

UK Exoplanet Community Meeting

30 March – 2 April 2026, Bristol



Programme and Schedule

Programme

The conference will start on Monday 30th March 2026 at 9:45am (talks start at 10am) and close on Thursday 2nd April 2026 at 12pm. There will be 13 main science sessions, 1 special session, and a dedicated poster session. A detailed program and all abstracts can be found in this document.

Highlight Talks

Highlight talks are 20 minute (15+5) invited talks from across the UK Exoplanet Community of Early Career Researchers at the top of their field. UKExoM 2026 hosts 12 highlight talks across its program.

Talks

Contributed talks are 15 minutes (12+3) talks from applicants across the UK Exoplanet Community. UKExoM 2026 hosts 43 contributed talks across the full program.

Talks are all conducted in serial there are no parallel sessions.

Posters

Posters will be up for the entire duration of the conference in the same room where coffee and lunch are served. There will be ample time to look at them, during coffee breaks, lunches and the dedicated poster session.

Poster-boards are standard A0 portrait size. We have no format restriction as long as the poster fits on the board.

There will be poster pop-ups during the main science sessions. These pop-ups will be very short (1 minute, 1 slide) and are not mandatory.

Prizes:

There will be a talk and poster competition for ECRs (marked in the booklet with *), judged by the participants of the conference via QR linked form that will be displayed in the poster hall, with prizes to be won for the,

- *Clearest explanation of a scientific method,*
- *Most interesting/impactful result.*

Careers Special Session

On Tuesday after lunch we will host a special extended session on careers. In this session we will have a panel of three astrophysics PhDs who have gone on to other careers. The panel will be moderated by Hannah Wakeford and questions will be solicited from the audience via slido.

Panelists:

- **Emma Bradshaw:** Emma received her PhD (AGN environments at $z>1$) from the University of Nottingham followed by a stint as a postdoc. Emma then moved to the BBC to

work on the digital side of their science programming on shows such as Stargazing Live and Horizon. She now works as the principle data analyst in iPlayer's marketing team, working towards keeping young people engaged with the BBC.

- **Stefan Lines:** Stefan received his PhD from the University of Bristol, where he researched simulations of planet formation, before moving to the University of Exeter for postdoctoral work on exoplanet cloud formation. He now leads the Met Office's international seasonal forecasting team, driving impactful work around the globe.

- **Laura Moran:** Laura completed her Physics PhD at the University of Exeter, where she developed an astrophysics-based Monte Carlo code into a tool for simulating Raman spectroscopy to improve breast cancer detection. Laura now works at EPCC (Edinburgh Parallel Computing Centre), where she began in a software-based role and now work in project management.

Senior Strategy Meeting

The senior strategy meeting is held on Thursday afternoon with the goal of outlining broad community directions and where possible actioning people to take steps to further the field. Note that while all are welcomed it is not a general discussion space. We do not expect to be able to provide an online component at this time.

The Senior Strategy meeting will host talks from Professor Jenny Hiscock (STFC Associate Director of Astronomy) and Dr Sarah Casewell (University of Leicester - as a member of the UK Space Frontiers 2035 white assessment panel) each followed by a discussion and Q&A.

Social events

Monday night (~5–7 pm), there will be a poster session with a range of canapes and drinks available throughout.

Tuesday night (7:30–9:30 pm), the optional conference dinner will be held at Goldney House in the Orangery. There is no dress code. Wine will be served on the tables and a bar is available for other drink purchases.

Wednesday night (~5–8 pm), there is a drinks reception at the nearby Royal West Academy of Arts (RWA) where the Cosmos Exhibit of art and science is being held. We will have an introduction from the curator of the event Ione Parkin and lead science consultant Prof. Amaury Triaud (University of Birmingham). A welcome drink and drink tickets are provided with a bar available for further purchases.

Wednesday *late*, we have arranged for Karaoke at a bar in town, Seamus O'Donnell's, from 9 pm where people can enjoy a drink and some fun.

Location

The UK exoplanet community meeting 2026 is being held in the Wills Memorial Building at the University of Bristol. See the website for more details.

