

Education Partner Conference

19 May 2026 | The University of Manchester

10:00 Registration & Coffee

- 10:30 **Welcome & Introduction** | Jo Conlon, The University of Manchester
- 10:35 **Opening Speech** | Adam Mansell, UKFT
- 10:40 **Sector Skills Body (SSB) Update** | John West, UKFT
- 10:55 **Skills England Update** | Kirsty Woollaston, Skills England
- 11:05 **Graduate Outcomes Survey (Raising Awareness Amongst Students)** | Sinead Gabb, Jisc
- 11:35 **Bridging the Gap: Graduate Expectations vs Industry Reality** | Panel discussion with Claire Burns, Abraham Moon & Sons; Rickey Devonish, JD Sports; Richard Crane, Heathcoat Fabrics; Charlotte Dudill, AW Hainsworth

12:20 Lunch

- 13:00 **Sustainability Best Practice: Simplifying the Noise** | Lizzy Dakin, UKFT
- 13:25 **B Corp: From Inside a B Corp Organisation** | Michael Cusack, ACS Clothing
- 13:35 **Regulation: Navigating an Ever-Changing Landscape** | Ava Kenny-Colwell, UKFT
- 14:00 **Back to Baselines (B2B) Project - Recommendations** | Amanda Briggs-Goode, Nottingham Trent University
- 14:15 **Advanced Textiles Manufacture and Research** | Jody Turner, AMRC

14:45 Afternoon Break

- 15:10 **Product Development for the Fashion Industry** | Laura Fish, Fashion Toolbox; Celia Thornley, UKFT
- 15:40 **UKFT Approved: Qualification Recognition for Higher Education** | Alice Welsh, UKFT
- 15:50 **Open Discussion** | Alice Welsh, John West, Celia Thornley, Ava Kenny-Colwell and Lizzy Dakin from UKFT
- 16:15 **Closing Remarks** | Adam Mansell, UKFT

16:30 Conference End

