

UNIMAKER 26

European Conference on Academic Makerspaces

2–3 July 2026

The Edinburgh Futures Institute and the School of Engineering, Edinburgh

Hosted by The University of Edinburgh

Printed programme may be subject to change.

How to Use This Programme

Each session is labelled with a colour-coded tag to help you navigate the two-day programme at a glance.

KEYNOTE	Keynote address	PANEL	Panel discussion
ROUNDTABLE	Roundtable	POSTERS	Poster session
PLENARY	Plenary	WELCOME	Welcome/introductions
TALK	Social / networking	TOUR	Makerspace tour
BREAK	Breaks	SOCIAL	Social / networking

Check the room label (in *italics*) for location.

Day 1 – Thursday 2 July 2026: 0.01, Energy Futures Institute (EFI)

Morning

09:00 **Registration & Coffee**

0.01 EFI

09:30 **WELCOME** **Welcome and introduction**

0.01 EFI Amer Syed, The University of Edinburgh

Welcome to Unimaker 26 – setting the scene for two days of discussions and collaboration.

09:40 **KEYNOTE** **Developing Making Community in Europe**

0.01 EFI Invited Keynote Speaker – Dr Pete Mylon, University of Sheffield

Abstract to follow.

10:10 **PANEL** **Organic growth of makerspaces and making spaces**

0.01 EFI – Chair: Charlotte Palmer (King's)
Panel: Anthony Middleton (Edinburgh), Elizabeth Bishop (Nottingham), Adam Dixon (Leeds), Samuel Cotture (EPFL).

Panel will discuss: defining makerspaces vs making spaces · makerspaces at their universities · growth of their space · training users · closing the feedback loop · implementing changes etc.

10:45 **BREAK** **Coffee & Networking**

11:15

PANEL

Staff development*0.01 EFI Chair– TBC***Panel:** Tim Goodman (Edinburgh), Andy Holland (Leeds), Gordon O’Brien (TCD).

Panel will discuss: Clarity in career trajectory– what to aim for? · Support available for development · Professional recognition · Sector alignment · Professional development · institutional implementation etc.

12:30

SOCIAL

Lunch & Networking**Afternoon**

13:30

PANEL

Sustainability and business cases*0.01 EFI Chair– TBC***Panel:** Mike Boyd (Edinburgh), Charlotte Palmer (King’s), Pete Mylon (Sheffield).

Panel will discuss: Current funding scenario– patchwork of capital funding, School/Dept budget · Sponsorship · Selected champions · Measurement of makerspace contribution to student experience/curriculum · Strategic alignment with priorities · Institutional experience etc. · Financial sustainability – short courses, philanthropy

14:45

ROUNDTABLE

Future of Makerspace offering: Challenges and opportunities*2.55 EFI*

Student co-curricular projects vs research grade support · Credit bearing activities · Continued support as a core facility · Community access for sustainability

15:45

BREAK

Afternoon Tea*EFI*

16:00

Close of Day 1 — Announcements

16:00

TOUR

Tour: The University of Edinburgh Makerspaces*Meet in 0.01 EFI*

Guided tours of EFI makerspace, uCreate and ECA.

18:00

SOCIAL

Evening Reception at the West Court, ECA

Day 2 – Friday 03 July 2026 – The Kings Buildings

Morning

08:30

BREAK

Morning Coffee

09:00

KEYNOTE

Arion project

Yew Lecture Theatre Invited Keynote Speaker –
Ken Talbot

Overview of Arion project and how design and making worked in practice.

09:30

TALK

Talk Session A: Curriculum Integration & Pedagogy

Yew Lecture Theatre – Chair: Pete Mylon, |
10 min. presentations + 5 min. Q&A

09:30 Talk 1: Making in Foundation years

Elizabeth Bishop (Nottingham)

09:45 Talk 2: Integrating Making in curriculum at EPFL

Samuel Cotture (EPFL)

10:00 Talk 3: Integrating student led innovation activities in the curriculum-SLICC- the Edinburgh Model

Gary Ellard (University of Edinburgh)

10:15 Talk 4: Making and curriculum integration options at Strathclyde

Ross MacIaclan (University of Strathclyde)

