

#TechniciansCare

TECHNICIANS

Providing frontline and vital support for student mental health and wellbeing



University of Nottingham
UK | CHINA | MALAYSIA

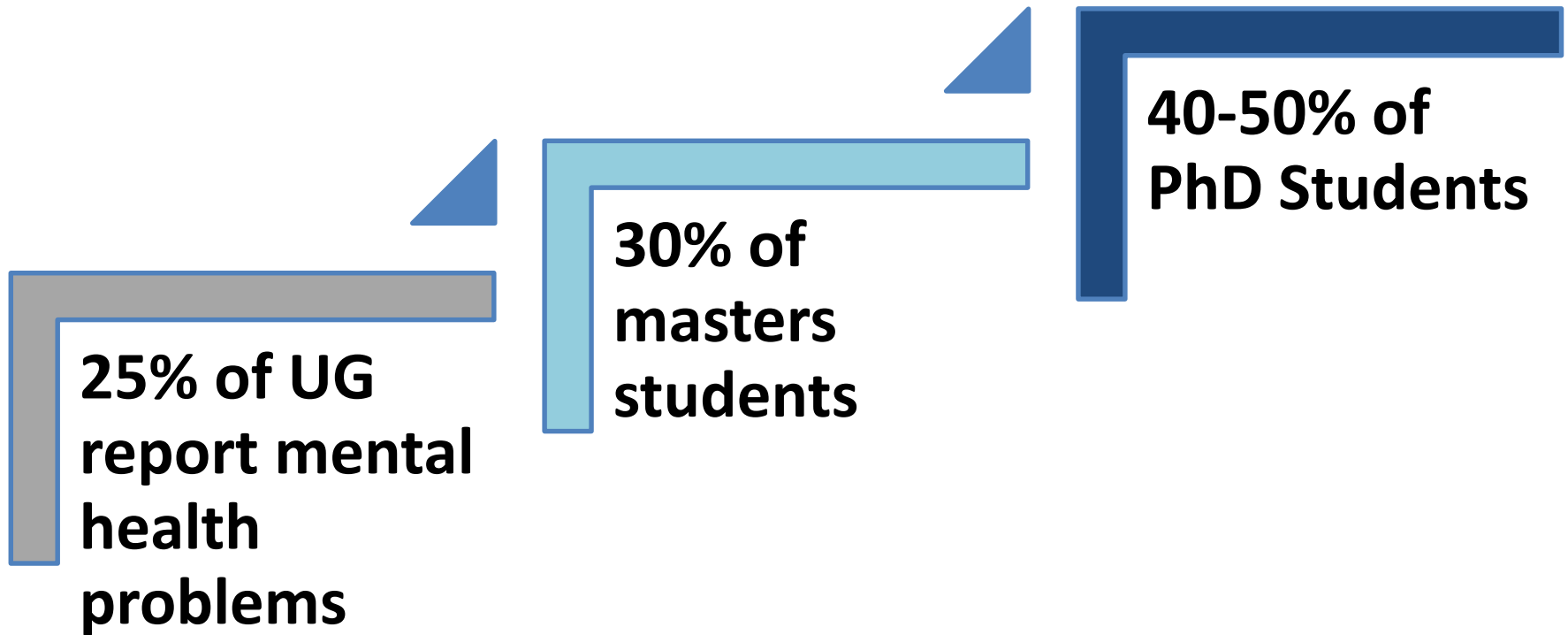
Technician **Commitment**

1 in 4 people are affected by a mental health problem in any year



time-to-change.org.uk

#TimetoTalk



Sources: Levecque et al 2017 Research Policy, Berkeley Mental Health Survey, Exeter mental health questionnaire, NUS Survey, YouGov 2016 Survey

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Student mental health 'failing a generation'

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Research shows steep increase in referrals to counselling and occupational health services

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Bristol University health experience

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Mental health: a university crisis

Mental health issues have become a growing problem among students and academics. This series will uncover a hidden side to university life.

