



# 20 **IndAc** 25 **Conference**

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## **EVENT REPORT**

Tuesday 28th + Wednesday 29th October 2025

Technology + Innovation Centre | Glasgow





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## 1. SUMMARY

SULSA's **Industry–Academia Conference and Careers Fair 2025** (IndAc25) took place on 28–29 October 2025 at the Technology and Innovation Centre in Glasgow. Building on the success of **IndAc23**, this was the second edition of the conference, bringing together students, academics, university staff, and representatives from industry and public sector agencies from across Scotland.

The aim of **Day One** was to inspire and equip attendees interested in **industry–academia collaboration and research commercialisation**, featuring keynote talks from experts such as Dr Kirsten McAulay (University of Dundee) and Professor Joyce Tait (University of Edinburgh), along with a panel showcasing the support available from organisations like Interface, Converge, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, and Scottish EDGE. Afternoon breakout sessions explored real-world examples of collaboration and commercialisation across themes including Health Technology, Sustainability, Food and Drink Biotechnology, and Tackling Disease, followed by an evening networking mixer with the Science Entrepreneur Club.

**Day Two** shifted focus to **careers and skills**, opening with Sarah Hunt (Skills Development Scotland) discussing the future of the life sciences workforce. Attendees heard from organisations such as LifeArc, Merck, Rouken Bio, Converge, and Curia Global, and joined panels on future trends in life sciences featuring leaders from Symbiosis Pharma, the James Hutton Institute Scientific Services, Microplate Dx, and IQVIA. The afternoon workshops offered practical guidance on communication, career planning, social media presence, and policy engagement, complemented by the opportunity for professional headshots and informal networking.

Throughout both days, the Exhibition Hall was a lively space for connection and collaboration, with delegates encouraged to engage through activities such as the **Exhibitor Bingo**, **networking sessions**, **professional headshots**, and **social media** using #SULSAIndAc25.

The event once again celebrated the vibrant partnerships between academia, industry, and the public sector that drive Scotland's innovation landscape forward.

## 2. ATTENDEE DATA

Day One Attendees by University Industry-Academia Collaboration & Commercialisation		Day Two Attendees by University Industry-Academia Careers Fair		TOTAL Attendees by University (Across both days)	
Aberdeen	2	Aberdeen	3	Aberdeen	5
Dundee	2	Dundee	4	Dundee	6
Edinburgh	19	Edinburgh	22	Edinburgh	41
GCU	3	GCU	2	GCU	5
Glasgow	19	Glasgow	31	Glasgow	50
Heriot-Watt	7	Heriot-Watt	4	Heriot-Watt	11
Napier	3	Napier	6	Napier	9
RGU	4	RGU	4	RGU	8
St Andrews	7	St Andrews	13	St Andrews	20
Strathclyde	19	Strathclyde	40	Strathclyde	59
UHI	3	UHI	0	UHI	3
UWS	2	UWS	0	UWS	2
JHI	0	JHI	1	JHI	1
UK University	0	UK University	0	UK University	0
International University	2	International University	2	International University	4
Industry / Public Sector	58	Industry / Public Sector	38	Industry / Public Sector	96
<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>320</b>
Day One: Attendee Roles		Day Two: Attendee Roles		TOTAL Attendee Roles (Across both days)	
PhD, Research + Academic Staff	78	PhD, Research + Academic Staff	101	PhD, Research + Academic Staff	179
UG + Masters Students	13	UG + Masters Students	32	UG + Masters Students	45
Industry (exhibiting) + Invited Speakers	56	Industry (exhibiting) + Invited Speakers	35	Industry (exhibiting) + Invited Speakers	91
Public Sector + Industry (non- exhibiting)	3	Public Sector + Industry (non- exhibiting)	2	Public Sector + Industry (non- exhibiting)	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>320</b>

