

Teachers and Advisers Conference – 2 May 2025

Welcome to the Teachers and Advisers Conference 2025.

Please see your schedule for the day below*:

Time	Session	Location
From 9.30am	Arrival and registration Catch up and network over hot drinks and pastries	The Hide
10am	Who are UON? James Seymour - Director of Marketing and Student Recruitment	The Hide
10.30am	Exploring the Regional Landscape: Trends and Insights from UCAS UCAS Insights Team	The Hide
11.30am	Break Refreshments served	The Hide
11.40am	Breakout session: 1. Student Finance update Ahmar Ehsan, Student Loans Company 2. The Realities of Degree Apprenticeships Simon Longhurst, UON 3. Supporting your students into HE Simon Fairbanks, Unitasterdays 4. Campus tour UON Student Ambassadors	T-pod B LH013 LH113 Across Waterside Campus
12.30pm	Lunch	The Hide
1.15pm	Keynote: The Power of Connection Hannah Simnett, founder of Cherished UK	LH017
2pm	Networking An opportunity to ask any and all questions of our academic colleagues and various support teams within the University.	The Hide
2.45 - 3pm	Closing remarks James Seymour - Director of Marketing and Student Recruitment	The Hide

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Breakout sessions and Keynote

Keynote: The Power of Connection

Hannah Simnett, Cherished UK

Join Hannah for an Inspirational Trauma and Connection Training Session. Founder of Cherished at just 18 years old, Hannah shares her powerful journey and mission to help children feel safe, seen, soothed, and secure. In this inspiring session, she delves into the impact of trauma on the brain, body, and behaviour, offering insights on how to shift from being trauma-aware to trauma-responsive. Discover how to view behaviour as communication and address the root causes with empathy and compassion, and equip yourself with the tools to create supportive, understanding environments where every child can thrive.

Student Finance update

Ahmar Ehsan, Student Loans Company

Stay informed on the latest student loan updates! This session explores changes to funding, repayment, and eligibility, providing essential insights into tuition fees and maintenance loans. You'll learn how to guide students through applications, financial planning, and new repayment rules, empowering them to make confident decisions for university.

The Realities of Degree Apprenticeships

Simon Longhurst, UON

This session offers teachers and advisers practical insights into degree apprenticeships, helping them guide students in post-18 decisions. We'll cover key topics, including structure, funding, entry requirements, employer expectations, and the realities of balancing work and study. Attendees will leave with the knowledge to provide well-informed advice on this exciting pathway.

Supporting your Students into HE

Simon Fairbanks, Unitasterdays

Applying to university can feel overwhelming for students - and for the teachers and advisers guiding them. This interactive session breaks down the 18-month application journey into five key steps, offering practical advice and sector updates to empower confident decision-making. Discover why university might be the right choice, how to explore study options, navigate student finance, compare offers, and access free resources to support the journey. Through all of this, we hope you'll gain the confidence to empower your students to make the best possible decisions about their future. Every challenging journey begins with a single step. Let's get started.

Waterside Campus Tour

UON Student Ambassadors

Meet one of our current students who will take you on a tour of Waterside Campus. You'll explore our course facilities, get a glimpse of student accommodation, and discover what makes studying at UON special. Feel free to ask any questions along the way - it's your chance to hear genuine, firsthand experiences.