DISC26

ATTENDEE HANDBOOK

Monica Sangha

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Venue information

Conference

- **Venue name:** Hilton Newcastle Tyne Bridge
- **Address:** Bottle Bank, Gateshead, NE8 2AR
- **what3words:** /// search.candle.took

Delegate accommodation

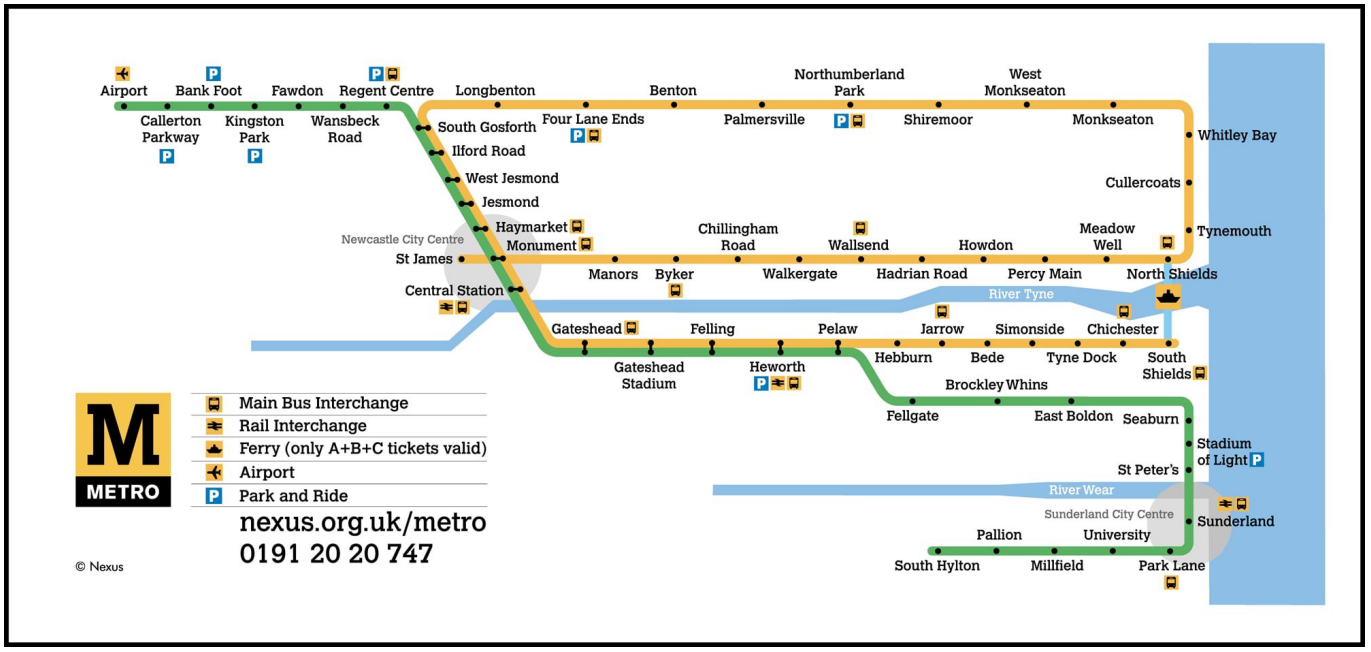
- **Hotel name:** Hilton Newcastle Tyne Bridge
- **Address:** Bottle Bank, Gateshead, NE8 2AR
- **what3words:** //// search.candle.took
- **Check-in:** 15:00
- **Check-out:** 11:00

Getting there

By train:

- **Nearest train station:** Newcastle Central station is 2 miles from the venue. This is approximately a 17-minute walk.

- Newcastle Metro Station is also a 17-minute walk. Alternatively, you can take the yellow or green line, heading south from Central Station to Gateshead. This takes approximately 2 minutes, followed by a short walk to the venue. The cost of the trip is between £1 - £4. You can use this website to plan your journey and get live updates: https://www.nexus.org.uk/metro



By bus:

- Look for 'Go North East' bus (Line 53). Board Line 53 at Central Station Westgate Road heading to Hillgate Quay. This journey will take approximately 7 minutes, followed by a 2–3-minute walk to the venue.

