

# Work-based Learning: Forging Pathways Between Theory and Practice in Higher Education



Arrival	9:00	Coffee and Pastries on arrival	Programme Details	
	10:00	Introduction: Practicalities of the day	Dr Fran Myers   OU	
	10:05	Introduction: Forging Research Pathways	Dr Mandy Crawford Lee   UVAC CEX	
<b>Opening</b>	10:15	Professor Dave Phoenix   OU VC	Welcome and reflections	
<b>Keynote</b>	10:25-10:45	Dr Stan Lester   Independent	History and future of WBL	
<b>Presentations</b>	10:45-12:15	<b>Presentation Session 1A</b>	<b>Presentation Session 1B</b>	<b>Presentation Session 1C</b>
		Room 1	Room 2	Room 3
		<b>WBL curriculum design and delivery</b>	<b>Transforming lives through WBL</b>	<b>Collaborative relationships in WBL</b>
	<i>Session chair</i>	<i>Sarah Bloomfield   OU</i>	<i>Mandy Crawford-Lee   UVAC CEX</i>	<i>Fran Myers   OU</i>
		<b>Becky Quew-Jones and Kieron Chadwick   <i>Beyond the Tick Box? Rethinking Stakeholder Roles in</i></b>	<b>Alison Kozary   <i>'Are Apprenticeship Employers and Providers Getting It Right?' Gaining and Understanding of the Lived Experiences of</i></b>	<b>Louise Sutton   <i>Enhancing Professional Capability Through Work-Based Learning Strategies (15min)</i></b>

		<p><i>Apprenticeship Tripartite Reviews (15min)</i></p> <p><b>Phil Power-Mason and Helen Carlton</b>   <i>Forging Pathways: Personal Account of Apprenticeship Research Careers (15min)</i></p> <p><b>Sue Banger</b>   <i>Structure to Self-Direction in Work-Based Learning (15min)</i></p>	<p><i>CMDA Apprenticeships by Listening to Their Individual Journeys (5min)</i></p> <p><b>Mary Shek, Fran Myers, Sarah Bloomfield, Alice Winters and Kulvinder Buray</b>   <i>I Can Do a Lot More than I Thought: Facilitative Factors on Work-Based Learning for Upskillers (15min)</i></p> <p><b>Thilanka Baratha Dewanarayana</b>   <i>A Case Study: Business Management Undergraduates in Higher Education Sector -Sri Lanka (5min)</i></p> <p><b>Jeanette Davies</b>   <i>Playing the Game: Social Mobility, Capital and Inequality in Work-Based Learning (15min)</i></p> <p><b>Joanna Booth</b>   <i>Bridging the Gap for Work-Based Learners During the Menopause (5min)</i></p>	<p><b>Evelyn Mooney</b>   <i>Tripartite Relationships in Work-Based Learning: Perspectives, Practices and Possibilities from a nursing perspective (10min)</i></p> <p><b>Anna Colantoni</b>   <i>Title TBC (5min)</i></p> <p><b>Sarah Behenna</b>   <i>Diversifying Degree Apprenticeships: Insights from Mentoring and Employer Engagement in Work-Based Learning (15min)</i></p>
<b>Publishing</b>	12:15-12:30	<p><b>Trevor Gerhardt</b>   Associate Editor HESWBL and Consultant</p> <p><b>Kieron Chadwick</b>   University of Staffordshire</p> <p><b>Mandy Crawford-Lee</b>   UVAC CEX</p>	Panel Discussion: Best Place for my paper	Facilitated by Fran Myers and Sarah Bloomfield
<b>Lunch</b>	12:30-13:15	Lunch		

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<b>Keynotes</b>	13:15-13:35	Professor Darryll Bravenboer   Director of Business and Civic Engagement   Middlesex University		
	13:35-13:45	Dr Becky Quew-Jones   Faculty Learning and Teaching Co-ordinator   University of Portsmouth		
<b>Presentations</b>	13:45-15:15	<b>Presentation Session 2A</b>	<b>Presentation Session 2B</b>	
		Room 1	Room 2	
	Theme:	<b>Professional Development through WBL</b>	<b>Policy Perspectives in WBL</b>	
	<i>Session chair</i>	<i>Helen Charlton</i>   Northumbria University	<i>Phil Power-Mason</i>   University of Hertfordshire	
		<b>Abigail Salter</b>   <i>Learning in the Line of Duty: Lived Experiences of Police Officers in a Work-Based Learning Context (15min)</i>  <b>Paula McIver Nottingham</b>   <i>Writing and Publishing Practitioner Research: Hands-on Tips from a Journal Reviewer (15min)</i>  <b>Natalie Read</b>   <i>Ethical Leadership Development Through Degree</i>	<b>Laura Hogben</b>   <i>'What's the Problem Represented to be?' Interpreting Tensions and Paradoxes in Degree Apprenticeships Policy Implementation (15min)</i>  <b>Thilanka Baratha Dewanarayana</b>   <i>Education, Technology and Life (15min)</i>  <b>Dominique Howard</b>   <i>What Work-based Learning Reveals About Knowledge Co- construction in Humanitarian Settings? (15min)</i>	

		<i>Apprenticeships: Understanding Identity Formation (15min)</i>	<b>Abigail Salter and Sarah Bloomfield  </b> <i>Innovating WIL Through Community Partnership: Lessons from Australia, Canada and the UK (5min)</i>	
<b>Afternoon Refreshments</b>	15:15-15:45	Book Launch   led by Dr Emily Beaumont   University of Gloucestershire  (over afternoon tea)	<i>'Higher and Degree Apprenticeships: A 360-Degree, Multi-perspective View'</i>   <p><b>SAVE 20%</b> USE CODE <b>26ESA1</b> at <a href="http://routledge.com">routledge.com</a> Valid 1 January 2026 – 30 June 2026</p> <p><b>SAVE NOW</b> Routledge Taylor &amp; Francis Group</p>	Tea and Cake
<b>Conference Close</b>	15:45-16:00	Dr Mandy Crawford-Lee	Conference close and presentation of Best Paper Award	