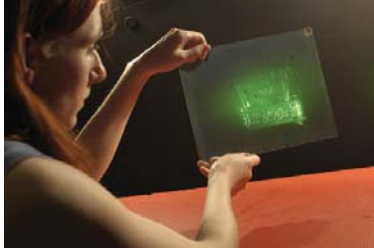


What is the IST?

The Science Technology Association was formed in 1948 and granted a certificate of incorporation in 1954 to become the Institute of Science Technology (IST). Its past traditions lay in the promotion and development of the science and practice of laboratory science technology.



As we know, the world of science and technology moves forward at a tremendous pace and is one of continual and rapid change. This modern technology-driven world has opened up many new and exciting fields of science. Increasingly, the multi-disciplined approach

towards developing new and innovative solutions is changing the face of industry, research and education.

The IST itself has continued to move forward and expand its own horizons so that it can best position itself to support its members and their needs in the 21st century.

Who is it for?

We now reach out to provide individual and focused professional support to a wide group of specialist, technical, and managerial colleagues in a broad range of environments such as science, engineering, industry, local authorities, schools, FE, HE, research/analytical/health facilities, government departments, and many more in the UK and overseas.



Our aim is to make the Institute all embracing and, in order to achieve this, help/advice networks, skills training, specialist forums, recognised qualifications, continuing career development opportunities and guidance will be available to the membership.

Recognition of professional standing is high on our agenda and, most importantly, expansion of the vibrant community of specialist, technical and managerial colleagues who will work together to help make a difference and shape the future.



Why join?

To help us maintain, build and expand the (IST) community.

IST can help by supporting and developing your:

- career and interests
- professional standing
- knowledge and skills
- network of contacts



Together we can be a voice to be heard and listened to.

Current and Future Developments

As well as keeping members informed through a quarterly journal, regular news updates, conferences, seminars, etc the Institute is also involved with a number of current initiatives, e.g.

CPD - Continuing Professional Development

Over the last few years a widening gap has become apparent between the need for and provision of training and development opportunities that would equip 'specialist' staff with the skills they need to carry out their roles and respond to the changing needs within the Science and Technology environment. The availability of training and development activities that are applicable to this group of staff has become limited and sporadic.

Through the IST we can offer a qualification which will provide a developmental route for HE, FE and other staff that can be tailored to the 'specialist' nature of their roles whilst providing them with the skills they need to maintain their professionalism and respond to the changing pattern of needs. The award is designed to be flexible in application and content and will meet the needs of the more 'traditional' skills groups as well as those related to new and developmental aspects of the role.



CLTS - Certificate in Laboratory Technical Skills

The Institute of Science Technology in collaboration with the Process Awards Authority gained accreditation from the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority for the Certificate in Laboratory Technical Skills. These qualifications are specifically designed to provide staff with the knowledge and skills required in order to work effectively and safely. They also provide the underpinning knowledge for the National Vocational Qualification in Laboratory and Associated Technical Activities and are the specified Technical Certificate for the Modern Apprenticeship framework.



The Certificate is currently available at Levels 1 – 3 and Level 4 is under development. Each Level will also form the basis of a comprehensive training programme for laboratory technicians, in its own right. The Certificate is written in terms of Learning Outcomes and the contexts in which the skills and knowledge should be applied are defined. The Learning Outcomes reflect the skills and knowledge that are required to perform to an acceptable standard, at each level.

HEaTED

More recently we have been involved with the HEaTED Project which aims to consolidate, promote and expand participation in professional development activities for HE technical staff, by working with both the technical and staff development communities in addressing the needs of all key stakeholders. To achieve this the project will consult and inform all UK HE organisations and institutions which have a specific interest in the delivery of academic quality, excellence and value for money.

HEaTED will look to develop an organisation and infrastructure that can help to further professionalise UK HE technical services to the benefit of the broader HE community. These benefits include:

- Increased efficiency, effectiveness and quality enhancement of services delivery.
- Enhanced support for teaching, learning and research.
- Retention and expansion of technical skills in the HE sector.
- The establishment of self supporting and financing technical body.
- The introduction of a national data gathering and data management system.



- Promotion of a national CPD framework to help deliver the above.

The IST obviously has an interest in this project and on behalf of the membership hopes to be fully involved in terms of the project outcomes and deliverables.



Mentoring Support Network

In the near future we aim to introduce a new Mentor Support Network utilising the IST's Fellows. These are key people, equipped with many years experience in technical, administrative, managerial and specialist areas. They will have a specific role to facilitate guidance and offer advice to members (particularly new or young) both at a specialist level and on a wider spectrum such as personal and career development.

Through IST Headquarters, staff will forward your initial e-mail enquiry to an appropriate Fellow. Guidance and direction will be given from the answer to a simple technical question to the more detailed review of skills training requirements.

To Join the IST

You can learn more about the IST from our web site or you can contact us direct.

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