10:30

BREAK

Coffee & Networking

11:00

TALK

Talk Session B: Makerspace operations

Yew Lecture Theatre – Chair: Amer Syed | 10
min. presentations + 5 min. Q&A

11:00 Talk 1: From Bench to Business: The Makerspace as a Launchpad for Entrepreneurs

Sarah Gibbens(Edinburgh)

11:15 Talk 2: Makerspace as enabler: Hackcessible

Pete Mylon (Sheffield)

11:30 Talk 3: Use and role of AI in Makerspaces

(TBC)

11:45 Talk 4: Who Owns the Mess? Behavioural Design for Makerspaces

Yasmin Yusefi (Imperial)

12:00

SOCIAL

Lunch & Sponsor stalls

Afternoon

13:30 **ROUNDTABLE** **Open Forum: What does the Future of European Makerspace holds and how we as Unimaker as a community enable that?**

Hawthorne

Facilitated conversation to identify collective priorities and actions. Collaborative procurement · Shared cost solutions

14:45 **PLENARY** **UNIMAKER – adopting structure**

Yew Lecture Theatre

An active community beyond organising annual event. Realising actions arising from the previous discussion

15:00 **KEYNOTE** **Closing Address & Unimaker 27 Announcement**

Conference Organising Committee

15:15 **BREAK**

Afternoon Tea

15:45 **TOUR** **Tour: Engineering Makerspaces and workshops**

Meet in Yew Lecture Theatre

Guided tours of Engineering makerspace and workshops.

17:00 **SOCIAL**

Close with optional drinks at the Old Bell or departure

Keynote Speakers

Pete Mylon

University of Sheffield

Pete Mylon is a National Teaching Fellow, specialising in making, makerspaces and student-led learning, and has worked with many institutions across the world to support them in creating and growing makerspaces, from universities in Malaysia to refugee camps in Jordan.

Having graduated from the University of Sheffield in 2006 with a Master-degree in Mechanical Engineering, Pete worked in a mechanical and structural engineering consultancy before beginning his PhD in 2009. His doctoral studies focused on the impact of medical gloves on manual performance and involved designing and building test rigs to simulate medical and surgical procedures.

Pete worked as a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Manchester, designing test equipment for in vivo measurement of contact lens friction. In 2015, he returned to Sheffield to teach in the University's brand new engineering building, The Diamond, creating and delivering practical laboratory classes in dynamics and revolutionising the Engineering Applications teaching in manufacturing technology for first year engineering students. In 2017, Pete worked with a team of students to create The iForge, the UK's first student-led makerspace. Run by a team of over 40 students, it provides a space for students to learn practical skills and collaborate, both as part of and outside the curriculum, in a relaxed environment, and is developing a global reputation. Later, he established the UNIMAKER conference for staff and students involved in making in higher education.

Pete is passionate about student-led learning and is always looking for new opportunities for students to work across disciplines and gain real-world experience. .

Ken Talbot

Arion Project

Ken is a 52 year old Handcyclist, for the last 12 -14 years. Acquired a disability, Complex Regional Pain Syndrome (CRPS), as a result of an industrial injury in 2009 while working on the Railway in the UK. Originally from the US but moved to the UK in 2005 as a chance to get to know his ancestry and a culture that was an aspect of his upbringing as a first generation American. While in school he had a strong interest in design and Engineering, as well as cycling but didn't pursue Engineering as a career path due to cultural expectations that he later learned were inaccurate. Eventually went on to study Commercial Aviation and received a private fixed wing license and Commercial Helicopter pilots licence before that path was curtailed by a health anomaly. Continued his career path in transportation as a Bus Driver and Streetcar Operator in Seattle which eventually led to becoming a Train driver in Scotland. After receiving his Industrial Injury, he stumbled across handcycling and, for lack of a better term, became addicted to it. After discovering the restrictions that his disability had for progression within Paracycling he then sought out new avenues to progress in it and eventually joined forces with the University of Liverpool where he powered their fist handcycle to two world records alongside Paralympian Karen Darke. Further to the performance aspect of handcycling, he has become a cycling coach, and has established a handcycling project, he co-founded and volunteered with an Edinburgh based handcycling club, he has been active in paracycling advocacy and currently volunteer with Spokes and the Adaptive Riders Collective as a ride leader.

