

EVERYDAY SKILLS EVENT: Creativity and Neurodiversity in the Workplace



Programme

The 18th annual Scottish Union Learning Everyday Skills Event will take place at the STUC, Margaret Irwin Centre, 8 Landressy Street, Bridgeton, Glasgow G40 1BT from 9.30am to 2.35pm on Thursday the 26th of February 2026.

The Everyday Skills Event enables trade unions to raise awareness of Everyday Skills issues in the workplace and share best practice in supporting those with Everyday Skills needs.

The Event is aimed at Union Learning Representatives, Learning Organisers, Equality Reps, tutors, members, and partners who can cascade information and skills in workplaces.

Registration and Breakfast Rolls

9.00am to 9.30am

Welcome and Introduction

9.30am to 9.40am

Catherine Garvie, Senior Development Officer, Scottish Union Learning

Keynote Speaker

9.40am to 9.55am

Richard Lochhead MSP, Minister for Business and Employment

Keynote Speaker

9.55am to 10.10am

Roz Foyer, STUC General Secretary

Guest Speaker

10.10am to 10.25am

Supporting Neurodivergent Colleagues in the Workplace

Gillian McConnell, Course Leader for the Masters in Autism Courses at The University of Strathclyde.

Gillian has over 30 years' experience of working with autistic and neurodivergent people and their families in a variety of settings, such as social care, criminal justice and education. Prior to joining the University, she held Senior Management positions and for 20 years was responsible for the service development, design and delivery of a wide range of services for autistic people of all ages.

Session 1: Build Your Own Memory Palace. Led by John Robertson, Director, Civicos Training and Communications.

10.25am to 11.25am

Our brains are just not built for remembering lists, or many dry facts. Therefore, we usually rely on mental repetition until the information is 'hard-wired' into our heads. However, there are easier and surer ways to remember the things you need to recall.

This one-hour session takes you through one proven method called The Memory Palace. By the end of the hour, you will have the beginning of your own Memory Palace and, if you so wish can take this method forward and expand upon it later, and in your own time.

Session flow:

- Why we are terrible at memorising things.
- The Memory Palace – where the idea came from.
- How it works, using an example.
- Your opportunity to develop your own Memory Palace.

Finish with an opportunity to try the technique with a supplied list of objects.

Comfort Break

11.25am to 11.35am

Session 2: Creative Writing to support learners in the workplace. Led by Dr Rachel Marsh, Associate Lecturer, The Open University in Scotland.

11.35am to 12.35pm

This session will provide you with an introduction to creative writing and how creative writing skills can be used as a hook to improve the literacy skills of workers. You will learn methods to create compelling dialogue and glean tips from a wide range of contemporary fiction and scripts. In addition, you will get to try out these approaches yourself.

Session 3: Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools to support neurodivergent workers. Led by Craig Steele, Director, Digital Skills Education.

12.35pm to 1.35pm

Artificial Intelligence apps and tools can make a huge difference for neurodivergent workers. Join us for an interactive, practical, supportive session exploring how these tools can help neurodivergent people thrive at work. Whether you are neurodivergent yourself, supporting colleagues who are neurodiverse, or simply curious about inclusive technology this is the session for you.

We will explore AI-powered apps that support everyday work tasks such as organising projects, managing focus, processing information and communicating with colleagues.

We will look at tools that can support with:

- Writing and note-taking, and communication.
- Understanding and responding to more complex information.
- Organising tasks and managing time.
- Boosting focus and reducing being overwhelmed.
- Amplifying voice and supporting self-advocacy.

No technical knowledge is necessary to participate in this session.

Lunch

1.35pm to 2.35pm

