

Annual Conference and Exhibition 2023

Becoming a Higher Education Professional: Continual reinvention in a transforming sector

We are excited to present our new look conference for 2023! We are working hard to finalise all the details for the conference programme, but to give you a flavour of the energising and inspiring activities taking place, we have provided a top-level agenda. Please note timings and details are subject to change.

Sunday

<u>15:00 – 17:00</u>	Accommodation Check-in Arrive, refresh and unwind. Drop your bags at your accommodation and explore all that the Warwick campus has to offer. You can take time to explore the campus, visit the variety of café's, restaurants, bars, and retail spaces or make use of the excellent leisure facilities.
<u>17:00 – 18:00</u>	Getting to know...New members Exclusively for new members or those who have not been to conference before, come along and meet some friendly faces to help you make the most of your conference experience.
<u>18:00 – 21:00</u>	AUA Garden Party Think old school garden party with games, BBQ food and ice cream! Our garden party is a great informal networking opportunity for you to get know colleagues from across the sector and around the globe. You can meet like-minded individuals and make lasting connections for you to share your experiences and learn from each other.

Monday

8:30-10:00	Registration and Refreshments Register your attendance and grab some refreshments in our exhibition space.
10.00 – 11:15	Welcome and Keynote Address Our Chair will open with the warmest of welcomes and provide you with key information for the day ahead, before handing over to our first conference keynote speaker who will address our conference theme. Speaker TBC.
11.15 – 12.00	First Pit Stop! Pause to reflect on the morning's keynote session and take an opportunity to stretch! You can meet our exhibitors and take part in one of the many activities taking place during conference. So, grab a hot or cold drink and network with faces old and new whilst doing something different!
12.00 – 13:00	Working Session One

	<p>A chance to learn and connect in one of our working sessions, where you can be part of an interactive workshop, listen to paper presentations or be part of a wild-card activity!</p> <p>The working sessions will enable you to interact with other delegates to learn about focused topics and develop essential skills. Together, you can brainstorm and discuss content relating to the conference's overarching theme and five conference strands:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Early career transformation in the professional services + Becoming a leader in the professional services + Reinventing senior leadership in the professional services + Transforming wellbeing in the professional services + Transforming approaches to equality, diversity and inclusion in the professional services
13.00 – 14.00	<p>Lunch, Networking and Exhibition</p> <p>Your chance to fuel up on delicious food served in our exhibition hall. Chat to your colleagues, our exhibitors and mingle with the AUA team and Board of Trustees.</p>
14.00 – 15:00	<p>Spotlight: Professionals Working in the Third Space</p> <p>Taking the format of a 'Fireside Chat', our expert guest speakers will shine a spotlight on members of staff working in the third space. The session will explore what are considered to be less constrained roles that do not fit conventional academic/professional binary descriptors. Higher education is continually transforming but arguably, ideas about how universities are structured remain conservative. We will hear the reflections of third-space, or blended professionals, including the challenges and opportunities for those working in that space. Through discussion, the session aims to determine how organisations like the AUA and Advance HE may work to best support professionals working in third-space roles.</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <p>Alison Johns, Chief Executive, Advance HE. Dr Sunny Dhillon, Lecturer in Education Studies, Bishop Grosseteste University Colin Ferguson, Executive Director, AUA/Dr Ella Popper, Head of Professional Development, AUA</p>
15.00 – 15:45	<p>Second Pit Stop!</p> <p>Pause to reflect on the day so far and take an opportunity to stretch! You can meet our exhibitors and take part in one of the many activities taking place during conference. So, grab a hot or cold drink and network with faces old and new whilst doing something different!</p>
15:45 – 16:45	<p>Working Session Two</p> <p>A chance to learn and connect in one of our working sessions, where you can be part of an interactive workshop, listen to paper presentations or be part of a wild-card activity!</p>

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19.00 – 01.00	<p>AUA Gala Dinner and Awards Celebration Evening</p> <p>Join us for a glittering evening to celebrate everything that makes the AUA what it is – you, our members! There will be a drink's reception, a sumptuous three-course dinner and entertainment, centred around marking the achievements of our members.</p> <p>During the evening we will celebrate the success of our PgCert students as we spotlight their achievements at our special awards celebration evening and Gala. Also, for the very first time, we will be recognising those who have progressed on to the MSc in HE Administration Management and Leadership and produced outstanding master's theses with potential to contribute to the professional services. Our award winners will be joined by our Trustees, the AUA team, delegates and VIP guests, making for a truly special and intimate evening.</p> <p>There will be a quiet space within our Gala Dinner venue if you need to take a break from the hustle and bustle of the evening.</p>

Tuesday

10.00 – 10:45	<p>Keynote Address</p> <p>Breaking Barriers – the challenges of being an Asian female professional in higher education. How to break down barriers and smash glass ceilings to progress your career in a constantly evolving sector. Professor Dilshad Sheikh, Deputy Pro Vice Chancellor (Academic) / Dean Faculty of Business</p> <p>Based on real life experiences of being born in Nairobi, Kenya, brought up in one of the poorest neighbourhoods in the UK and the only one of her siblings to go to university, Dilshad will share her personal account of the challenges and barriers she has faced to progress her career in higher education. Dilshad will also explore practical ways to break down barriers (EDI) and smash through glass ceilings.</p>
10.45 – 11.05	<p>Final Pit Stop!</p> <p>Pause to reflect on this morning's keynote session and take an opportunity to stretch! You can meet our exhibitors and take part in</p>

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11:05 – 12:05	<p>Working Session Three</p> <p>A chance to learn and connect in one of our working sessions, where you can be part of an interactive workshop, listen to paper presentations or be part of a wild-card activity!</p> <p>The working sessions will enable you to interact with other delegates to learn about focused topics and develop essential skills. Together, you can brainstorm and discuss content relating to the conference’s overarching theme and five conference strands:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Early career transformation in the professional services + Becoming a leader in the professional services + Reinventing senior leadership in the professional services + Transforming wellbeing in the professional services + Transforming approaches to equality, diversity and inclusion in the professional services
12:05 – 12:50	<p>Lunch, Networking and Exhibition</p> <p>Your chance to fuel up on delicious food served in our exhibition hall. Chat to your colleagues, our exhibitors and mingle with the AUA team and Board of Trustees.</p>
12:50 – 13:50	<p>Panel Debate “<i>Vice Chancellors – academics do it better. Or do they?</i>”</p> <p>Chaired by our Honorary President of the AUA, Keith Zimmerman, we welcome to the panel the University of Warwick’s Vice Chancellor, Professor Stuart Croft who will be joined by Professor Ken Sloan who has written extensively in this area.</p> <p>The inspiration for this debate comes from Professor Sloan’s article, <i>Give administrators a shot at the top job, says registrar turned v-c</i>, published in the Times Higher Education supplement in April 2022. If you fancy a bit of pre-reading, you can find Professor Sloan’s article here.</p>
13:50 – 14:55	<p>Unveiling the new AUA</p> <p>Join our Executive Director, Colin Ferguson and AUA Chair, Vikki Goddard, for an exciting announcement about the reinvention of the AUA. They will share our own personal growth and transformation as an organisation and unveil the future of the AUA alongside our brand-new identity.</p>