By air:

- Newcastle International Airport offer convenient access to the city

- A taxi from the airport to Hilton Newcastle Tyne Bridge will take approximately 10 - 15 minutes and will cost around £15 - £20 during the day. Alternatively, you can take the Metro which will take approximately 28 minutes.

By taxi:

- Taxis are available outside Newcastle Central and Metro Stations, on Neville Street
- Cost of taxi is approximately £5-£9 per trip. Methods of payment available are: cash, card or contactless

By car:

From the south

- Head northbound on M1 before merging onto A1(M) northbound. Continue along the A1(M) and then take the A184 to Gateshead Newcastle. Follow signs for City Centre, cross Tyne Bridge and then follow signs to Hilton Newcastle Tyne Bridge.

From the north

- Take A1 or M1/M62 southbound towards Newcastle and then exit onto A167 towards Gateshead. Follow signs for Hilton Newcastle Tyne Bridge.

From the Wirral

- Join the M53 northbound and then follow signs to Liverpool / Manchester to join M62 eastbound. Then merge onto M6 northbound.
- Near Sunderland / Durham, head onto the A1 northbound towards Gateshead. Continue onto the A1 northbound towards Newcastle and then exit at A184 towards Gateshead / Newcastle. Follow signs for City Centre, cross the Tyne Bridge and then follow signs for Hilton Newcastle Tyne Bridge.

Car park:

- The hotel has a car park underneath it with 184 spaces available. Spaces are on a first-come first-served basis
- This is chargeable at £10 for the day and £15 overnight

**Prices subject to change*

Conference Spaces – Hilton Newcastle Tyne Bridge

- The virtual tour of Hilton Newcastle Tyne Bridge is available here should you wish to familiarise yourself with the venue ahead of your arrival.

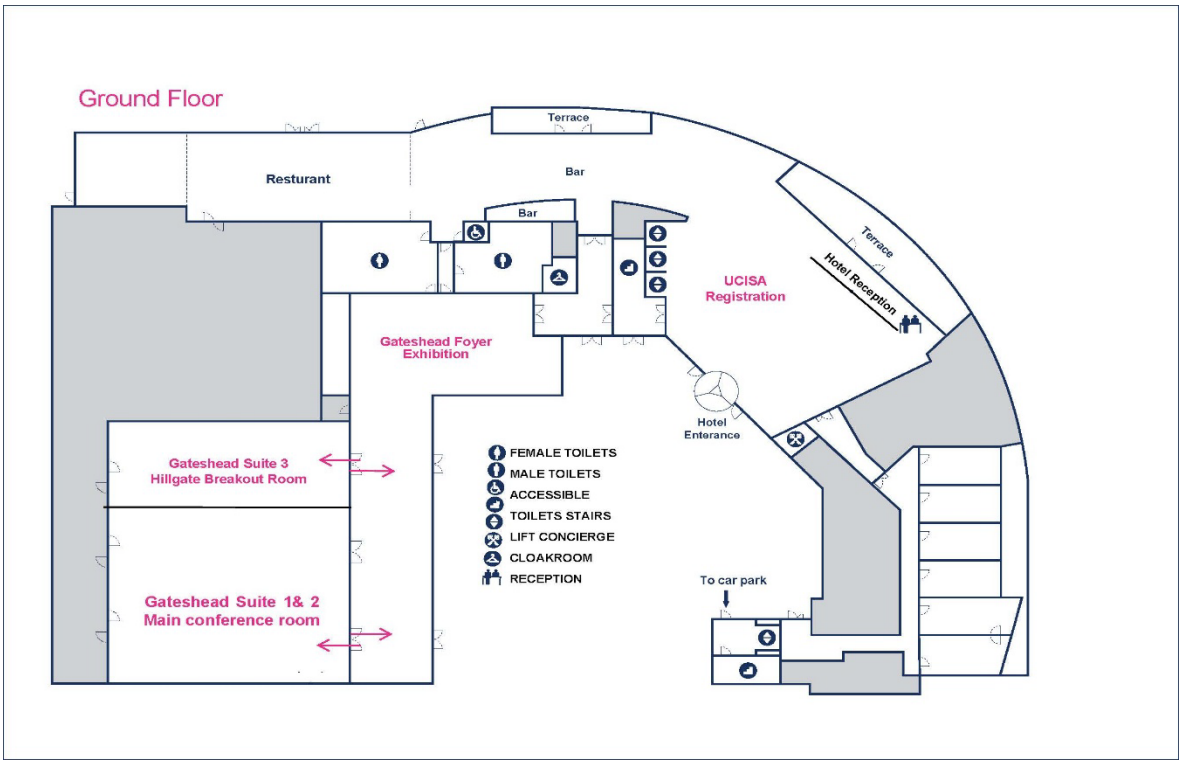
- Here is a walkthrough video of the venue which includes all of the spaces displayed below:

