

# 'PlusOne' Bursary – UCISA 26

Experience, Take-Aways and Action  
Plan

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# The Build Up to UCISA26



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## Invitation to Attend

**Wow** – This is going to be a fantastic opportunity and perfect timing with my internal application for Deputy Enterprise Architect!! Get to mingle with other IT Specialists within other universities for great insight!

*I am so excited and honoured*



## Unsuccessful Application

I understand why I was not successful with my application.  
***Should I still go to UCISA 26 or give up my place?***

## Agreement to Attend

My line manager is very keen to have a Lead Business Analyst at the event.

***I can still get a lot from going for both me & my team***



## Time Out of Work

There is so much going on.

***Should I really be taking this time out?***



## Positive Attitude

This is going to be a wonderful experience, I should remember how excited I was at first and make this time for me, my professional development, and my department. There are other members of IT going and it will be a fun social occasion.

***I am back to feeling exited and enthusiastic to see what the event is all about***





## Industry Knowledge & Pragmatism

There is so much knowledge here. The opening Keynote and first sessions really outlined the pragmatism for recognising the threats and challenges for universities right now whilst focusing on what opportunities and actions can be taken to survive and thrive!

## Collaboration

Everyone is so willing to share ideas, challenges, lessons learnt, positive experiences.

There is no competition in this room!

A strong willingness to share openly, explore options & solve problems together



## Impact of Digital Transformation

Can really feel the belief & see the evidence of the real and positive impact that digital transformation has, and can have, for our institutions.

The recognition that we need to accept unpredictability but have clear strategies in place to allow continuous evolution to adapt, to balance caution with agility!



## The Breadth of Digital Provision

I had not realised how many suppliers or products there were in the Higher Education Digital Arena.

The exhibition hall is filled to capacity with suppliers and technology!



A clear sense of the positive real-world impact we can make to our institutions – unpredictability is inevitable, but clear strategy will promote positive evolution





# Key Take-Aways



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## Leading People Through Change



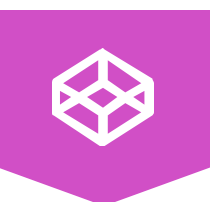
- ✓ Asking better questions to breakdown resistance to change at all levels
- ✓ Focus on what we want users and sponsors to 'feel'
- ✓ Bring people along the journey with you

## Making the case – value, investment, architecture



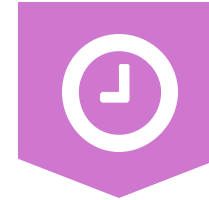
- ✓ Digital & Finance need to work together – address underinvestment in IT
- ✓ Bridge the financial gap to protect stability, improve efficiency, and enable future change.
- ✓ Run day-to-day operations effectively and create space for innovation
- ✓ Strong architecture to connect strategy, technology and people
- ✓ Connect value, capability, drivers and vision
- ✓ Not 'technology' for technology's sake
- ✓ Remember implementation failures are often due to lack in operational readiness, not the solution design

## Embedding Digital Transformation in Strategy



- ✓ Digital transformation needs to run through the whole university
- ✓ It should be the capillary in the university network
- ✓ It should be embedded in university strategy

## Influencing Senior Stakeholders



- ✓ Only about 10% of meeting content is remembered
- ✓ Hook your audience – Set Context with what the stakeholders' care about and can relate to
- ✓ Win attention in the first minute and you have your audience captured for the detail
- ✓ Make it count – Be explicit in the 'ask'

## Opportunities, Risks & Other Insights



- Security
  - Treat as fundamental across the whole digital supply chain
  - Pragmatic Business Continuity & Disaster Recovery planning
- Supplier Landscape
  - Consider the breadth of digital solutions available
  - Go beyond the 'obvious', the 'big players' – Consider the wider value from partnering small to medium enterprises and start-ups
- Learning Mindset
  - We won't always get things right – We can learn more by mistakes
  - Learn fast



## Recommendations for future attendance

- **Value and identity:** UCISA is for anyone in IT—each role is an important part of delivering digital transformation.
- **Confidence:** don't underestimate your contribution—business analysts are key players in making change happen.
- **Make the time:** it's not “time out”—the enrichment can exceed expectations.
- **Network and share:** prioritise connections and the exchange of successes and lessons learned.
- **Apply it back at work:** everyone will find something relevant to their role and their wider institution.
- **Take inspiration:** keynote speakers can be genuinely motivating and help prompt fresh thinking about what we can enhance and develop.

*"UCISA is for anyone in IT, and every role plays an important part in delivering digital transformation. Do not underestimate your contribution. Make the time to attend - it is not “time out”, and the enrichment can exceed expectations. Prioritise networking and sharing, using the space to build connections and exchange successes and lessons learned. Bring what you learn back to work—everyone will find something relevant to their role and their wider institution and take inspiration from keynote speakers who are genuinely uplifting and thought-provoking, prompting fresh ideas about what we can enhance and develop"*



## Next Steps – Disseminating Experience & Learnings

### 1) IT Lead Business Analysts playback

- Share this output deck with our other Lead Business Analysts and further inspire for next year's attendance

### 2) Wider IT Business Analysts playback

- Slot in a team meeting for sharing personal key take-aways for embedding into ways of working within approach

### 3) Wider IT Strategy & Architecture playback

- Slot in wider IT S&A session for wider sharing of key take-aways in collaboration with the attending Enterprise Architect

### 4) IT Executive Leadership Team

- Joint presentation back from all UOL event attendees for group take-aways and considerations for putting shared lessons learnt into practice