday 24th March 2027 into your diaries! Further details to follow.

UBMA webinars

Our webinars are seeing good attendance levels, our first was on 14th July where Jiteen Ahmed delivered a fascinating webinar on his career journey.

The second webinar was on professional registration, Michelle Jackson delivered an informative session on routes, requirements and practical advice to become registered. In parallel we are also undertaking exploratory work mapping UBMA members' registration status. This forms part of UBMA's Technician Commitment action plan. Please complete the survey on Professional Registration. Results will be distributed in next months newsletter but in response to the initial responses we have just launched a new UBMA webpage on Professional Registration.

Our third webinar was on Core Facility Finance. (Geoff Blunt, Tony Dickson & Edel Durrack) presented the different approaches taken by institutes—the session prompted lots of queries and questions!

Our fourth webinar is scheduled for Thursday 12th November, 1300-1400 on human sample storage and acquisition. Email invites have been sent to members.

If you would like to offer to give a webinar on any subject relevant to UBMA members or suggest a topic, please contact chair@ubma.org.uk

Herschel 2027

Applications for the 2026 Herschel Programme for Women in Technical Leadership are officially open.

Gain new skills, build your leadership confidence, and connect with a national network.

The award-winning programme starts in January 2027. The Herschel Programme for Women in Technical Leadership has received a Princess Royal Training Award, recognising outstanding training and exceptional benefits for participants.

Since 2021, 1,140 women from over 120 organisations have completed the six-month programme, with 41% gaining a promotion or grade increase since taking part.

Applications close 5pm Monday 16 November.

Apply for the 2027 cohort

Technician Commitment

Outstanding Technician of the Year 2026

Eight technical professionals from UK universities and research institutions have been shortlisted for the Times Higher Education Award Outstanding Technician of the Year Award 2026.

This category recognises individuals whose exceptional practical skills, commitment and vision have enabled the highest-quality teaching, research or knowledge transfer.

Read more about the shortlisted candidates.

Science Council Events

Wednesday 28 October (10am – 12pm): (9:30am – 4:30pm): Application Sprint – A Masterclass in Professional Registration (London) **BOOK HERE**

Wednesday 4 November (11am - 1pm): Introduction to Professional Registration – Virtual Workshop (Online) **BOOK HERE**

Tuesday 1st December: 2026 Celebration of Science – (Institute of Physics, London)

Sector News

RSB Training Courses 2026

Take the next step in your professional development with the Royal Society of Biology's wide range of training courses! These include **in-person technical skills** courses:

Introduction to C, online and Ireland

Date: 12 - 13 April 2027
Location: University of Derby, Derby
Fees: Member - £1000 + VAT | Non-member - £1200 + VAT
For further details and to book please visit the RSB website.

RSB also has a range of **online transferable and analytical skills** courses including:

Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning • Industry Skills Certificate

Date: 6 February 2027
Location: Online via Zoom
Fees: Member - £120 + VAT | Non-member - £240 + VAT
For further details and to book please visit the RSB website.

Laboratory Health & Safety (A CQSHW) • Industry Skills Certificate • Technical Skills Certificate

Date: 8 February 2027
Location: Online via Zoom
Fees: Member - £120 + VAT | Non-member - £240 + VAT
For further details and to book please visit the RSB website.

Research Ethics • Industry Skills Certificate • Technical Skills Certificate

Date: 15 February 2027
Location: Online via Zoom
Fees: Member - £60 + VAT | Non-member - £120 + VAT
For further details and to book please visit the RSB website.

Brand new course! Business Skills for Biologists

Designed by biosciences for both industry and academia, this flexible course equips biologists with the commercial awareness and transferable skills increasingly valued across the life sciences. Through real-world case studies, the course offers practical insight into how business, innovation and science intersect. Learners will build confidence in areas such as intellectual property, marketing, entrepreneurship, finance and regulation.

Biochemistry: Molecules of Life

A companion piece to the Oxford Biology Primer. Tailored towards students aged 15-19 years old, and ideal for BioNet members of the Royal Society of Biology, this course will build upon existing knowledge and inspire those considering further studies in biochemistry. The course will recap on the curriculum while introducing new concepts, providing important practical context for biochemistry theory covered in school.

Users of this course will gain access to an eBook version of the Primer, with functionality, navigation features, and links that offer extra learning support.

Introduction to Project Management for Biologists

There are many diverse projects in biology and biology related professions. For example, there are laboratory research-based projects looking to acquire new knowledge, conservation projects involving the preservation of endangered species and the organisation of conferences to share the latest information. Throughout this online course participants will learn the skills and planning tools they need to successfully complete a project and how to anticipate and resolve the issues they are likely to encounter as a project manager.

Introduction to Trusteeship and Governance

An online course developed for trustees to become familiar with the role and its requirements. This online course is based on modular learning with a variety of materials to help a trustee understand the role requirements in a more detailed fashion.

