



NNECL Annual Conference 2026 - Call for Workshop Proposals

Theme: Belonging in action: where everyone matters

Date: Tuesday 10 November 2026

Venue: UCAS, Rosehill, New Barn Ln, Cheltenham GL52 3LZ

Workshop duration: 45 minutes

Please submit your workshop proposal by **5:00 pm, 11 June 2026**. We aim to respond to all proposals by 26 June 2026. If we have any questions about your proposal, we'll be in touch. If you have any enquiries, feel free to get in touch - info@nnecl.org

About the Conference

We are excited to invite workshop proposals for the NNECL Annual Conference 2026, centred on the theme **Belonging and Mattering**. This year's conference will explore how we create environments across further and higher education where care experienced and estranged learners not only access opportunities but genuinely feel they belong and that they matter. We welcome proposals that share practice, research, and lived experience that challenge, inspire, and inform. Our aim is to spotlight impactful work shaping inclusive, compassionate, and effective systems of support.

Topics of interest include, but are not limited to:

1. Co-production with care experienced and estranged learners
2. Implementing inclusive practice
3. Whole institution approaches
4. Creating safe and welcoming spaces
5. Collaborating with communities beyond your institution

Who Should Apply

We are particularly keen to hear from colleagues working in local authorities, universities, colleges, and not-for-profit organisations delivering services for care experienced and estranged students across further education, higher education, and apprenticeships.

Formats

We welcome a range of session formats, including:

Case studies, Research findings, Practical workshops, Collaborative presentations
We strongly encourage submissions that centre student voice and partnership.

Important Notes

- Submissions must not have been previously presented at an NNECL conference.
- This is an unpaid opportunity, contributing to a wider movement improving outcomes for care experienced and estranged learners.
- Thanks to UCAS hosting us, one workshop speaker will receive a complimentary full-event ticket.
- If you are not familiar with NNECL, we encourage you to [explore our work](#) before submitting your workshop proposal.

Ethical Participation

We are mindful that event participation from care experienced and estranged students can sometimes be extractive. Where you do not have lived experience of care or estrangement as a student and are proposing to work with a lived-experience learner in your workshop, we ask that they are included as a co-presenter, rather than being presented as a case study.

Join Us

We look forward to you joining us to shape a conference that reflects our shared commitment to ensuring every learner feels they belong and that they matter.

Link to workshop submission - [NNECL Annual Conference – Fill out form](#)

Tips for writing a conference workshop proposal:

1. **Understand the audience:** Before writing the proposal, it is crucial to research the target audience and understand their interests and needs. Tailor your workshop proposal to align with the conference themes and the attendees' expectations.
2. **Clear and concise title:** Your workshop proposal should have a clear and attention-grabbing title that accurately represents the content and objectives of your workshop.
3. **Objectives and learning outcomes:** Clearly outline the objectives and learning outcomes of your workshop. What will attendees gain from participating in your workshop? How will it contribute to their professional development or knowledge enhancement?
4. **Detailed description:** Provide a detailed description of the workshop, including the topics to be covered, methodologies, and any hands-on activities or interactive elements. This will help the organisers understand the value and uniqueness of your workshop.
5. **Presenter's expertise:** Highlight your expertise and experience in the subject matter. If you have relevant credentials, publications, or previous speaking engagements, include them to build credibility.
6. **Interactive elements:** If your workshop includes interactive activities, group discussions, or Q&A sessions, mention them in the proposal to show the engagement level of your workshop.

7. **Benefits to the conference:** Explain how your workshop will benefit the overall conference and enhance the experience for the attendees. Will it complement other sessions or fill a gap in the conference agenda?
8. **FAQs:** Anticipate any potential questions the organisers may have and address them in the proposal. This may include logistical details, technical requirements, or any special considerations for the workshop.