UKExoM 2026 Bristol Schedule

Monday March 30th	
8:30 – 9:45	Coffee + Pastries / Registration
Session Chair	Hannah Wakeford – Reception Room
9:45 – 10:00	Welcome
10:00 – 10:15	1. Matt Lodge (Bristol) - VIRGA v2.0: Fractal Aggregate Clouds in Warm Neptunes, Hot Jupiters and Brown Dwarfs
10:15 – 10:30	2. Ryan Brady (UCL) - Extending the ExoMol database into the UV: Temperature Dependent Photodissociation Cross-Sections and Rates
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee + Cookies – Great Hall
Session Chair	Thomas Wilson – Reception Room
11:00 – 11:15	3. Ruohan Liu (UCL) - Hydrocarbon Hazes on Temperate sub-Neptune K2-18b supported by data from the James Webb Space Telescope
11:15 – 11:30	4. Robb Calder (Cambridge) - Most Rocky Sub-Neptunes are Molten: Mapping the Solidification Shoreline for Gas Dwarf Exoplanets
11:30 – 11:50	5. Mark Booth (UKATC) - Revealing Cold Giants and Subtle Discs Through High-Contrast Imaging with JWST
11:50 – 12:00	Poster Pop-ups + NAM announcement
12:00 – 13:30	Lunch (Ambient Buffet) – Great Hall
Session Chair	Siddharth Gandhi – Reception Room
13:30 – 13:45	6. Yasmin Davis (Birmingham) - Deflating the Inflation Problem with a Homogeneous Sample of Low-mass Stars
13:45 – 14:00	7. Charlotte Fairman (Bristol) - Linking general circulation models and observed limb asymmetries in giant exoplanets with transmission strings.
14:00 – 14:20	8. Rafael Rianço-Silva (UCL) - Spectroscopic insights for Exoplanet Science from Titan's Methane optical high-resolution spectrum
14:20 – 14:35	9. Yixuan Chen (Imperial) - Escape from Steamy Water Worlds -- Beyond the Energy Limit and Idealised Chemistry
14:35 – 14:50	10. Sébastien Paine (Queen Mary) - Dust Entrainment in External Photoevaporative Winds: Theory and Observation
14:50 – 15:00	Poster Pop-ups
15:00 – 15:30	Coffee + Fruit – Great Hall
Session Chair	Simon Lock – Reception Room
15:30 – 15:50	11. Clàudia Soriano Guerrero (Southampton) - MHD atmospheric simulations of Hot Jupiters to study non-ideal effects and turbulence
15:50 – 16:05	12. Harry Baskett (Exeter) - The effect of carbon to oxygen ratio on the structure and limb asymmetry in hot Jupiter atmospheres
16:05 – 16:20	13. Baptiste Klein (Oxford) - Quantifying and correcting for stellar variability in high-resolution transmission spectroscopy
16:20 – 16:35	14. Andrew Swan (Warwick) - Water in planetary systems observed by DESI
16:35 – 16:50	15. Andy Buchan (Warwick) - Li enrichment in white dwarfs as evidence of the formation of planetary crusts
16:50 – 17:10	Poster Pop-ups
17:10 – 19:30	Poster Session (Drinks and Canapes) – Great Hall

