

IMPERIAL

Technician **Commitment**

Ignite Programme **Cohort 3: January to May 2026**

Ignite is a technical professional development programme led by the Institute of Cancer Research in partnership with University College London (UCL), King's College London (KCL), The Francis Crick Institute, and Imperial College London, funded by the Wellcome Trust. Ignite is tailored with input from technical staff and delegates from previous cohorts ensuring it meets the demands and needs of our multi-institutional cohort. Designed to support self-awareness, personal growth, and professional development. Following two successful cohorts, we have now opened applications for a third cohort that will run from January to May 2026, building on strong feedback, institutional support, and a growing network of engaged technical staff.

The deadline for applications for Imperial staff is **Friday 14 November 2025**.

Why Should I Attend Ignite?

Ignite is designed to empower mid-career technical professionals who want to strengthen their confidence, collaboration, and influence within their teams and institutions. By joining, you will:

- **Increase your personal impact** through more effective collaboration and influencing techniques
- **Boost your confidence** and feel empowered to share ideas and contribute to decision-making
- **Recognise your strengths** and learn how to enhance team effectiveness
- **Gain practical tools** to support your role as a trainer or supervisor
- **Build networks** with like-minded colleagues across institutions
- **Hear from inspirational guest speakers** from partner institutions
- **Explore professional accreditation** routes (e.g. Registered or Chartered Scientist) through a dedicated webinar series

Whether you are looking to grow your confidence, improve communication, or connect with peers across institutions, Ignite offers a unique, tailored opportunity to invest in your development.

What is the time commitment and what will I gain?

Total Time Commitment: Four days over five months. Each session is designed to consolidate learning, encourage cross-institutional dialogue, and support participants in applying new skills within their roles. The programme schedule is as follows:

Programme Launch

Thursday 29 January 2026, 10.00 – 12.00 (Online) 2 hours

Module 1: Influencing from Within

Monday 9 February 2026, 9.30 – 17.00 (In-person, ICR Chelsea, SW7 3RP)

Topics include Successful collaboration, Dealing with conflict, and Influencing without authority. Facilitator: Steve Hearsum, [Edge + Stretch](#)

Module 2: Being Your Best Self

Wednesday 18 March 2026, 9.30 – 17.00 (In-person, Imperial, South Kensington)

Topics include Building your confidence, Realising your strengths, Dealing with imposter feelings and Reflecting on your personal development. Facilitator: [Dr Kate Atkin](#)

Module 3: Training the Technical Trainer

Wednesday 22 April 2026, 9.30 – 17.00 (In-person, The Crick, Euston, NW1 1AT)

Topics include Designing your learning activity, Setting a supportive learning environment, and Providing constructive feedback. Facilitator: Dr Lindsay Davies, [ITSS Consulting](#)

There are also three scheduled Online Reflection Sessions

These 2-hour interactive sessions offer space for reflection, peer discussion, deeper exploration of topics and identifying areas for personal development.

Thursday 5 March 2026, 11.00 – 13.00 – Follow-up to Influencing from Within.

Tuesday 14 April 2026, 10.00 – 12.00 - Follow-up to Being Your Best Self.

Thursday 14 May 2026, 11.00 – 13.00 - Follow-up to Training the Technical Trainer

Who Should Apply?

Ignite is open to technical staff in all departments at Imperial who wish to build their confidence, collaboration, and influence within their teams. Applicants should have at least three years' professional experience and will be working in a role at 3a or 3b. You must be able to commit to all four dates, and to have your line manager's permission to participate. Places are limited.

How to Apply

Please complete the online [application form](#) by **Friday 14 November 2025**. Before applying, please ensure that you have your **line manager's approval**. You should tentatively hold all programme dates in your calendar, as you will be expected to attend all sessions if your application is successful. We will confirm the outcome of your application by Friday 5 December 2025.

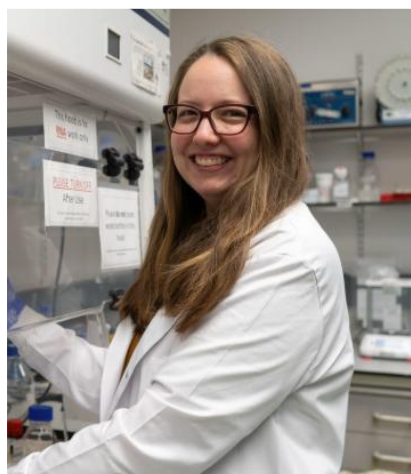
What do past participants say?



*Being part of the **Ignite** programme opened doors I never expected — it gave me the chance to connect with inspiring professionals like Ines, which directly led to a visit to her lab. That experience allowed me to meet her team, observe their clinical and research workflows, and exchange best practices in histopathology. It's been an incredible opportunity to learn, grow, and build lasting professional relationships.*

Nana A. Asamoah-Danso

Bioengineering Laboratory Support Technician, Imperial College London



Ignite helped me realise how much we can learn from each other as Technical Professionals, even across different roles and institutions — we often face similar challenges and having the space to reflect and share was incredibly valuable. It's made me more mindful in how I communicate with stakeholders, especially around areas like contracting, and that's already improved how I run meetings. I'm now applying what I learned in Module 3 to redesign our Health & Safety induction, using constructive alignment tools and evaluation methods to enhance knowledge transfer.

Hannah Rosa

Technical Manager, King's College London

Ready to apply?

[Complete our online application form >>](#)