IMPERIAL

Technician Commitment

IgnitePLUS Programme
January to May 2026

IgnitePLUS is a multi-institutional professional development programme for Facility Managers and service-oriented senior technical roles within Life Sciences and Healthcare Research. It is 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, and is funded by the Wellcome Trust.

The deadline for applications for Imperial staff is **Friday 28 November 2025**.

Why IgnitePLUS?

Senior service-oriented Technical Professionals and Research Facility Managers are experienced technical experts who play a crucial role in enabling institutions to achieve their Research Strategies - running, advising on, and facilitating the incorporation of emerging technologies, training junior researchers and often serving as custodians of institutional knowledge and skills. They bridge the gap between institutional goals and day-to-day research activities, enhancing the overall research environment and helping shape the research culture of their workplace.

Despite their significant contributions, senior service-oriented Technical Professionals are often overlooked in standard career development programmes. IgnitePLUS aims to address that gap and build a multi-institutional network for sharing expertise across London. Key goals of IgnitePLUS include:

- **Enhancing professional development:** Providing tailored training and development opportunities to help these professionals advance in their careers.
- **Fostering collaboration:** Creating a network where professionals can share knowledge, best practice, and innovative solutions.
- **Supporting research excellence:** Ensuring that technical experts are well-equipped to support the research strategies of their institutions, thereby enhancing the overall research environment.

By focusing on these areas, IgnitePLUS aims to recognise and elevate the contributions of these often-overlooked professionals, ensuring they have the support and resources needed to thrive in their roles.

What is the time commitment?

IgnitePLUS is comprised of a set of core modules running between January and May 2026. Applicants apply to attend the core programme and therefore commit to the following dates:

Core programme modules:

Module 1	Project management initiation and applied leadership skills	2 days	20 <u>and</u> 21 January, full day, in-person
Module 2	Building a business case, applying for grant funding and an introduction to commercial awareness	1 day	4 February, Full day, in person
Module 3	Business risk management and crisis planning	2 x 0.5 days	4 March <u>and</u> 11 March, times tbc, online
Reflective practice	Connect & Apply	2 hours	23 March, 13:00-15:00, online
Module 4	Project management execution and delivery in-practice: Delivering a successful research service/facility	1 day	21 April, full day, in-person
Module 5	Strategic thinking, horizon scanning and planning for the future	1 day	20 May, full day, in-person

In-person sessions will take place in Central London.
A full description of core module content is provided in the appendix on page 4.

Optional programme modules:

IgnitePLUS is complemented by a range of support initiatives that reflect our broader commitment to supporting Technical Professionals. The following optional modules will be available to IgnitePLUS Participants to book towards the end of 2025:

- Cost recovery models for research facilities and services, the TRAC system, increasing awareness of usage of your facility, creating sustainability and value to users and managing competition from commercial providers.

- Grant writing for technical professionals, including commercial considerations in research funding and building strong business cases in writing.
- Procurement, Service Level Agreements, Contracts, Tenders, IP and Commercial Awareness.
- Material Transfer Agreements.

Who Should Apply?

To apply, you must be a senior service-oriented technical professional in Life Sciences or Healthcare Research (or actively looking to transition into such a role), such as:

- o Core research facility managers
- o Managers of research services/facilities
- o Technical Team leaders that offer research services or support
- o Laboratory managers
- o Technical research managers such as Research Operations/Heads of Function
- o Senior Scientific Officers (or equivalent Senior Technical Professionals) operating in a service-oriented function

How to Apply

Please complete the online application form by **Friday 28 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 Monday 8 December 2025.

Ready to apply?

Complete our online application form >>

Appendix: Core Module Content

Module 1 – Project Management Initiation and Applied Leadership Skills (2 days)

-   Fundamentals of starting a project and introduction to Managing projects
-   How to start and how to establish projects strategically
-   Forming effective & resilient project teams
-   Delegation and influence as a technical leader
-   Understanding and applying leadership styles
-   Managing stakeholders
-   Applying knowledge to both small & large-scale projects

Module 2 – Business cases and grant funding (1 day)

-   Fundamentals of building a business case
-   Developing strong business cases
-   Understanding grant writing opportunities
-   Writing effective grant applications
-   Presenting a business case and grant application effectively
-   Navigating the grant application process
-   Understanding the role of commercial awareness

Module 3 – Business Risk management & crisis planning (2 x 0.5 days online)

-   Fundamentals of risk management
-   Developing risk assessment skills
-   Creating Crisis management plans & crisis response readiness
-   Fostering a proactive risk awareness culture

Module 4 – Project Management Execution & Delivery In-Practice: Delivering a successful research service / facility (1 day)

-   Setting the groundwork for a research service/facility
-   Establishing structures and roles
-   Overseeing the day-to-day operations of a service/facility
-   Mastering Time Management
-   Ensuring Quality First Time
-   Managing Planned and Unplanned changes
-   Reviewing and planning for long term success

Module 5 – Strategic thinking, horizon scanning and planning for the future (1 day)

- Fundamentals of strategic thinking
- Developing Critical thinking skills for strategic decisions
- Enhancing long-term vision and goal setting
- Fostering adaptability and agility in strategic thinking
- Developing a strategic plan aligned to institutional goals
- What now and what next?

<u>Facilitators and contributors:</u>

Ed Bowerman, ITSS and Technician Training Manager at the University of Nottingham
Ruth Francis, ITSS Learning and Development Manager
Ian Hancox, ITSS Co-Director and Director of Research Technology and Technical Strategy at the University of Warwick
Peter O'Toole, Director of Bioscience Technology Facility at the University of York