The extent and value of technicians’ contribution to learning and teaching

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1000 technicians at UoE

Efficiently invisible
Proffered lowly status - although crucial, invisible role is considered unimportant

“Look at this article on sanitation and waste management. I am listed as one of the co-authors.”
Technician Commitment - Aims to address 4 key issues for technical staff

1. Visibility - ensuring all technicians are identifiable and their contribution evident.

2. Recognition - credit for role in success and institutional support for Professional Registration.

3. Career development - career progression through provision of clear, documented career pathways.

4. Sustainability - ensuring sustainability of technical skills and full utilisation of technical expertise.
Wider impact of improved conditions, status and opportunities for technical staff

- Improved technician morale, motivation and engagement
- Marketable superior technical support
  - Attract increased student and staff numbers
  - Solve succession planning issues - technical roles at UoE an aspirational career choice
  - Secure increased grant funding and investment
- Raised learning and teaching values
- Enriched student experience
We teach

- Assisting to deliver practical classes to facilitate meeting learning outcomes
- Developing practical sessions to support experiential learning
- Preparing written materials to support student learning
- Supporting students in developing their research plans (e.g. dissertations)
- Developing resources to make complex equipment accessible to students
‘I hear and I forget. I see and I remember. I do and I understand’

- What is a Technician?
  - A person working in a field with a strong theoretical framework whose ability to perform their role relies upon their expertise in practical applications relevant to this subject area.
- Experiential learning
Academic team

- Key contributors to learning and teaching (and to our research output)
- Invaluable to the rich student experience at our University.
- Vital front-line support for student wellbeing & mental health
Personal support for technicians and the Technician Commitment

- Find out who the technicians are in your area
- Ensure technical skills & knowledge are fully utilised
- Recognise & acknowledge technicians in your team effort
- Nominate technicians for awards
- Include technicians in student surveys & course evaluations - You might well see improved results!
- Visit our website and contribute https://www.ed.ac.uk/technicians
- Follow us on Twitter @UoETechnicians#EdUniTechsCommit
- Get in contact techcom@ed.ac.uk