Tuesday March 31st	
8:30 – 9:00	Coffee + Pastries / Registration
Session Chair	Zoe Leinhardt – Reception Room
9:00 – 9:15	16. Ryan MacDonald (St Andrews) - The JWST NIRISS SOSS Transmission Spectrum of the Ultra-hot Jupiter WASP-121b
9:15 – 9:30	17. Harrison Nicholls (Cambridge) - Super-Earth lava planet from birth to observation: photochemistry, tidal heating, and volatile-rich formation
9:30 – 9:50	18. Lili Alderson (Cornell) - Not Your Normal Neptune: Uncovering the Atmosphere and Stellar Environment of HAT-P-11b
9:50 – 10:05	19. Tim Pearce (Warwick) - A lack of JWST outer planets: time to rethink the outer regions of planetary systems?
10:05 – 10:20	20. Michael Cretignier (Oxford) - The Terra Hunting Experiment, an RV mission detect Earth-like planets in RVs
10:20 – 10:30	Poster Pop-ups
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee + Cookies – Great Hall
Session Chair	Sebastiaan Krijt – Reception Room
11:00 – 11:15	21. Katy Chubb (Bristol) - Revealing magnesium silicate clouds on HD 209458b with JWST/LRS from decision-tree data reduction
11:15 – 11:30	22. Siddharth Maharana (Oxford) - The ELT-PCS R&D programme: current progress and UK contributions
11:30 – 11:50	23. Jamie Williams (Warwick) - A white dwarf accreting a second-generation planet
11:50 – 12:00	Poster Pop-ups
12:00 – 13:30	Lunch (Ambient Buffet) – Great Hall
13:30 – 13:40	Conference Photo
13:40 – 14:45	Special Session: Careers Panel and Discussion moderated by Hannah Wakeford. Panellists with PhDs in Astrophysics and their current careers: Emma Bradshaw (BBC), Stefan Lines (MetOffice), Laura Moran (EPCC).
14:45 – 15:00	Poster Pop-ups
15:00 – 15:30	Coffee + Fruit – Great Hall
Session Chair	Larissa Palethorpe – Reception Room
15:30 – 15:50	24. Jacob Kegerreis (Imperial) - A violent route for even big planets to get big moons
15:50 – 16:05	25. Adam Stevenson (Birmingham) - Resolve thy planet, know thy star
16:05 – 16:20	26. Erik Meier Valdes (Oxford) - Terrestrial worlds with a substantial secondary atmosphere or bare rocks? A systematic exploration of the Hot Rocks Survey
16:20 – 16:35	27. Frances Rigby (Imperial) - The Surface and Interior of Temperate Sub-Neptune TOI-270d
16:35 – 16:50	28. Phil Carter (Bristol) - Extreme debris disks reveal colliding planets
16:50 – 17:05	29. Lauren Doyle (Warwick) - The PLATO Mission
19:00 – 21:30	Conference Dinner – Goldney House Orangery

Wednesday April 1st	
8:30 – 9:00	Coffee + Pastries / Registration
Session Chair	Tad Komacek – Reception Room
9:00 – 9:15	30. Richard Chatterjee (Leeds) - The Enigma of Retained Atmospheres on Ultrahot Rocky Exoplanets
9:15 – 9:30	31. Dominic Samra (Chicago) - JWST-MEP: Observations and Modelling of WASP-52 b
9:30 – 9:50	32. Vito Squicciarini (Exeter) - The COBREX archival survey: a direct imaging view of planet formation
9:50 – 10:05	33. Ayaka Okuya (Warwick) - Exploring metallic iron in exoplanetary debris through white dwarf dusty disk spectra
10:05 – 10:20	34. Toby Rodel (Belfast) - Finding hidden long-period planets with TESS
10:20 – 10:30	Poster Pop-ups
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee + Cookies – Great Hall
Session Chair	Craig Stark – Reception Room
11:00 – 11:15	35. Simon Lock (Bristol) - When Worlds (probably) Collide: Using observations of exoplanet collisions to understand the occurrence rate and outcome of giant impacts
11:15 – 11:30	36. Lin Qiao (Queen Mary) - Multi-planet system formation under external photo-evaporation in stellar clusters
11:30 – 11:50	37. Jean Costes (Belfast) - Spectral Differential Analysis: a new suite of stellar activity indicators for astrophysical noise mitigation
11:50 – 12:00	Poster Pop-ups
12:00 – 13:30	Lunch (Ambient Buffet) – Great Hall
Session Chair	Katy Chubb – Reception Room
13:30 – 13:45	38. Victor See (Birmingham) - How does stellar chemical composition affect stellar magnetism and the evolution of exoplanet atmospheres?
13:45 – 14:00	39. Cathal Maguire (Bristol) - Resolving the Limbs of HD 209458b with JWST/NIRCam Transmission Spectroscopy
14:00 – 14:20	40. Heather Johnston (Exeter) - The Dispersal of Protoplanetary Discs via External Photoevaporation
14:20 – 14:35	41. Alex McGinty (Oxford) - NIRSpect Phase Curve Reveals a Highly Reflective Atmosphere on TOI-561 b
14:35 – 14:50	42. Sergio Humberto Ramirez Ramirez (Warwick) - White Dwarf Planetary Systems through the Looking Gas
14:50 – 15:00	Poster Pop-ups
15:00 – 15:30	Coffee + Fruit – Great Hall
Session Chair	Annelies Mortier – Reception Room
15:30 – 15:50	43. Cian O'Toole (Trinity) - Disentangling Auroral, Cloud and Magnetic Spot Variability in Three Brown Dwarfs with HST/WFC3
15:50 – 16:05	44. Ailsa Campbell (Bristol) - Exploring the UV-Visible Transmission Spectrum of the Warm Super-Neptune HAT-P-26 b
16:05 – 16:20	45. Joe Williams (Exeter) - Building Discs, Pebbles, and Planetesimals around Varying Stellar Masses
16:20 – 16:35	46. Anand Bhongade (Birmingham) - Endogenous or accreted? Interpreting H ₂ O in super-Earth and sub-Neptune atmospheres

