York Technology Conference
Event Outline

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Overview

The York Technology Conference is a non-profit one-day event run by students, providing the opportunity for students to network with other students, who share an interest in technology, and with industry leaders. This event will enable students from York and other universities to explore emerging technological trends through speakers, panel debates, workshops and networking opportunities.

Objectives and Goals

Increase Student Employability Within the Technology Sector

The York Technology Conference will provide a platform for students to network with employees from various technology companies and backgrounds. Providing this opportunity to build these connections whilst at university will increase employability after graduation. Students will also be able to discuss the topics of the event during interviews, especially those explored on during the workshop sessions. Development of networking, commercial awareness and soft skills achieved through this event, will also assist in future employment.

Improved Collaboration Between Students

In an initial survey we conducted, 90% of Computer Science students indicated they want more opportunities to network with fellow students, the remaining 10% said they might like to see this. The York Technology Conference has been designed to encourage discussion between peers during the networking sessions. Tasks in the workshops designed to be cooperative, will then encourage the students to continue developing these relationships. This will promote collaboration between students studying various degrees with a shared interest in technology. Many other degree programs have a very lively community built around them, mainly due to a large centralised society which the majority of the course are in. Computer science does have societies within it, however the York Technology Conference would build on that sense of community on a much larger scale.

Showcase York's Student Body to Third Parties and Potential Employers

There are many talented students studying technology at the University of York. Providing a platform for industry professionals to interact and collaborate with current students, showcasing York's excellent student body to potential employers.

Increased Commercial Awareness in the Technology Sector

Across all degrees, according to our survey, 93.3% of students are interested in the opportunity to network with technology industry experts, with the remaining students saying they might be interested in this. Technology is a very fast moving industry and this event would increase the commercial awareness of the current technology sector of students through talks, panel debates and workshops.

Improve Soft Skills of Students in a Business Environment

Students with an interest in technology very often focus a lot on hard skills and sometimes the development of soft skills can be neglected. The York Technology Conference would provide a fantastic opportunity for students to develop their soft skills, such as communication and networking.

Agenda

The following is a proposed outline for the day, which may be altered if required.

09:30 – 10:00 Arrival and Networking
10:00 – 12:00 Guest Speakers (TBC)+ Q&A
12:00 – 12:45 Lunch
12:45 – 14:00 Practical Workshops
14:00 – 14:45 Networking and Demos
15:00 – 15:45 Current Affairs Debate
15:45 – 16:45 Guest Speakers
16:45 – 17:00 Closing Address

Target Market

Computer Science Students

Our primary target market for this event will be Computer Science students, as the majority of these students have an interest in technology.

All STEM Subjects

Technology has many crossovers with other subjects, so we will be making this event accessible to all students, who may not have studied Computer Science before. Computer Science is within STEM and there are lots of transferable topics, especially in Science and Engineering.

Business and Finance Students

Technology has changed and is still changing the way in which businesses are run. We are planning to include sections related to business and finance by looking at emerging technologies (FinTech) and how it's changing the industry.

Economics Students

Technology plays a big part in the careers economics students may go on to peruse, now more than ever. Looking at topics such as those within FinTech would interest economics and also business and finance students.

The University of York and other Universities

Whilst we are primarily aiming the event at students at the University of York, the event is also open to students of other universities. During our research we could not find a similar event in the north of England, which means students may be willing to travel to attend.

Similar Events

To the best of our knowledge, there are currently no other similar events to the York Technology Conference in the North of England. Some events with a similar format are below.

- York Consulting Conference
- York Finance Conference
- London Tech Week
- Thinking Digital

Venue

The event will be held at the Ron Cooke Hub of the University of York. This has easy access from both Heslington East and West Campus. It also has great links to the town centre and the train station via bus.

Date

30th January 2019

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