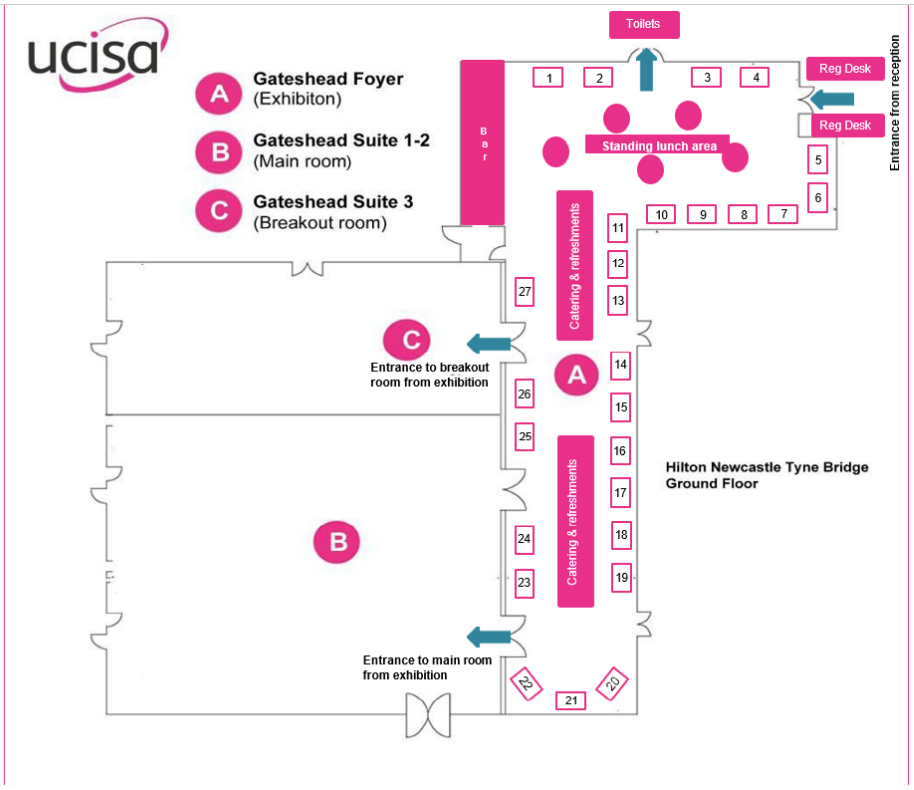
Ground floor:

- Hotel check-in

If you have booked your own accommodation at Hilton Newcastle Tyne Bridge, check-in desks are located on the ground floor:

- The conference, including registration, dinner (7th Oct) and exhibition will all be held on the ground floor.





Stand Location List:

1 – **Proact IT** *(Platinum Sponsor)*
2 – **CDW**
3 – **Acumen Cyber**
4 – **Freshworks**
5 – **Check Point**
6 – **Real**
7 – **Fsas Technologies**
8 – **Glide**
9 – **Box**
10 – **CirrusHQ** *(Platinum Sponsor)*
11 – **HPE** *(Platinum Sponsor)*
12 – **4C Strategies**
13 – **TouchNet / Global Payments**
14 – **Canon** *(Platinum Sponsor)*
15 – **LogicMonitor**
16 – **Block**
17 – **Nutanix**
18 – **AWS**
19 – **Waterstons**
20 – **Exponential-e**
21 – **Cohesity** *(Primary Sponsor)*
22 – **Tribal**
23 – **EverPure**
24 – **Veeam**
25 – **Switchshop**
26 – **Apporto**
27 – **Planon**

-1 Floor:

- This is where the quiet room can be located. Here is a walkthrough to the quiet room from the Gateshead Suite Foyer: [DISC26 Venue Walkthrough]

UCISA Team Available On-Site

- The UCISA team is here to support you throughout the conference. The team will be wearing white colour lanyards. Delegates will be wearing pink lanyards and sponsors/exhibitors will be wearing black lanyards.
- If you need any assistance or have questions, the team will be available at the registration desk on the ground floor.