Sponsors

Additive-X

Additive-X supports university makerspaces with accessible, industry-relevant technologies that empower students, researchers, and staff to turn ideas into reality. Through solutions from Bambu Lab, EufyMake, and Formlabs, we help institutions create innovative environments for prototyping, product development, entrepreneurship, and interdisciplinary collaboration. From user-friendly desktop 3D printers for student projects to professional-grade resin printing for research and engineering applications, our technologies support a wide range of educational needs. Combined with training, implementation support, and expert guidance, we help universities maximise makerspace engagement, enhance practical learning, and equip students with skills aligned to modern manufacturing and design industries.

Autodesk Education: Empowering the Next Generation of Makers

Autodesk Education empowers the next generation to design and make a better world for all. Through free access to industry-standard Design and Make technology, learning resources, and hands-on experiences, Autodesk helps students develop the skills needed to thrive in the future workforce. From product innovation and digital fabrication to sustainable design and AI-powered workflows, learners gain the tools to turn ideas into real-world solutions. Autodesk is proud to support UniMaker, celebrating creativity, collaboration, and the makers, innovators, and entrepreneurs shaping the future. Learn more at autodesk.com/education.

Filamentive

Filamentive is a UK-leading 3D printing filament brand supplying universities, makerspaces, and technical teams across the UK and beyond. Founded in Leeds in 2015, the company supports sustainable 3D printing with a range of recycled and bio-based materials — including PLA, PETg, ASA, and rPA12 — for teaching and research use. Its latest ReFill format removes spool waste entirely, and its free PLA take-back scheme ensures 100% landfill diversion for returned 3D printing waste plastic. For institutions balancing budget pressure with environmental targets, Filamentive offers both sustainable material supply and recycling solutions..

SimplyPrint Education Marketing Boilerplate

University makerspaces come in all sizes, but they share the same headaches: keeping the 3D printers running, the queue fair, and students productive without over-worked technicians glued to every machine. Our cloud platform connects every FDM printer you own, whatever the brand, and puts them in one dashboard where students can slice and print from any device, whilst you manage print queues, approve jobs, track filament, and teach safe, fair access, effortlessly. Quotas, permissions, cloud-slicing, queueing, maintenance, filament management - whatever you need, we have it. Less chaos, more printing.

Practical Information

Venue

First day would take place at the **Edinburgh Futures Institute**, , Edinburgh EH8 9EF. Main venue is 0.01 (sign posted as Event Space). Please enter through to the main entrance to EFI on 1 Lauriston Place, where there would be a reception desk.

The second day would be on the second floor of **Nucleus building**, The Kings Buildings, Thomas Bayes Road, Edinburgh EH9 3FG. Please note that Practical Engineering Education Conference is happening in the same building. The venue for Unimaker is Yew Lecture Theatre and Hawthorne Studio on the second floor.

Wi-Fi

Please connect to **Eduroam** as you do at your institutions. In case you do not have access to **Eduroam**, you may be able to register and use **Visit-Ed**. When accessing for the first time, select **Visit-Ed** to connect, which would launch the sign-in/registration page. You will be presented with options on how to connect and follow the on screen instructions.

Getting There

Lothian buses operate throughout Edinburgh. You can plan your route using Lothian bus apps. For Kings buildings, use number 9 bus, which would drop you at the campus. The nearest train station is **Edinburgh Waverley**, and EFI is within 15 min walk. Tram services connect the airport to the city centre (approx. 35 minutes).

Accessibility

Both EFI and Nucleus buildings are wheelchair accessible. Please contact the organisers in advance if you have specific access requirements: unimaker26@ed.ac.uk

Social Media

Join the conversation: [#Unimaker26](https://twitter.com/Unimaker26)

Organising Committee

Conference Chair Amer Syed, The University of Edinburgh

Programme correct at time of printing. For the latest schedule, session abstracts, and speaker biographies, visit unimaker26.ed.ac.uk