

Skills for the Growth Corridor

Arc Universities Group Skills and Talent Summit
12 December 2025 | Anglia Ruskin University,
Cambridge | 10:00 – 16:15



09:30 – 10:00 | Registration and networking

Welcome refreshments and opportunity to connect with delegates.

- MC: Alistair Lomax

10:00 – 10:30 | Welcome and introduction

- Prof Roderick Watkins, Chair, Arc Universities Group & Vice Chancellor, Anglia Ruskin University.

10:30 – 10:50 | Highlights from the Skills and Talent in the Growth Corridor report

Launch and discussion of the new report available to delegates

- Lal Tawney, Whitecap Consulting.

10:50 – 11:10 | Inspiring the next generation in Cambridge

A conversation with students from North Cambridge Academy on ambition, opportunity, and inclusion in a high-performing region.

11:10 – 11:25 | Coffee and networking break

11:25 – 12:05 | Theme spotlight 1: Technological skills

Panel session drawing on insights from recent roundtables.

- Facilitator: Sarah Haywood, Managing Director, Advanced Oxford
- Jacqui Hall, AstraZeneca
- Lynn Johnstone, Aveva
- Kiran Gulati, New England Biolabs
- Eman Martin-Vignerte, Bosch

12:05 – 12:20 | Innovation Places Workstream

- Nick Pettit, Supercluster Board & Workstream Chair.

12:20 – 13:10 | Theme spotlight 2: Creative industries

Panel session using themes from the creative industries roundtable.

- Facilitator: Dr Steve Partridge, Dean of Arts & Creative Industries, University of Hertfordshire

- Marc Binsted, Kino
- Dr Idrees Rasouli, Anglia Ruskin University / Create Cambridge
- Lara Kinneir, Policy Lab, UK Government

13:10 – 13:45 | Lunch and networking

13:45 – 14:30 | Theme spotlight 3: Environment

Panel discussion exploring green skills and sustainability.

- Facilitator: Prof Aled Jones, Director, Centre for Global Sustainability, ARU
- Mark Wakeford, Executive Chair, Evo Energy
- Zoe Metcalfe, Director of Global Resilience, AtkinsRéalis
- Sam Goodall, CEO, Cambridge Cleantech

14:30 – 15:20 | Getting ready for the challenge of growth

Exploring skills and opportunities linked to major regional initiatives such as Luton Airport, Innovate Cambridge, and Universal Studios.

- Facilitator: Prof Kamil Omoteso
- Natalie Wheble, Director of Communications & Engagement, East West Rail
- Vanessa Wilson, CEO, Universities Alliance
- Melanie Collins, Skills England
- Prof. Ross Renton, Chief Executive & Principal, ARU Peterborough
- Dame Athene Donald

15:20 – 15:35 | The Opportunities Hub model

- Megan Wilkins, Cambridge University Health Partners and Alistair Lomax, Arc Universities Group

15:35 – 15:55 | The Experience Hub – venture creation everywhere

- Facilitator: Alistair Lomax
- Speaker: Dr Olga Kozlova, Director of Innovation, University of Oxford.

15:55 – 16:10 | Closing plenary: Aspirations for growth

- Dr Andy Williams, Chair, Supercluster Board.

16:10 – 16:15 | Thanks, wrap-up and farewell

- Prof Kamil Omoteso, Chair of the Steering Group.