

STEP-UP & SCALE-UP:

Building and supporting dRTP Training Networks

Dr Jeremy Cohen

Advanced Research Fellow, Department of Computing
Director of Research Software Engineering Strategy

Imperial College London

ACIT-Hub Training CoDesign Day
Imperial College London, 22nd July 2025



A Strategic TEchnical Platform for University technical Professionals

- Partner institutions:
 - Imperial (lead)
 - UCL
 - King's College London
 - University of Westminster
- Project duration: 4 years - Jan 2024 – Dec 2027
- A London regional platform – ~£2m (100% FEC)
- A group of 6 external project partners contributing in kind – supporting training, EDI, mentoring, etc.

<https://step-up.ac.uk>

STEP-UP is one of 11 Strategic Technical Platform proposals [announced by EPSRC](#) in March 2024

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 UCL

 KING'S
College
LONDON

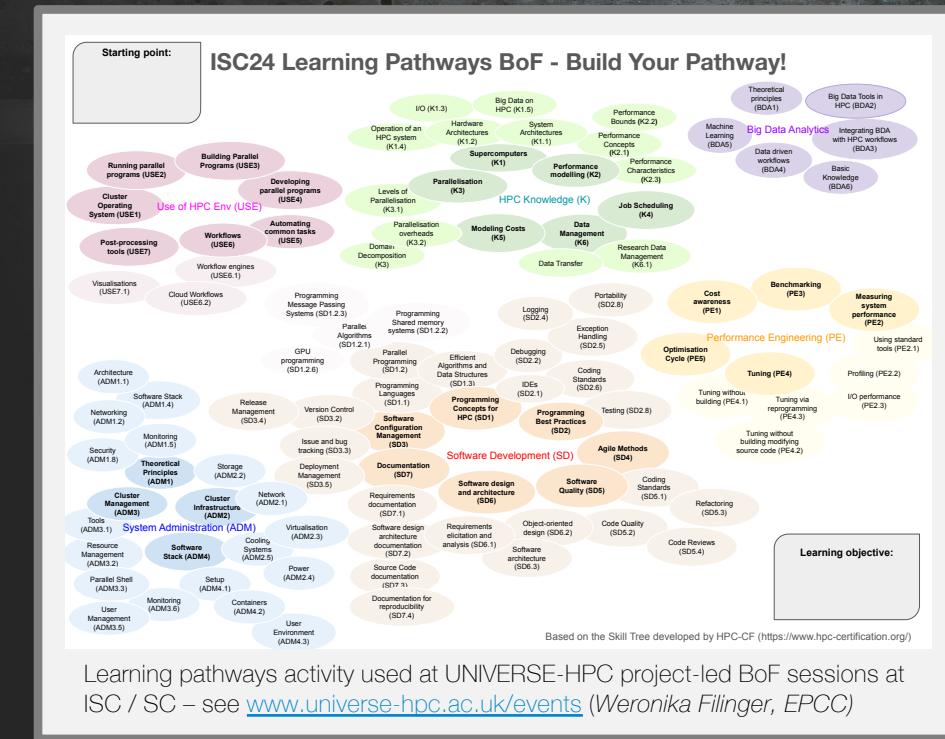
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STEP-UP: Key areas of activity

- **Community and Equity, Diversity and Inclusion**
 - Growing regional RSE community to represent data + HPC
 - Conference, events, champions
- **Training and Skills**
- **Career Pathways, Secondments and Mentoring**
 - Understanding career challenges, work with stakeholders, grow opportunities
- **Policy, Strategy Awareness and Recognition**
 - Developing policies, advocating for greater awareness (Champions/events)
 - Engaging with groups such as PRO4RS around institutional policies

Training and Skills

- Support for developing skills across three dRTP “pillars” – software / data / infrastructure
 - Support for developing skills at all levels of expertise from beginner to advanced
 - Building on / collaborating with related activities in UNIVERSE-HPC – <https://www.universe-hpc.ac.uk/>
 - Learning pathways – how can we develop these? What are the challenges?
 - Pathways and learning structures are complex – not linear
 - RSE skills at beginner and early-intermediate level fairly well understood – much open source content
 - Data and computing infrastructure / HPC training less well-understood within the dRTP community at present



Building a training catalogue in STEP-UP

- Developing an understanding of training needs across the dRTP space at all skill levels
- Cataloguing existing open source materials
- Look at pathways and structures to ensure more effective training approaches
- Running training to help develop and offer new opportunities to our community

