Jon Woollard

Technical Team Leader

“Technical staff fall into an unusual profession – we’re all so diverse. What I do here is very different from what other staff do across the University. There is potential to develop yourself but you have to go and look for it, you have to be flexible. I taught myself most of what I know, it’s self-teach…that’s how you learn.”

Jon completed a degree in Life Sciences in Hull in the late nineties and knew he wanted to work in a practical lab environment. He came to the University of Hertfordshire in 2000 and worked from Trainee up to Senior Technical Officer in Life and Medical Sciences in Molecular Biology and Genetics. As he had also been working part-time for a friend’s IT business and had a background in computers, Jon was offered a promotion in 2006 when he began working at the School of Health and Social Work (HSK).

Initially providing support in the area of physiotherapy, Jon is now the Technical Team Leader who is responsible for all areas across HSK. Anything under Allied Health Professions falls under his remit. For Jon, the task of technical staff is essentially to “fix things” and he is happiest when he’s tinkering with a piece of kit. Although he considers it to be a “fantastic and fun job” with “endless interest”, he recognises that it is also very hard work that involves a lot of juggling, problem-solving and self-motivation.

Technical work is all about being behind the scenes and Jon ensures that he manages the expectations of his staff. He believes that it is important to be aware that people generally won’t call on them unless something is broken. However, he does feel that people within the School are grateful for and value the work that they do.

Jon is very definite on how he wants his work/life balance to be. For this father of two young children, family comes first and he is able to arrange his working hours so that he starts and leaves earlier in the day. Checking emails in the evenings and at weekends is also something he makes a conscious effort to avoid!