



Stepping Over the Threshold:

Inclusion and Belonging in
Scotland's Tertiary Sector

27 May 2026 | Glasgow

Call for Submissions

**Stepping Over the Threshold: Belonging and Inclusion in Scotland's
Tertiary Sector**

STEP Conference 2026

Wednesday 27 May 2026 | 09:30-16:30

Glasgow Caledonian University

Submissions and Formats

Submissions are invited for an upcoming one-day conference exploring belonging, inclusion and the transitional thresholds that shape learner journeys across Scotland's tertiary education landscape.

Sessions should be 30, 45, 60, or 90 minutes in length.

We **enthusiastically** encourage originality, experimentation, and creativity. Submissions may take – but are not limited to – any of the following formats:

- Storytelling
- Posters or visual exhibits (including digital)
- Performance pieces: spoken word, poetry, audio/visual or other expressive formats
- Lightning talks
- Workshops or interactive sessions
- Live demonstrations of tools, practices, or projects
- Student-led provocations or conversations
- Panel discussions
- Research papers.



Potential Topics to Explore

- Creating inclusive learning spaces, cultures, and systems
- Approaches to fostering belonging for diverse learner communities
- Co-creation, partnership working, and student-staff collaboration
- Supporting learners with intersecting identities and needs
- Innovative practice in curriculum design, assessment, and support
- Community-building, representation, and voice
- Digital inclusion, access, and hybrid belonging
- Place-based belonging and regional identity
- Insights from research, scholarship, and evaluation
- Student-led projects, activism, and creative expressions of belonging
- Experiences of transition into, through, and beyond tertiary education.

Call for Student Submissions

As students are central to this conference, we **strongly encourage** proposals from the student population. Students may submit individually or as a group, and all presentation formats are open to student contributors.

Students may wish to submit ideas that share:

- Personal lived experience of belonging or exclusion
- Reflective or creative pieces
- Research or project findings
- Collaborative initiatives
- Artwork or media exploring the theme
- Innovative ideas for change.

How to Submit

Submissions will be accepted via the following form: <https://forms.office.com/e/5sK9qZeaxq>

In order to complete the form, you will need the following information:

- Details of all contributors
- A title for your submission, along with an abstract of up to 200 words
- The duration and format of your submission, along with any space or technical requirements.

If you have any difficulties completing the form, please contact info@step.ac.uk.

Selection process, criteria and timeline

Submissions will be considered by members of the STEP Steering Group with support from QAA and CDN. The panel will prioritise submissions that are **high-quality, evidence-informed and relevant to the topic**, as well as considering the overall coherence of the Conference programme.

Key dates:

- Deadline for submissions: **Friday 10 April**
- Deadline for panel to make decisions: **Friday 24 April**
- Deadline for decisions to be communicated: **Monday 27 April**

Who Should Attend or Submit

- Members of the STEP governance groups (STEP Network, Topic Leadership Group, Steering Group) and project teams
- Scottish College and University students and staff
- Apprentices and training providers
- Researchers and practitioners
- Policy, quality and enhancement specialists
- Community and widening access partners
- Scottish tertiary sector leaders.

For informal inquiries or questions to discuss proposed content and format, please contact info@STEP.ac.uk.