Monica Sangha
Events Officer

Sian Thomas
Head of Corporate Engagement and Events

Emily Gardiner
Events Co-Ordinator

Nathaniel Morosoli
Corporate Engagement Manager

Catering Menus

Day 1 – Wednesday 7th October:

Morning Break (11:30 – 12:00)

- **Tea, coffee, Danish pastries & plant-based yoghurt pots**

Lunch Break (12:50 – 13:50)

- **Flame-grilled peri-peri chicken with Moroccan-style spiced couscous & charred sweetcorn**
- **Thai red prawn curry with fragrant jasmine rice**
- **Slow-cooked aubergine & chickpea tagine (plant-based)**
- **Truffle & rosemary roasted potatoes**
- **Buckwheat & broad bean salad with fresh herbs**
- **Seasonal leaf salad with lemon-infused extra virgin olive oil & sea salt**
- **Roasted red pepper hummus with artisan flatbread crisps**
- **Rich plant-based chocolate brownies**
- **Seasonal fresh fruit selection**

**If you would prefer a sandwich to avoid queues, please contact us at events@ucisa.ac.uk*

Afternoon Break (15:05– 15:35)

- **Tea, coffee, warm cookies & plant-based flapjacks**

Conference Dinner

**You must purchase a ticket via the UCISA Connect Portal to attend the dinner: DISC26 Dinner Tickets*

- **Starter: Tartlet of smoked Northumberland cheese & red pepper chutney**
- **Main: Herb-roasted chicken breast**
- **Dessert: New York style cheesecake**

**An alternative menu will be available to those who have dietary requirements that means they cannot have courses from this menu*

Day 2 – Thursday 8th October:

Morning Break (10:00 – 10:30)

- **Tea, coffee, Danish pastries & plant-based yoghurt pots**

Lunch Break (12:05 – 13:05)

- **Chargrilled lamb kofta with herb tabbouleh & garlic yoghurt**

- **Traditional Spanish seafood rice with king prawns, mussels, squid, cod, saffron & smoked paprika**
- **Harissa-roasted vegetable & quinoa bake with tahini dressing (Plant-Based)**
- **Parmesan & herb potato wedges**
- **Mediterranean couscous with herbs, citrus & roasted vegetables salad**
- **Smoked baba ganoush with za'atar pitta crisps**
- **Classic plant-based carrot cake**
- **Seasonal fresh fruit selection**

**If you would prefer a sandwich to avoid queues, please contact us at events@ucisa.ac.uk*

- **Important note:** If you have dietary requirements that you have not made Team UCISA aware of when booking on to the conference, please contact events@ucisa.ac.uk to let us know**.**

Conference Programme

**Main room, breakout room and exhibition are all on ground floor*

Day 1 – Wednesday 7th October

Time	Details	Location
09:15	**Registration Opens** Please visit the registration desk located on the ground floor, outside the Gateshead Suite Foyer to collect your name badge	Outside Gateshead Suite Foyer
	Exhibition Opens All refreshments and lunch will be served in this area throughout the event	Gateshead Suite Foyer
09:00	**Newcomers' Session** *If this is your first conference, or your first for a while, please join us for an informative session to discover how to make the most of your experience at the conference and meet other first-time attendees.*	Syndicate Room – Gateshead Suite 3
10:00	**Welcome to DISC26!**	Gateshead Suite 1-2
10:10	**The 30-Second Pitch Parade** *Exhibitors will have just 30 seconds to introduce themselves, highlight their offerings, and convince you why their stand is a must-visit. This is an opportunity to discover a wide range of products and services in a short amount of time, helping you pinpoint the exhibitors that best meet your needs and interests.*	Gateshead Suite 1-2

