

Agenda

Day 1: Wednesday 19 November

Networking dinner and entertainment

Please note that aspects of the conference, dinner and performance contain haze and strobe lighting.

3.00 PM - 6.00 PM

Check in at accommodation*

Accommodation: Premier Inn London Sidcup

*Please note: This only applies to delegates or speakers who have opted for additional accommodation during registration.

6.00 PM - 6.15 PM

Annual conference guest registrations

The Barn Gallery

6.15 PM - 7.00 PM

Welcome drinks reception

The Rose Theatre Foyer

7.00 PM - 7.15 PM

Opening remarks

The Rose Theatre

Professor Randall S Whittaker, Principal and CEO, Rose Bruford College

7.15 PM - 9.30 PM

Networking drinks, dinner with entertainment

The Digital Studio (drinks) The Studio Theatre (dinner), The Barn Theatre (entertainment)

Join us for 'Rose Bruford's A Drag!'

A dazzling celebration of drag, cabaret, and queer creativity that's as entertaining as it is thought-provoking. Co-produced by Dr Joe Parslow and Me The Drag Queen, this unmissable event brings together standout alumni and stars of the UK drag scene for a night of lip-synchs, burlesque, clowning, and unapologetic glamour.

Uniquely imagined for the GuildHE conference, this show will drag you in and leave you wanting more. Discover why Rose Bruford College is at the heart of cutting-edge queer performance and research.

9.30 PM

Close for the day

9.30 PM - 11.00 PM

Check in at accommodation*

Accommodation: Premier Inn London Sidcup

*Please note: This only applies to delegates or speakers who have opted for additional accommodation during registration.

Day 2: Thursday 20 November

GuildHE Members' Annual General Meeting

8.00 AM - 8.15 AM

Arrival for the Annual General Meeting

The Barn Gallery (registrations), The Rose Theatre Foyer (morning refreshments and food)

8.15 AM - 9.00 AM

GuildHE Annual General Meeting

The Rose Theatre

Morning session

8.30 AM - 9.00 AM

Annual conference guest registrations

The Barn Gallery (registrations), Room CO14 (morning refreshments and food)

9.00 AM - 9.15 AM

Proceed to main venue

The Rose Theatre

9.15 AM - 9.30 AM

Chair's welcome message

Professor Ken Sloan, Chair of GuildHE and Vice Chancellor of Harper Adams University

9.30 AM - 9.45 AM

Chief Executive's report

Dr Brooke Storer-Church, Chief Executive Officer, GuildHE

9.45 AM - 10.15 AM

In conversation

Professor Sir Chris Husbands, Director at Higher Futures and Honorary Professor at King's College London

10.15 AM - 10.50 AM

Keynote with Q&A

Rt Hon Baroness Jacqui Smith, Minister of State for Skills and Minister of State for Women and Equalities

10.50 AM - 11.00 AM

Proceed to breakout sessions

11.00 AM - 11.50 AM

Breakout sessions

Sessions take place simultaneously.

Session 1: Unlocking efficiency: how shared services can future-proof UK higher education

The Digital Studio

Liam Earney, Managing Director HE and Research and Executive Director of Digital Resources, Jisc

Session 2: SHAPE Observatory work cold spots and crisis in SHAPE research

The Studio Theatre

Ruairí Cullen, Senior Observatory Lead, British Academy

Session 3: Innovative delivery models and the national skills agenda

The Barn Theatre

Professor Ramita Tejpal, Dean of Academic Quality and Policy, BPP

11.50 AM - 12.00 PM

Proceed to main venue

The Rose Theatre

12.00 PM - 12.45 PM

Keynote with Q&A

Josh Fleming, Director of Strategy and Delivery, Office for Students

12.45 PM - 1.45 PM

Lunch and networking

Room CO14 (lunch), Room CO15 (partner and sponsors)

Afternoon session

1.45 PM - 2.45 PM

Panel discussion: Transformation and collaboration in leadership

The Rose Theatre

Chair: Professor David Green CBE, Co-Vice Chair of GuildHE and Vice Chancellor and Chief Executive of University of Worcester

Speakers:

Dr Debbie McVitty, Editor, Wonkhe

Andrea Turley, Partner, KPMG

Cheryl Watson, VP Education - UK, TechnologyOne

2.45 PM - 3.00 PM

Afternoon break

Room CO14 (refreshments and snacks), Room CO15 (partner and sponsors)

3.00 PM - 3.50 PM

Breakout sessions

Sessions take place simultaneously.

Session 4: How to win friends and influence people: a workshop on political and sector influence

The Digital Studio

Sunday Blake, Policy Manager, GuildHE

Jess Lister, Director (Education), Public First

Rose Stephenson, Director of Policy, Higher Education Policy Institute

Session 5: Free speech and academic freedom: navigating law, values and neutrality

The Studio Theatre

Dr Paul Greatrix, Director of Higher Education, Shakespeare Martineau
Smita Jamdar, Partner and Head of Education, Shakespeare Martineau

Session 6: Using AI for institutional efficiency

The Barn Theatre

Daniel Fairbairn, Group Executive Director - Digital and Operations, Windsor Forest Colleges Group
Juliana Valadares Sali, Lecturer at Slough & Langley College and AI trainer for education and business

3.50 PM - 4.00 PM

Proceed to main venue

The Rose Theatre

4.00 PM - 4.45 PM

Public Perceptions of HE: Universities UK and Public First research and next steps

Seb Gordon, Director of Communications, Universities UK

4.45 PM - 5.00 PM

Conference wrap-up and closing remarks

Professor Ken Sloan, Chair of GuildHE and Vice Chancellor of Harper Adams University

5.00 PM - 6.15 PM

Break

Get ready for the evening dinner and entertainment!

Evening dinner and entertainment

Please note that aspects of the conference, dinner and performance contain haze and strobe lighting.

6.15 PM - 6.45 PM

Arrivals and pre-dinner drinks

The Edith Scorer Room, Lamorbey House

Experience a lighting installation across campus to the dinner location!

6.45 PM - 9.00 PM

Dinner and entertainment

Lakeside by Lamorbey House

There's No Business Like Show Business!

Get ready for a dazzling finale to the GuildHE Conference! Join us for an unforgettable evening of fine dining, fabulous performances, and a few jaw-dropping surprises.

As you savour each course, students from Rose Bruford College will light up the room with a thrilling medley of choral showtunes – and don't be surprised if the performance comes right to your table!

Expect the unexpected. Hold on to your wine glass. This is dinner with a dramatic twist!

9.00 PM

Annual Conference 2025 closes