16:35 – 16:50	47. David Lewis (Edinburgh) - First-Principles Modelling of Planetary Ices
16:50 – 17:05	Poster Pop-ups
17:15 – 20:00	RWA Cosmos Art-Science Exhibition - Royal West of England Academy
21:00 – late	Karaoke @ Seamus O'Donnell's

Thursday April 2nd	
8:30 – 9:00	Coffee + Pastries / Registration
Session Chair	Sarah Casewell– Reception Room
9:00 – 9:15	48. James Kirk (Imperial) - BOWIE-ALIGN: Using Alignments and Atmospheres to Probe Hot Jupiter Origins
9:15 – 9:30	49. Niamh Mallaghan (QUB) - Probing the Unique Giant Exoring Candidate ASASSN-21js
9:30 – 9:50	50. Mitchell Yzer (Oxford) - Prospects for Detecting Artificial Greenhouse Gases on Nearby Rocky Exoplanets with the ELTs
9:50 – 10:05	51. Sten Vermeiren (St Andrews) - Making Waves or Seeing Spots? Placing GJ486b on the Cosmic Shoreline with JWST/NIRISS SOSS
10:05 – 10:20	52. Vedad Kunovac (Warwick) - Resolving starspots on WASP-85A using high-resolution transit spectroscopy
10:20 – 10:30	Poster Pop-ups
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee + Cookies – Great Hall
Session Chair	Denis Sergeev – Reception Room
11:00 – 11:15	53. Samuel Gill (Warwick) - NGTS and TESS Results on the Dynamical Architectures of Transiting Warm Giants
11:15 – 11:30	54. Elsbeth Lee (Bern) - Storms on the Horizon - modelling complex processes in Brown Dwarf atmospheres
11:30 – 11:50	55. Daniel Valentine (Bristol) - Diving through the Dynamics of Exoplanet Atmospheres with 3D Eclipse Mapping
11:50 – 12:15	Announcements, Awards, and Close-out
12:15 – 13:30	PLEASE REMOVE YOUR POSTERS FROM THE GREAT HALL

Senior Strategy Meeting – Reception Room	
13:30 – 13:50	Around the Room Introductions and Collaborations (20 mins)
13:50 – 14:20	Presentation: Jenny Hiscock , STFC (30 mins)
14:20 – 15:00	STFC Discussion (40 mins)
15:00 – 15:30	Coffee + Pastries – Reception Room
15:30 – 15:55	Presentation: Sarah Casewell - UK Space Frontiers 2035 (25 mins)
15:55 – 16:15	Q&A discussion (20 mins)
16:15 – 16:40	Discussion of key strategic areas for Exoplanets in the UK (25 mins)
16:40 – 17:00	Action Items and close-out (20 mins)