10:20	**Opening Keynote**	Gateshead Suite 1-2
11:00	**When Universities Can't Go Offline: Building Cyber Resilience for Teaching, Research, and Trust** *(Sponsored by Cohesity – DISC26 Primary Sponsor)*	Gateshead Suite 1-2
11:30	**Mid-Morning Refreshment Break**	Gateshead Suite Foyer
12:00	**How to Justify Security Investments with Actual Evidence**	Gateshead Suite 1-2
12:30	**"Running on Empty: Storage, Spend & the AI Panic": A frank discussion with university infrastructure leaders on the realities behind the headlines** *(Sponsored by Proact IT – DISC26 Platinum Sponsor)*	Gateshead Suite 1-2
12:50	**Lunch & Connecting with Colleagues**	Gateshead Suite Foyer
13:50	**Security Incident Response Workshop** **Please note that this will be an interactive session*	Gateshead Suite 1-2
14:40	**Health Checking Your Critical Systems** ***Proactive monitoring beats incident response***	Gateshead Suite 1-2
15:05	**Afternoon Refreshment Break**	Gateshead Suite Foyer

15:35	**The 30-Second Pitch Parade** *Exhibitors will have just 30 seconds to introduce themselves, highlight their offerings, and convince you why their stand is a must-visit. This is an opportunity to discover a wide range of products and services in a short amount of time, helping you pinpoint the exhibitors that best meet your needs and interests.*	Gateshead Suite 1-2
15:45	**Office IoT Resilience in Higher Education Securing Open, Decentralised Campuses Without Undermining Academic Freedom** *(Sponsored by Canon – DISC26 Platinum Sponsor)*	Gateshead Suite 1-2
16:05	**Securing the future together – Positioning Cyber Security at the heart of organisational strategy**	Gateshead Suite 1-2
16:35	**Close of Day 1**	Gateshead Suite 1-2
16:45 – 17:15	**'Connect with Colleagues' Drinks Reception**	Gateshead Suite Foyer
18:15	**Drinks Reception**	Hotel Reception
18:45	**Call to dinner**	Hotel Reception
19:00	**Conference Dinner**	Gateshead Suite 1-2
≈20:45	**After Dinner Speaker**	Gateshead Suite 1-2

Day 2 – Thursday 8th October

08:15	**Registration and Exhibition Opens**	Gateshead Suite Foyer
09:00	**Welcome to Day 2!**	Gateshead Suite 1-2
09:10	**Ctrl + Alt + Discover: Supporting Research Tech in a Digital University**	Gateshead Suite 1-2
09:40	**The 25% Problem: How a University used a proven methodology and a Cloud Center of Excellence to get their upstream technology strategy work right** *(Sponsored by CirrusHQ – DISC26 Platinum Sponsor)*	Gateshead Suite 1-2
10:00	**Mid-Morning Refreshment Break**	Gateshead Suite Foyer
10:30	**Benchmarking Cyber Security Teams in Higher Education**	Gateshead Suite 1-2
10:50	**Travel Time to Exhibition**	
10:55	**Connect with Colleagues Session** *This 45-minute opportunity is designed for you to connect with exhibitors and fellow delegates—feel free to mingle, exchange ideas, and make the most of this time!*	Gateshead Suite Foyer
11:40	**Travel Time to main room**	
11:45	**The AI-Native Campus Network and the Journey to Self-Driving: Why UK Universities Need It Now – and How HPE's Aruba + Juniper Convergence Changes the Game** *(Sponsored by HPE – DISC26 Platinum Sponsor)*	Gateshead Suite 1-2

12:05	**Lunch & Connecting with Colleagues**	Gateshead Suite Foyer
13:05	**Keep CAF and Carry On: Separating cyber confidence from cyber evidence**	Gateshead Suite 1-2
13:35	**The Attack Path Nobody Owns: Exposure, credentials and the gaps between teams**	Gateshead Suite 1-2
14:05	**Closing Remarks**	Gateshead Suite 1-2
14:15	**Close of Conference**	
14:45	**Exhibition Close**	

Code of conduct

- At UCISA, we are committed to providing a safe, inclusive, and welcoming environment for all participants. To ensure a positive experience for everyone, we ask that all delegates, speakers, sponsors, exhibitors and staff adhere to our code of conduct.
- The UCISA Events code of conduct can be found here: https://www.ucisa.ac.uk/Governance

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Neuro-inclusivity at DISC26

- We have created a Neurodiversity Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) page. Feel free to share it with anyone who may find it helpful.
- To support attendees with sensitivity, attendees are encouraged to limit strong scents by using fragrance-free products and refraining from heavy perfumes.
- We aim to be as neuro-inclusive as possible, if there is anything that you would like us to consider, please contact Team UCISA on events@ucisa.ac.uk.

