

Dr Kate Harland
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Election Address

As someone who is passionate about championing the next generation of talent, I am proud to be standing for election for the ITT Board of Directors, representing Education and Training.

I am a proactive and motivated member of the ITT Education and Training Committee, advocating for students and academics, bridging the gap between academia and industry. Since joining the E&T committee, I have contributed to the ITT Conference through hosting panel sessions, managed the Student Ambassador programme, and hosted a region-wide ITT Future You each year. Most recently, I have begun work on the ITT White Paper series, a vital resource addressing the issues posed at the ITT Conference Future You session. More on this coming soon! If elected, I am committed to;

- **Bridging the gap between academia and industry** by breaking down barriers, supporting the next generation of talent, and continuing the mission to raise professional standards in the industry
- **Representing the academic network on the board**, ensuring both students and academics have a voice in travel, and there are education and training opportunities that meet the needs of the future workforce
- **Championing inclusivity and diversity** through representation and fair opportunities for all
- **Promoting ITT opportunities** to grow the Centre of Excellence, Recognised Institution, and membership network

The ITT is a crucial voice in travel, and while so much great work has been achieved over the last 70 years, there is still much to do to ensure travel is sustainable, inclusive, innovative and fair.

Biography

I am currently an Assistant Professor at Northumbria University, Fellow of the Higher Education Academy, and Programme Lead for one of the largest programmes in the Business School. My PhD research explored high-tech, high-touch hospitality, focusing on the role of technology in the guest-host relationship. My current academic research is focused on the future of hospitality through technology innovation and implementation.

Before becoming an academic 9 years ago, I worked in the hospitality industry for over 14 years in various sales and event management roles, mostly with Marriott International. From starting my career through an undergraduate placement as a first-generation graduate, I understand the challenges students face during their studies. Through my work with ITT Future You, I champion employability through support and mentorship, ensuring students have the best possible student journey, while focusing on their graduate prospects.

I have represented Northumbria University as a Centre of Excellence on the ITT Education & Training Committee since 2018. Being part of the committee reinforces my commitment not only as a representative from the University, but also from a personal passion for the travel industry.

On a personal level I am a proud Geordie, devoted tea drinker, and dedicated to my allotment.

Contact Details

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