15 February 2019

Universities and the NHS must join forces to boost student mental health

Gianmarco Raddi



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How universities can combat the student mental health crisis

NHS services are not set up to manage the needs of the student population, and students routinely fall through the gaps – lost to the system

Bridgette Bewick . Helen Stallman |



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Front line support



Technicians:

Providing frontline and vital support for student mental health and wellbeing

Subject discipline

IT/Computer Science

Medicine

Physics

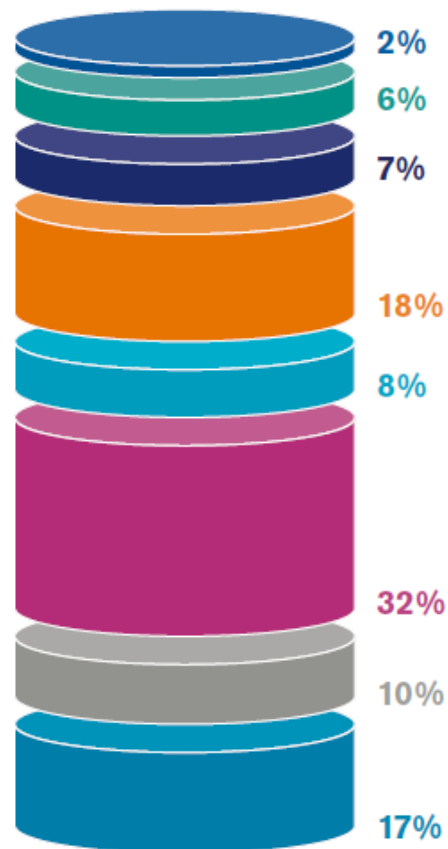
Other

Art-based subjects

Biology

Chemistry

Engineering



Technicians:

Providing frontline and vital support for student mental health and wellbeing

1

60% have been approached or have approached a student

2

56% of which were female technicians

3

84% said not recognised as part of their role

4

57% never/sometimes feel equipped

Recommendations

To professional bodies,
membership organisations and
networks

To HEIs

To technicians



THURSDAY 20 JUNE 16:30

Technicians provide unseen "vital frontline support for student mental health and wellbeing", report reveals

Mental health issues are on the rise across the UK higher education sector, with one in four students affected by a mental health condition.

The majority of the 30,000 technicians working in higher education institutions (HEIs) are student-facing, and the frontline nature of their roles means many are often the first port of call for students struggling with their mental health.

For the first time, Technicians: Providing frontline and vital support for mental health and wellbeing confirms that technical staff support students with sensitive and personal issues including bereavement or sexual assault – often with very little formal recognition or training.

The report, launched today by the Technician Commitment and partners was informed by over 700 members of the technical community, across 49 HEIs.

Around 50% of the technicians surveyed in the report said that they had discussed a personal problem with a student in the last three years, and 22% of respondents confirmed that they provided pastoral support. Over 80% of technicians said that this was not a formal part of their role, and many had not received formal training. Women were more likely to approach, or be approached by students for support. This could have implications for some disciplines where there are proportionately fewer technicians who are female, for example in physics and engineering.

To combat some of these issues, the report offers a number of recommendations to the sector to ensure all involved are fully supported and appropriately trained.

Dame Carol Robinson, president of the Royal Society of Chemistry, said: "The launch of this report marks an important milestone in recognising the valuable roles that technicians carry out – often without training or even being asked – because they identify students' needs. As a former technician myself, I strongly believe it is time we all take notice, to ensure this important role should not go unrecognised. We need to provide the resources and time to ensure that technicians who wish to continue to provide this, often challenging, wellbeing support are well trained and supported themselves".

Helen Gordon, Chief Executive of the Science Council, said: "The findings of the report should be considered carefully by the community of professional bodies in science. The Science Council will continue to be a strong advocate for the Technician Commitment and the support and development work that is fundamental to this."