Safety and Wellbeing

- If you are feeling unwell, we kindly ask that you do not attend the conference. You may send a colleague to attend in your place, and the UCISA Team will be happy to swap your booking at no cost. Simply contact events@ucisa.ac.uk to arrange this.

Mental health first aiders (MHFA)

- **Siân Thomas and Monica Sangha from UCISA are fully trained MHFA** and will be happy to support any delegates who may need mental health support during the conference. If you would like to speak with one of them, please visit the registration desk.

UCISA support available

- There will be UCISA staff onsite that are available to provide individuals with

additional help and assistance throughout the conference.

- We will be easy to spot – just look for the white UCISA lanyards distinguishing us from other attendees.

Emergencies and contact information

Pre-conference

- If you have any questions in the lead up to the conference, please contact events@ucisa.ac.uk.

During the conference

- We really hope you don't experience an emergency, but we are here to help if a situation arises. In the event of an emergency at conference**, in the first instance please alert a member of the venue's staff** as they will be best placed to assist and are trained to manage medical emergencies in their venues.
- You can also reach the UCISA team in an emergency either at the **registration desk or on 07768 861 292** (call, text or WhatsApp)**.**
- If you are scheduled to speak at the conference and are running late, please contact us on **07768 861 292.**

First aid facilities

- In the event of medical assistance being required, please contact a **member of the Hilton Newcastle Tyne Bridge team**, informing them of the nature and location of the medical emergency.

Fire alarm

- The fire alarm is a continuous alarm bell.
- There are **no fire alarm tests scheduled** for the duration of the event.

Fire exits

- Fire exit routes are indicated prominently in all rooms and evacuation routes can be found on the back of the doors.

Assembly point

- The assembly point is outside the front of the hotel

Sponsors and exhibitors

- UCISA would like to thank all the sponsors and exhibitors attending DISC26, without who, the conference would not be possible. Special thanks to **Cohesity**, the conference Primary Sponsor.
- Thank you also to **Canon, CirrusHQ, HPE & Proact IT** for sponsoring the summit.
- We have many others exhibiting at the conference – we encourage you to have a chat with them over the course of the two days the exhibition is open, as without their support, we would not be able to put on the event. The list of exhibitors can be found on the DISC26 Exhibitor Profile Webpage.

Sponsored Breakfast Sessions:

- Thank you to **Check Point** and **Tribal** who are also sponsoring the conference by hosting breakfast sessions on **Thursday 8th October from 08:00.**
- Both sessions require registration and you can find more information via the links below:
    - Check Point (Meeting Room 4): https://events.checkpoint.com/2026-oct-cybersecurity-forum
    - Tribal (Gateshead Suite 3): https://www.tribalgroup.com/ucisa-disc-2026

Other information

Internet access

- Wi-Fi access is complimentary and available throughout the venue.

Conference app

- Details of the Conference App will be shared in a separate email from admin@ucisa.ac.uk
- The app includes all key event information and allows you to book 1-2-1 meetings with exhibitors or delegates if you prefer a quieter space away from the exhibition area.

Badge scanning

- Your event name badge will include a QR code that the UCISA Team will need to scan at registration. Entry will not be permitted without a name badge.
- As you explore the conference and engage with exhibitors and peers, some may request to scan your badge. This also applies to sponsored sessions, where staff from the sponsoring company may request to scan your badge upon entry. In allowing them to scan your name badge, please note you are providing your email address and consenting to that company/ individual using this email to contact you.

Social media and photography

- When posting on social media about the conference, please do use **#DISC26** as the hashtag and tag @UCISA where possible.
- There will be photographs and videos taken by the UCISA team during the event for promotional use - let us know if you prefer not to be photographed.

We look forward to seeing you in Newcastle!

Best wishes,

Monica Sangha
Events Officer

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Events Officer