### 3. EVENT AGENDA – DAY 1

# AGENDA DAY ONE

09:00 - 09:45	<b>Registration   Coffee   Exhibitors</b>	Level 2 Foyer
09:45 - 10:00	<b>Welcome Address</b> Dr Ally Hughes, SULSA Executive Director	Auditorium B
10:00 - 10:30	<b>Introduction to Commercialisation</b> Dr Kirsten McAulay, University of Dundee	Auditorium B
10:30 - 11:00	<b>Introduction to Collaboration</b> Professor Joyce Tait, University of Edinburgh	Auditorium B
11:00 - 11:30	<b>Coffee Break</b>	Level 2 Foyer
11:30 - 12:30	<b>Panel Session: What Help is Available?</b> <b>Chaired by Dr Orla Kelly</b> (Scotland KE&I Collaboration Manager)  Shelley Breckenridge (Interface), Dr Lissa Herron (Converge), Dr Andrea McColl (HIE), and Evelyn McDonald (Scottish Edge)	Auditorium B
12:30 - 13:45	<b>Lunch   Networking   Exhibitors</b>	Level 2 Foyer
13:45 - 14:45	<b>Breakout Session One</b> see page 6	Various
14:45 - 15:00	<b>Comfort Break</b>	
15:00 - 16:00	<b>Breakout Session Two</b> see page 7	Various
16:00	<b>Day One Close</b>	
16:30 onwards	<b>SULSA IndAc x SEC Mixer</b> Join us to celebrate the end of day one at our complimentary social mixer hosted with the Science Entrepreneur Club!	The Terrace Strathclyde Student Union 51 Richmond Street

### 3. EVENT AGENDA – DAY 2

# AGENDA DAY TWO

09:00 - 09:30	<b>Registration   Coffee   Exhibitors</b>	Level 2 Foyer
09:30 - 09:45	<b>Welcome Address</b> Dr Ally Hughes, SULSA Executive Director	Auditorium B
09:45 - 10:15	<b>Powering Skills Growth in Life Sciences</b> Sarah Hunt, Skills Development Scotland	Auditorium B
10:15 - 11:15	<b>Industry Opportunities</b> hear from LifeArc, Merck, Rouken Bio, Converge, KTP Centres Scotland, Inizio Medical and Curia Glonal	Auditorium B
11:15 - 11:45	<b>Coffee Break</b>	Level 2 Foyer
11:45 - 13:00	<b>Panel: Future Trends in Life Sciences Industries</b>  Alison Clayton (Symbiosis Pharma), Ramin Ebrahimnejad (James Hutton Institute Scientific Services), Dr Stuart Hannah (Microplate Dx) and Dr Karen Tait (IQVIA)	Auditorium B
13:00 - 14:15	<b>Lunch   Networking   Exhibitors</b>	Level 2 Foyer
14:15 - 15:15	<b>Skills Workshop Session One</b> see pages 8 + 9	Various
15:15 - 15:30	<b>Comfort Break</b>	
15:30 - 16:30	<b>Skills Workshop Session Two</b> see pages 8 + 9	Various
16:30	<b>End of Conference</b>	

## 4. EXHIBITORS

A total of 19 exhibitors attended the conference across the two days.

**MERCK**      **RoukenBio**      **LifeArc**

**SYMBIOSIS IP**  
part of Gateley      **CEMVO**  
ENTERPRISES CIC      **KTP Centres Scotland**  
Knowledge Transfer Partnerships

**TOWERMAINS**      **CliniSciences**      **FRKELLY**

**lateral Dx**      **HIE**  
Highlands and Islands Enterprise  
Iomairt na Gàidhealtachd 's nan Eilean      **Interface**  
The knowledge connection for business

**MEET OUR EXHIBITORS**

**iNIZIO MEDICAL**      **Scottish Enterprise**      **charles river**

**curia**      **CONVERGE**      **bio:ascent**

## 5. FEEDBACK

Please find some feedback and quotes from the event attendees.

4.8★  
average rating



- 📊 Overall experience score: 4.76 / 5
- 🎯 Event organisation rating: 4.88 / 5
- 🏠 Venue facilities rating: 4.88 / 5
- 👥 Will attend or recommend future events: 4.92 / 5

*"I believe this event stands out as one of the best gatherings for early career researchers aspiring to transition from academia to industry. During this conference, I received candid and pragmatic guidance from professionals who were once PhD candidates and successfully transitioned into industry, offering valuable insights and tips. Some of these tips were not in the public. I would strongly recommend this to any graduate student aiming to transition to industry."*

*"A fantastic conference, very well organised. I really enjoyed both days and extended my networks with industry. Keep up the great work you are doing!"*

*"I learnt from IndAc that there is a wide breadth of jobs for scientists outside academia and lots of opportunities in industry that I didn't know existed. Some of those jobs are even having more impact to patient lives which is exciting!"*

*"Before this event I had never considered working in industry before, now it seems much more accessible and something I will absolutely consider."*

*"There are more opportunities in industry than I thought, and now I have a better notion of where to look for them and what they could be. I made many connections and gained invaluable insight into startup/spinout companies which I wasn't really considering for myself beforehand."*