Kelly Vere, Programme Director, Technician Commitment and Higher Education lead at the Science Council, said: "While it is essential that we value and invest in the skills and technical expertise of technicians, we also need to recognise the additional pastoral role they play in actively supporting student wellbeing. We are pleased to be working with so many prominent organisations to shine a light on this key issue, and to ensure technical colleagues can obtain further training to support them in this vital role."

Kate Jones, Head of Operations, Institute of Integrative Biology, University of Liverpool, said: "We're delighted that this piece of work has shone a light on the key role that technicians are playing across the sector. Recognising and nurturing this invaluable contribution puts us in a much better place to collectively better support student mental health and wellbeing."



Technician Commitment



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Technicians provide unseen “vital frontline support for student mental health and wellbeing”

Thursday, 20 June 2019

New report confirms important pastoral role for first time

The vital role played by university technicians in supporting the mental health and wellbeing of students has been recognised by a new report produced in collaboration with the University of Nottingham.

Mental health issues are on the rise across the UK higher education sector, with one in four

19 HOURS AGO



Report confirms #technicians offer frontline support for student #mentalhealth and wellbeing. Read the full report at <https://t.co/5tednCa6j4>. #technicianscare

Read more >

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Dr David Jones, Head of Operations, Institute of Integrative Biology, University of Liverpool, said: “We’re delighted that this piece of work has shone a light on the key role that technicians are playing across the sector. Recognising and nurturing this invaluable contribution puts us in a much better place to collectively better support student mental health and wellbeing.”

Kelly Vere Retweeted
LDC Imperial @Imperial_LDC · 15h
Fantastic launch for this really relevant report @RoySocChem #technicians #technicianscommitment #unsungheroes @imperialcollege

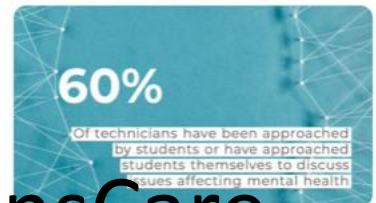
Technician Commitment · 15h
Report confirms #technicians offer frontline support for student #mentalhealth and wellbeing.
Read the full report at technicians.org.uk/technicians-pr...
#technicianscare



1 comment, 4 retweets, 9 likes

Technician Commitment Retweeted
Laura Norton @nortonlauraj

Very pleased to be at the launch of this fantastic collaborative report recognising the vital role of technicians in student wellbeing support technicians.org.uk/technician-com... @RoySocChem @TechsCommit @Science_Council



Kate Thornton @k8tethornton
Insightful report launch yesterday at @RoySocChem. It recognises the vital role technicians play in supporting student mental health #technicianscare. Great to attend with my technical colleagues Ruth and Roberto. @QMULTechNet @QM_SBCS @Science_Council @TechsCommit



Matt Bennett @M_D_Bennett
Great to visit @RoySocChem with @UEA_Tech_Forum co-chair Kathryn for today's report launch - Technicians: Providing frontline and vital support for student mental health and wellbeing. Lots learnt and look forward to discussing @uniofeastanglia

