 

**University Forum for Human Resource Development**

**Annual International Conference**

**at York St John University, York, UK**

**17-19 June 2026**

**Call for Abstracts and Submissions**

We are delighted to announce the call for abstracts for the **University Forum for Human Resource Development (UFHRD) Annual International Conference**, taking place at **York St John University**, York, United Kingdom, between **Wednesday 17th to Friday 19th June 2026**. Join us to celebrate the **26th conference of the UFHRD**, where colleagues will come together to explore, discuss and debate various topics, including the overarching conference theme:

**‘*Moral duties of HRD in achieving social justice*’**

Social Justice has become increasingly significant for researchers and practitioners involved in human resource development and organisational development. The global pandemic, the climate crisis, economic challenges and uncertainties, the availability and quality of employment, including hybrid approaches to work, and the health and well-being of our communities, have intensified social, environmental, political and economic inequalities. The theme of the conference provides opportunities for researchers and practitioners to examine a range of social justice issues within changing and challenging times from various practical, empirical and theoretical perspectives, and asks the question *‘what is the moral duty of HRD in achieving social justice?’.*

Submissions are invited across a diverse and extensive range of topic areas, social and cultural contexts, key contemporary research and disciplinary intersections, cultural backgrounds, and spatial or geographical locations and regions that are investigated by researchers and practitioners across Human Resource Development.

**Please note:** Submissions **do not** have to align with directly with the overarching conference theme but should fit within one of the conference streams.

**We are particularly keen to receive submission from practitioners and those involved in research of a co-production nature.**

**Conference Streams:**

Submissions are welcomed across a broad range of topic areas, from researchers and practitioners working in areas within the following streams:

1. Leadership management and talent development
2. Coaching and Mentoring
3. Global, comparative and cross-cultural dimensions of HRD
4. Employee engagement
5. Critical, Social and Diversity Perspectives in HRD
6. Workplace learning, training and development
7. Strategic capabilities and HRD
8. Learning in Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)
9. Practitioner and Learning and Teaching Research

# **Full Conference**

### Types of Submission

Individual Papers

Delegates are encouraged to submit either a full paper (a paper in which the research is complete or will be complete at the time of the conference) or a working paper (a paper in which the research is not likely to be complete at the time of the conference). There is no restriction to the type of research undertaken, and the research may be empirical or theoretical in nature. The organising committee is particularly keen to encourage the submission of practitioner-based research, research based on co-production and practice based research. Individual papers will be allocated a 20 minute slot for presentation in one of the parallel sessions.

Symposia

Delegates who are working together on a series of papers linked together should submit a single abstract consisting of upto 1000 words explaining the relevance and importance of the symposia, the title of each paper and contributors, and an explanation of how the papers fit together. Each symposia should be given an appropriate name (label). Contributors to each symposium should then submit their individual papers through the Individual papers format (see above) for peer review to take place, clearly indicating which symposium it belongs to. Each symposium will be allocated a single parallel session lasting up to 1 hour 15 minutes. It is suggested that symposia will ideally consist of three related papers and no more than four.

Panel Discussion

Delegates wishing to run a panel discussion session should provide a 1500 word explanation of the area of discussion / debate. The aims of the panel discussion should be clearly outlined and should include an acknowledgement of all contributors to the panel discussion and their contribution to the discussion. It is expected that contributing members will have paid as delegates to attend the conference, unless joining virtually. Each panel will be allocated a single parallel session lasting up to 1 hour 15 minutes.

Workshop

Delegates wishing to lead a workshop should clearly outline the learning outcomes of the workshops. Workshops should aim to provide some educational value to both the leaders and the participants. Each workshop will be allocated a single parallel session lasting up to 1 hour 15 minutes.

## Submission Process

Submission will be via the online Ex-Ordo platform.

Submissions of a detailed abstract of up to 500 words (for a working paper) or 1000 words (for a full paper) excluding references are encouraged. The sub-headings for your papers are

* Papers importance.
* Theoretical Base
* Research Purpose: Research Question(s) and /or Research Objectives
* Methods
* Key Findings
* Implications for HRD
* References (excluded from the word count)

**Please note:** Once your abstract is accepted. it is **not compulsory** to submit a working paper or full paper for the conference

## Submission Dates

* 1st Deadline for submission of abstracts: **10 November 2025**
* Abstract feedback/decisions on 1st Deadline submissions: **19 December 2025**
* 2nd Deadline for submission of abstracts: **17 January 2026**
* Abstract feedback/decisions on 2nd Deadline submissions: **28 February 2026**

## Contact Details

Further information about the conference will be available shortly on the conference website, along with regular updates. If you have any further enquiries about abstracts, the call for abstracts, or other general enquiries about the conference, please contact: ufhrd2026@yorksj.ac.uk

We would be grateful if you are also willing to circulate this call for abstracts to colleagues and any other relevant groups and networks.

We look forward to welcoming you to York in June 2026!

**Alan Johnston** (Chair of UFHRD 2026 Organising Committee, York St John University).

**Steven Cock** (Vice-Chair of UFHRD 2026 Organising Committee, York St John University).

**Susie Walsh** (Vice-Chair of UFHRD 2026 Organising Committee, York St John University).

# **Doctoral Symposium**

There are two further opportunities for those attending the doctoral symposium.

**Research Conversation:** You are encouraged to submit a brief overview paper of your research which can be discussed in a small group facilitated by an experienced researcher and academic.

* A brief overview (250-300 words) of your project, it is OK if some aspects are still a work in progress – this is to be expected.
* 3-6 keywords to assist with streaming into groups

It is hoped all Doctoral Symposium attendees will contribute in this way.

**Creative response:** You are encouraged to submit a creative response outlining your progress so far, or a particular element of your research or linked to the conference theme. Your submission will be displayed for the duration of the Conference.

* ‘creative responses’ to visualising your project or as a visual response to the conference theme of ‘Moral duties of HRD in achieving social justice’. This could be a poster, diagram, drawing, image, series of images, or similar. In general, these must be submitted in single-page PDF format. [A3, portrait orientation, board provided, bring your own printed poster]. However, if you would like to discuss a ‘creative response’ idea in more detail, please contact the Doctoral Symposium local lead, Dr Owen Powell: [o.powell@yorksj.ac.uk](mailto:o.powell@yorksj.ac.uk)

**Doctoral students and Masters level researchers are encouraged to also submit either a working or full paper to the full conference streams.**

## Contact Details

Further information about the Doctoral Symposium will be available shortly on the conference website, along with regular updates. If you have any further enquiries about the call for submissions, or other general enquiries about the conference, please contact: ufhrd2026@yorksj.ac.uk

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Owen Powell (Doctoral Symposium Lead, York St John University)