Digital research technical champion 2026

Note that this role is only available to PhD students at Imperial College London, King's College London, UCL and the University of Westminster.

Role description

Job Title: Digital Research Technical Champion

Reports To: [STEP-UP local lead or their delegate for the relevant profession]

Contract type: GTA or equivalent

Job purpose: The Digital Research Champion will raise awareness of best practices in research software, data management, and computing infrastructure within their department. They will support the development of FAIR, sustainable and robust digital research outputs and foster a community of peers engaged in improving digital research practices.

Key responsibilities:

- Understand the challenges of research software development, data management, and computing infrastructure within their faculty/department/college/school.
- Raise awareness of the importance of good digital practices in modern research.
- Promote the use of good practices in software, data, and infrastructure management and the benefits these practices offer.
- Deliver core skills to support the use of improved digital practices.
- Engage with departmental colleagues through e.g. surveys, coffee hours, clinic sessions, training workshops, and showcases.

Person specification

Experience:

- Experience in software development, data management, or research involving computing infrastructure is desirable but not essential, especially if you work in a discipline which has traditionally not been computationally intensive.
- Previous involvement in community or collaborative activities is a plus.

Knowledge:

- Basic understanding of software development, data management, or computing infrastructure practices in your discipline.

Skills and abilities:

- Ability to communicate effectively with a diverse range of colleagues.
- Strong networking skills within the faculty/department/college/school.
- Ability to commit time to engagement and collaboration activities.
- Flexibility in undertaking work and managing time effectively.

Personal attributes:

- Enthusiasm for supporting a community of peers and learning new skills.
- Self-motivated and proactive.
- Strong interpersonal skills.
- Passionate about improving digital practices and supporting peers.

Further Information:

Contact Lucy Wheeler, STEP-UP community manager, l.wheeler@imperial.ac.uk