



Overt stem summit 2026 Call for Contributors

Theme: *Building the Future Together – Delivering a World-Class STEM Event for the Arc, by the Arc*

<https://events-together.co.uk/overt/>



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Our Vision

The Oxford–Cambridge Arc is one of the most exciting and diverse regions for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics anywhere in the world. We have a wealth of innovation, world-class research, dynamic enterprises, and community talent that, when brought together, can rival the most celebrated STEM hubs internationally.

The **Overt stem summit 2026** is our opportunity to demonstrate this on a global stage, while ensuring the event remains deeply rooted in the communities, institutions, and industries that make the Arc unique.

This is not just a conference. It is a flagship moment:

- A celebration of what makes the Arc exceptional.
- A showcase of how innovation, inclusion, and community can coexist and thrive.
- A living example of how STEM can be both locally grounded and globally relevant.

Our ambition is clear: to create a world-class event where the people of the Arc lead the conversation, set the agenda, and shape the region's future for decades to come.

Who We Want in the Room

We are building this event to reflect the Arc in all its richness. That means every sector, every age group, every background, and every level of experience.

We want:

- **Established leaders** who have built and sustained world-leading STEM achievements.
- **Emerging talent** — students, apprentices, early-career professionals with fresh perspectives.
- **Grassroots innovators** whose solutions are changing lives at the community level.
- **Educators** who inspire the next generation.
- **Policy makers** shaping the future through leadership and strategy.
- **Industry pioneers** pushing the boundaries of technology and enterprise.
- **Community voices** who can speak to real-world challenges and aspirations.

If you live, work, study, or innovate in the Arc, this Summit is for you.

Why Contribute

As a contributor, you will:

- Play an active role in shaping the Arc's STEM future.
- Be part of a platform that will showcase the Arc internationally.
- Gain the opportunity to connect with global investors, thought leaders, and innovators.
- Help set the standard for how STEM can be inclusive, sustainable, and locally relevant.
- Share your work with audiences who can adopt, adapt, and amplify your impact.

Themes for Contribution

We welcome submissions aligned to the following world-class ambitions for the Arc.

1. Skills and Training for a Future-Ready Workforce

Our workforce must be prepared for industries and challenges we can only partly imagine today.

We are seeking contributions that:

- Provide early-years and primary engagement models that ignite a lifelong interest in STEM.
- Showcase innovative education pathways that bridge theory and practice.
- Demonstrate lifelong learning and reskilling programmes that keep pace with technological change.
- Engage underrepresented groups in AI, robotics, quantum technology, clean energy, biotechnology, and other emerging fields.
- Offer case studies where targeted skills initiatives have transformed career prospects and revitalised communities.

2. Regional Collaboration and Innovation Ecosystems

To achieve global impact, the Arc must maximise its unique mix of assets.

We invite contributions that:

- Illustrate successful cross-sector partnerships linking academia, industry, schools, and communities.
- Detail shared resource models that accelerate innovation while reducing duplication.
- Show how collaboration across local authority and county boundaries can amplify opportunity.

- Present inclusive innovation clusters that have delivered measurable benefits to both economy and society.
- Offer lessons from global comparators that can be adapted to the Arc.

3. Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging in STEM

World-class innovation thrives on diversity of thought and experience.

We are seeking contributions that:

- Provide proven strategies for inclusive recruitment, progression, and leadership.
- Showcase neurodiverse strengths in creativity, analysis, and problem-solving.
- Explore intersectional barriers and the solutions that break them down.
- Highlight community engagement programmes that lead to sustained STEM participation.
- Demonstrate how inclusive product and service design delivers better outcomes for all.

4. Government, Civic Leadership, and Policy for Inclusion

Strong leadership is essential for sustainable impact.

We welcome contributions that:

- Show how public investment and strategic policy can unlock inclusive STEM growth.
- Demonstrate place-making approaches that integrate STEM into community identity.
- Share local government initiatives that empower those furthest from STEM careers.
- Align Arc ambitions with national and global sustainability and innovation agendas.

- Present evidence of policy-led partnerships delivering measurable and lasting change.

5. Grants, Funding, and Finance for STEM Growth

Innovation requires more than just ideas; it also needs resources. From seed funding for startups to strategic investment in skills, infrastructure, and research, financial ecosystems play a critical role in shaping the Arc's STEM future.

We invite contributions that:

- Share proven models for **grant access, venture capital, and blended finance** that unlock innovation.
- Highlight **funding pathways for SMEs and community initiatives** that often fall outside traditional investment routes.
- Explore how **public and private investment** can be aligned to drive inclusive growth.
- Showcase **financial literacy programmes** that help early-stage innovators navigate the funding landscape.
- Present **case studies** where smart funding strategies have scaled ideas into impactful enterprises or transformed regional opportunities.

Format of Contributions

We encourage a variety of formats to capture both technical excellence and lived experience:

- **Presentations** (20 minutes + 10 minutes Q&A)
- **Panel Discussions** (3–4 speakers, 45 minutes total)
- **Interactive Workshops** (60–90 minutes)
- **Case Studies / Lightning Talks** (up to 10 minutes)
- **Demonstrations and Exhibitions** for showcasing tangible innovations

Submission Guidelines

Your submission should include:

- **Title** of your proposed session
- **Abstract** (150–250 words) outlining your topic, approach, and key takeaways
- **Theme alignment** (Skills, Collaboration, Inclusion, Leadership or Finance)
- **Speaker bio** (100 words) detailing relevant experience and perspective
- **Contact details** for correspondence

Send submissions to: [Overt stem summit 2026 - Call for Contributions](#) (click link)

Sign up to the Oxford Abstracts portal to make a submission through the link above.

If you have further question, please contact **Meena Chander**:
meena@events-together.co.uk

Our Commitment

This event is for the Arc, by the Arc, aimed at the Arc. We will celebrate our regional identity while setting our sights high; not just to match, but to surpass, the standards of the best STEM gatherings in the world. By participating, you will help ensure that the Arc's voice is heard globally, and that our collective expertise delivers lasting benefit locally.

This is your opportunity to be part of a world-class moment for the Oxford–Cambridge Arc. Let us build the future together.