Persuasive Scientific Writing

This course is for those of you who write technical, scientific and other related articles and reports, including students, who wish to improve their report and general document writing skills.

Science Communication for Non-Experts

This half-day course is designed for those wanting to improve the way they communicate to a non-specialist audience.

Gopher Science Lab

Online training for Primary Teachers to teach Science through engaging practical activities. This online course has been written and reviewed by teachers, for teachers. The lessons are designed to give teachers clear guidance on how to carry out the Gopher Science Lab activities so that they can feel confident in leading or supervising the activities during a lab day or classroom session.

Chartered Biologist Register – an Expert's Guide

This course is a partner piece to the written guidance available on the CBiol webpage. The myLearning course comprises a series of presentations recorded by RSB Fellow Laurence Dawkins-Hall exploring motivations to apply for chartered status, the application process and, maintaining registration through the RSB CPD scheme.

RSB Members: free | Non-RSB members: £75 + VAT

Plant Health Professional Training – Associate Training

The RSB has an online training course to support applicants to the Plant Health Professionals Register. This training is available on our online portal and is free to RSB members at any level. If you work in plant science or plant health, this training will be valuable to your CPD, and covers topics from pests and pathogens to raising awareness in the community.

RSB members: free | Non-RSB members: £75 + VAT

STEM for BRITAIN 2027

STEM for BRITAIN is a major scientific poster competition and exhibition which has been held in Parliament since 1997. and is organised by the Parliamentary & Scientific Committee. A wide range of leading scientific, engineering and mathematics institutions and organisations support STEM for Britain, including RSB. Information on how to apply is available here. Applications close on Friday 27 November 2026.

From the ITSS

Careers and Professional Development

- Effective Career Development Discussions (04 Nov 2026)
- Effective Communication Skills for Technicians (03 Dec 2026)

Leadership and Management

- Leading Through Adversity and Change (14 Oct & 18 Nov 2026)
- Foundations for First Time Technical Leaders (28 Oct & 26 Nov 2026)
- Technical Leadership: Leading Self and Others (09 Nov 2026 to Mar 2027)
- Develop Your Leadership Identity using Spotlight (08 Dec 2026)

Project Management

- Project Management Fundamentals: A Toolkit for Technicians (27 Oct 2026)

Teaching and Training Skills Development

- Designing Effective Technical Teaching & Training (02 Dec 2026)
- Assessing and Giving Feedback for Technical Learners (16 Dec 2026)

- Final reminder for applications for the Technician Commitment Collaboration Fund. Deadline is 31st October 2026. Apply here.
- The Daphne Jackson Trust's Technician Commitment Professional Fellowships offer experienced research technical professionals a supported route back into research after a career break of two years or more.
- **TSN ROKS UKRFCN Research Facility Management Workshop | 25 - 26 Nov | University of Warwick**

Those stepping into research facility management are invited to this two-day workshop at the University of Warwick. Governance, costing, stakeholders, branding and a facility planning exercise. Spaces limited. Apply today.

- **Technology Specialists Conference (TSN) 2027 | 23 - 24 Feb | Chester Racecourse**

This is the fifth Technology Specialists Network conference to take place and is open to technical professionals working in UK universities and research institutes. Registration is opening soon. Sign up for the TSN newsletter to get notified first.

IST conference: fellowships and new members!

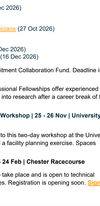
The IST conference was held at the University of Liverpool in September.

The conference was a great opportunity to network, the UBMA had a stand in the Careers Section and 13 new members joined the UBMA at the **—a very warm welcome to all new members!**

Also at the conference, UBMA chair Victoria Talbot and UBMA member Jiteen Ahmed were presented with the fellowships of the IST (FIST). Fellowship is awarded to individuals who have demonstrated outstanding professional achievement and made significant contributions to the IST, STEMM, AI & Digital, Creative Technologies, and/or the wider technical community.

Fellowship recognises influence, leadership, and sustained professional commitment and impact.

Victoria and Jiteen were presented with the fellowships by IST President and self named 'space technician' Dr Helen Sharman CMG OBE FRSC FIScT, pictured. Huge congratulations to them both!



Join us!

You already know what a wonderful community the UBMA is, but do your colleagues?! Please spread the word about the UBMA and encourage other bioscience managers to join us!

Details on how to join are here or contact our membership secretary

SPREAD THE WORD

LinkedIn

For those of you on **LinkedIn**, please connect, follow and share UBMA posts as they come up.

Search either for University Bioscience Managers Association, or UBMA and you should find us. Alternatively, click here.

From your UBMA Executive Committee

You are receiving this email because you are a member of the University Bioscience Managers Association. If you no longer wish to receive emails please contact the membership secretary by emailing membership.secretary@ubma.org.uk