Training Catalogue		
RSE / Advanced	Research Data / Advanced	Infrastructure/HPC Advanced
RSE / Intermediate	Research Data / Intermediate	Infrastructure/HPC Intermediate
RSE / Beginner	Research Data / Beginner	Infrastructure/HPC Beginner

Training delivery, recognition and certification

- Recognising the importance of **different modes of delivery** for training at different levels
- Need ways to recognise key skill sets and capabilities
- **Certification** is an ongoing discussion in the RSE community – different perspectives for and against
- Need approaches that scale to support the rapidly growing demand for technical skills in the dRTP space

The SCALE-UP Network:

Scaling dRTP support nationally

The SCALE-UP Network: A National People and Skills Pipeline

Partner institutions:

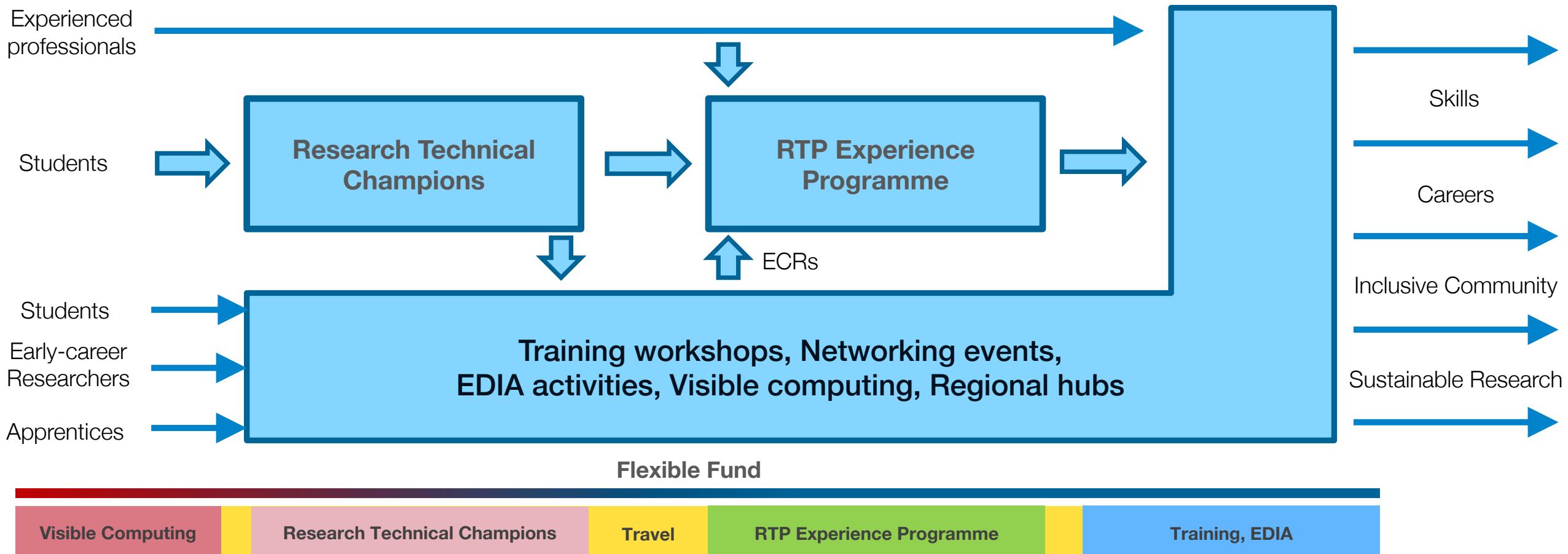
- Imperial (lead) – PI: Prof. Michael Bearpark
 - University of Glasgow
 - Northumbria University
 - Queen's University Belfast
 - University of Sheffield
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- Project duration: 4 years - April 2025 – March 2029
 - Growing the activities of STEP-UP to a national audience

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SCALE-UP

- Growing the activities and outputs of STEP-UP to a national audience
- Flexible fund of ~£1m to support a range of activities to support, develop and grow the dRTP community nationally
- Funding for Champions schemes, mini-clusters, a dRTP Experience programme + training, networking and community activities
- Support from a group of external project partners including Alces Flight, Research Data Alliance, SSI and HPC-SIG

The SCALE-UP Pipeline



Thank you

jeremy.cohen@imperial.ac.uk

m.bearpark@imperial.ac.uk

With thanks to UKRI-EPSRC for support via the STEP-UP project
(EP/Y530608/1) and to the UKRI DRI programme / NERC for funding SCALE-UP