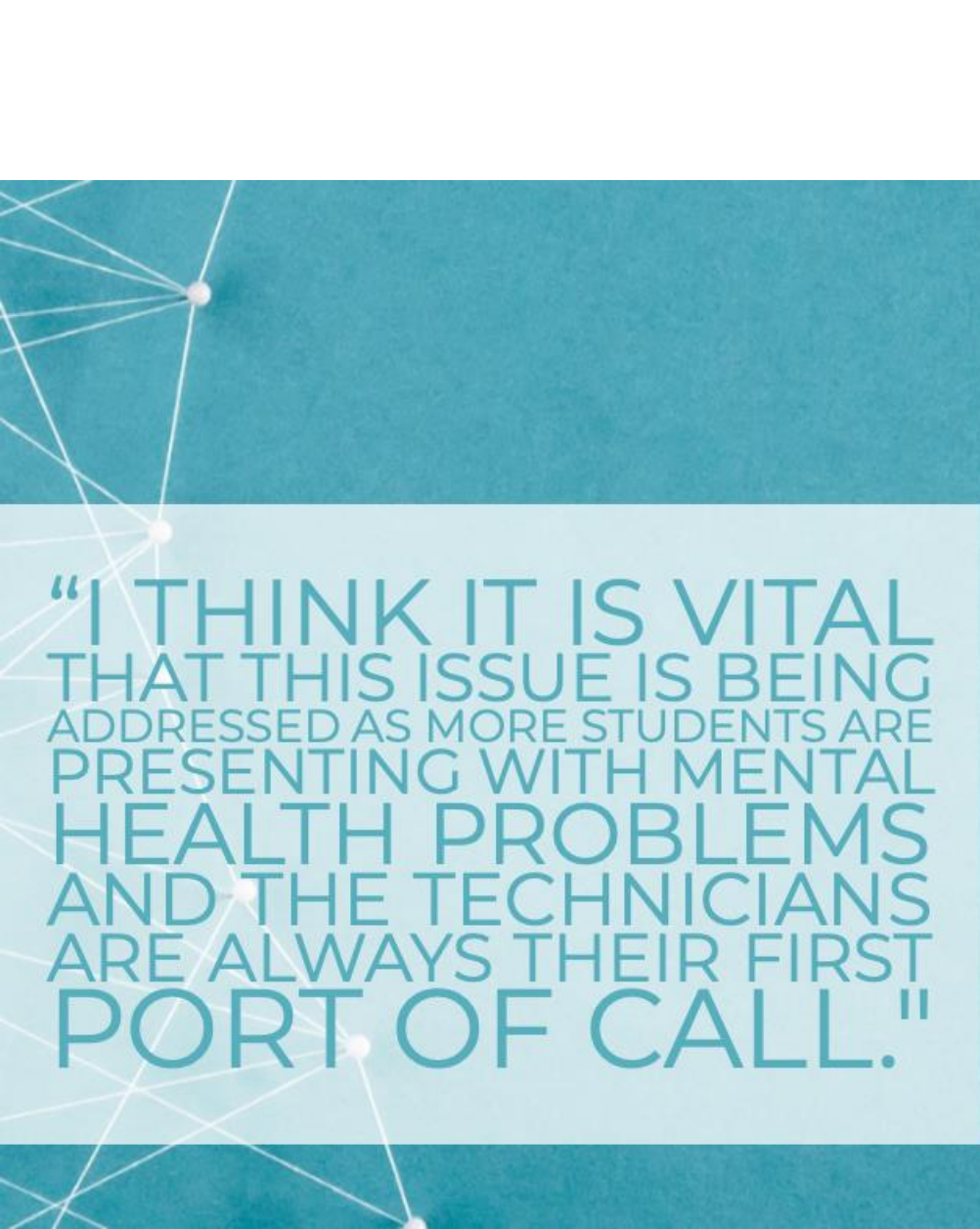


Prof Sally Bradley PFHEA @BradS4

An amazing day at @RoySocChem discussing the valuable work our #technicians do. @TechsCommit @technicians_mih See the new report on their contribution to support #studentmentalwellbeing launched this evening.



#TechniciansCare



“I THINK IT IS VITAL THAT THIS ISSUE IS BEING ADDRESSED AS MORE STUDENTS ARE PRESENTING WITH MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS AND THE TECHNICIANS ARE ALWAYS THEIR FIRST PORT OF CALL.”

1

Promote the report in your institution

2

Ensure technicians know what support is available for students & where to signpost to

3

Ensure technicians know where they can get support for themselves

4

Ensure technicians know where they can access training & development. If there isn't any – lobby for it!

Acknowledgements



Technician **Commitment**



Thank You

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[@katevjones](https://www.instagram.com/katevjones)

