

## ARC Annual and Exhibition 2026: **Reforging the Sector**

1-3rd November 2026, Kimpton Clock Tower, Manchester

| Sunday 1st November 2026 |                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm        | <b>Walking Tour:</b> Hidden Histories of Manchester<br>Guided by a local historian, this tour explores Manchester's civic landscape, offering insights into the city's culture and history. |
| 5.30 pm – 6.15 pm        | Early Conference Registration                                                                                                                                                               |
| 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm        | Early Arrivals Welcome                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 7:00 pm – 10:00 pm       | Early Arrivals Buffet and Drinks                                                                                                                                                            |

| Monday 2nd November 2026 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 8:00 am – 10.30 am       | Registration, Refreshments and Exhibition                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 08:00 am – 09:00 am      | Morning Deep Dive: Courageous Conversations                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 09:30 am – 09:45 am      | Welcome Address by ARC Chair Jo Coward                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 09:45 am – 10:15 am      | Keynote: Professor Malcolm Press, Vice Chancellor, Manchester Metropolitan University, UUK President                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 10:15 am – 10:30 am      | Exhibitor Hotspots                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 10:30 am – 11:30 am      | Panel Discussion: Turning Point – The Sector Ahead <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lucy Everest – University of Liverpool</li> <li>• Vikki Goddard – University of York</li> <li>• Rachel Brealey – University of Leeds</li> <li>• UUK Director of Policy, Steph Harris</li> <li>• Jo Coward, ARC Chair</li> </ul> |
| 11:30 am – 11:45 am      | Coffee and Exhibition                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 11:45 am – 12:45 pm      | Breakout Session 1 - (5 sessions in parallel) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. The people behind a Banner Implementation: UEL's change story</b><br/> <i>Martin Hoyle (Academic Registrar)</i><br/> <i>Sukhie Mattu (Deputy Academic Registrar)</i><br/> <i>Vaness Hallinan (Change Manager)</i> </li> </ol>    |

|                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                   | <p><b>2. Leading Change Well: Reflections, Pitfalls and Top Tips from an HR Change Lead</b><br/><i>Fiona Ruddy (HR Executive with 15 years' experience in the HE Sector and local authority)</i></p> <p><b>3. OIAHE</b><br/><i>Good Practice framework on harassment and sexual misconduct</i></p> <p><b>4. ARC Practitioner Group Session - Quality Assurance Group</b><br/><i>Hear about the latest developments from the group</i></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 12:45pm – 1:30pm  | Lunch with our Exhibitors, Networking, Exhibition                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 1:30pm – 2:30pm   | <p><i>Breakout Session 2 – (5 Sessions in parallel)</i></p> <p><b>1. Commuter Students: Designing the University We Didn't Build</b><br/><i>Lesley O'Keefe (Interim Academic Registrar, SOAS)</i></p> <p><b>2. Student perceptions of value for money in higher education: A longitudinal study</b><br/><i>Paul Gatrack, The University of Liverpool</i></p> <p><b>3. Future-proof your institution &amp; empower learners with digital credentials</b><br/><i>Takis Diakoumis, Director, Instructure</i></p> <p><b>4. ARC Practitioner Group Session - SROC (Student Records)</b><br/><i>Hear about the latest developments from the group</i></p>                                                                                  |
| 2:30 pm – 2:45 pm | Exhibitor Hotspots                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 2:45 pm – 3:30 pm | In Conversation with the Office for Students                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 3:30 pm – 4:00 pm | Refreshments, Networking, Exhibition                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 4:00 pm – 5:00pm  | <p><i>Breakout Session #3 - (5 sessions in parallel)</i></p> <p><b>1. ARC Practitioner Group Session - UKVI</b><br/><i>Hear about the latest developments from the group</i></p> <p><b>2. The invisible majority: who designs professional services work in an AI era?</b><br/><i>Panel including Amanda Owen-Meehan, Consulting Director, AHEP Consulting. Further panel members to be confirmed.</i></p> <p><b>3. Networking</b><br/><i>New Conference Attendees networking with ARC Executive</i></p> <p><b>4. Walking Tour: Hidden Histories of Manchester</b><br/><i>Guided by a local historian, this tour explores Manchester's civic landscape, offering insights into the culture and history of this amazing city.</i></p> |
| 5:00 pm           | Close of Day 1                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 7:00 pm – 7:45pm  | Drinks Reception - Science and Industry Museum                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 7:45pm – 10:30pm  | Conference Dinner - Science and Industry Museum                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |

## Tuesday 3rd November 2026

|                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 8.30 am – 9:00 am   | Refreshments, Networking, Exhibition                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 08:00 am – 09:00 am | Breakfast with our Exhibitors                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 08:30 am – 09:00 am | ARC General Meeting (ARC members only)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 9.00 am – 09:10 am  | Exhibitor Hotspots                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 09:10 am – 09:30 am | What a 'Good University' Looks Like Now: A Student Reflection                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 09:30 am – 10:30 am | Breakout Session #4 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Digital Transformation and Service Design</b></li> <li>2. <b>AI and Digital Education</b></li> <li>3. <b>Reflections on PS Wellbeing</b></li> <li>4. <b>ARC Practitioner Group Session –Admissions</b></li> </ol> <i>Hear about the latest developments from the group</i> |
| 10:30 – 11:00 am    | Refreshments, Networking, Exhibition                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 11:30am – 12:30 pm  | Figen Murray OBE<br>Motivational Speaker                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 12:30pm – 12:45 pm  | Closing remarks, ARC Chair                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 12.45 pm – 1.30 pm  | Lunch with Exhibitors, Networking, Exhibition                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |