

# FAQ for SSQ Bristol / Engine Shed community

## **Why is Engine Shed closing in December?**

The closure is part of a strategic shift underway in how the University will deliver innovation activity at the new Temple Quarter Enterprise Campus University. The revised approach is intended to build on and expand the work done by Engine Shed particularly across initiatives in innovation, inclusion and growth.

The team behind Engine Shed will be responsible for the new Bristol Innovations Zone Space in the new academic building.

## **What timeframes do I need to be aware of?**

Engine Shed will close in December 2026. We are committed to making the closure as easy as possible for our tenants and members.

## **When can I continue to use the Engine Shed until?**

New event bookings can be made until the end of December 2026. The offices, meeting rooms, and lounge will also remain open for this time unless otherwise communicated.

## **Can I transfer my membership/office/desk to the new building?**

We will work with everyone individually to determine the best next step. The new building and wider campus have lots of services available for businesses and civic partners.

## **Does the new Campus provide venue space for hosting external events?**

Yes, there are a lot of spaces available for hire in the new academic building and across TQEC. These spaces will be largely managed and hosted by the University of Bristol's Events and Venues team and more information will be available soon. In addition, Science Creates and The Sheds offer spaces for hire that can be accessed immediately.

## **What other spaces are available at the Main Academic Building?**

The main building will be an interdisciplinary learning and research environment, focusing on teaching and research within the [Business School](#), the [Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship](#), [School of Computer Science](#), [School of Electrical, Electronic and Mechanical Engineering](#), and [School of Engineering Mathematics and Technology](#).

The building has been specifically designed 'for Bristol' and includes spaces for civic engagement, learning, research and innovation and much more. There will be a large

public realm space on the ground floor in addition to specific areas of the building and teams of people dedicated to this work. See: <https://www.bristol.ac.uk/temple-quarter-enterprise-campus/spaces-and-facilities/>

### **What will happen to the Engine Shed building?**

The original Engine Shed, which opened more than 13 years ago, will go back into the hands of Network Rail (our landlords) when the lease ends. If you would like to discuss this further particularly in relation to meanwhile arrangements, please contact [richard.adlington@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:richard.adlington@bristol.ac.uk)

### **What is the Bristol Innovations Zone?**

The Bristol Innovations Zone (BIZ) is the University of Bristol's new gateway for collaboration between researchers and industry – a transformative space where deep-tech innovation and societal impact meet. It is located within the main academic building on the University of Bristol's Temple Quarter Enterprise Campus (TQEC).

The Bristol Innovations Zone (BIZ) is a transformative, interdisciplinary approach to collaborative innovation. With flexible co-working and event spaces, specialist labs, state-of-the-art equipment, skills training, support services and events, BIZ is growing an active community of forward-thinking businesses into a dynamic deep tech innovation ecosystem.

### **Who will run Bristol Innovations Zone?**

Bristol Innovations Zone will be managed by the same entity that has been managing the Engine Shed, namely the University of Bristol's subsidiary, Science Research Foundation (SRF).

### **What will be available at Bristol Innovations Zone?**

The Bristol Innovations Zone has been set up to support deep-tech businesses and their associated community. It will be found on Level 1 and Level 4 of the main academic building. On the first floor, you will find the Bristol Innovations Zone lounge, a place for collaboration, meeting, connection and more. On the fourth floor, the Bristol Innovations Zone will offer hot desk space, fixed desks, labs, offices and meeting rooms.

Event spaces will be available in the main academic building. These spaces will be managed by the central events and venues team at the University. More details will be available soon.

## **Is there a restriction on the types of companies that can use Bristol Innovations Zone?**

Yes. Bristol Innovations Zone has defined criteria for selecting members and customers, reflecting its deep-tech mission, commercial model and West of England Mayoral Combined Authority grant requirements. Companies must meet essential criteria such as:

- Desire to engage with the University
- Willingness to participate in the innovation ecosystem
- Alignment with deep-tech sectors (quantum, AI, cyber, semiconductors, advanced materials, etc.)
- Innovation activity and commercial readiness

## **What do we mean by ‘deep tech’?**

Deep tech refers to technologies that are based on substantial scientific or engineering advances and require significant research and development to bring to market. These innovations often involve complex hardware, software, or a combination of both, and they typically aim to solve big, fundamental problems rather than incremental improvements.

## **Why does the Bristol Innovations Zone focus on deep tech sectors?**

The main academic building at Temple Quarter Enterprise Campus will house a number of different features including academic faculties, a public realm, civic engagement spaces and the Bristol Innovations Zone. The Bristol Innovations Zone is funded by a grant from the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority, and this stipulates that the Zone will cultivate a deep tech community.

Other spaces within the main academic building will include a significant ‘public realm’ space on the ground floor which will be open to everyone. In addition, the inclusion activities that you might associate with Engine Shed will continue and expand through the activities of Bristol Rooms, the Story Exchange and wider activity across TQEC.

## **Is the Bristol Innovations Zone lounge the same as the Engine Shed lounge?**

Yes and no. The Bristol Innovations Zone lounge is a flexible, co-working and networking space on the first floor of the main academic building which is open to members. Unlike the Engine Shed lounge, it is specifically designed to bring the deep tech community together.

It is similar to the main space that you find in the Engine Shed today. It will provide tables for laptop working, small meeting tables and more casual seating areas; all open plan with the opportunity to work and meet with other members, academics and university staff.

**Where can I work from if I'm not a deep tech company?**

The building will have a variety of public spaces including a canteen, informal booths and comfortable seating. We can also help with suggestions for alternative office and fixed desk providers, please ask one of the team.

**Contact details - Who do I contact:****For more information on Bristol Innovations Zone and Temple Quarter Enterprise Campus?**

[bristol-innovations-zone@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:bristol-innovations-zone@bristol.ac.uk)

**For PR and Media enquiries?**

Email: [press-office@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:press-office@bristol.ac.uk)

Telephone: +44 (0)117 428 2489

<https://www.bristol.ac.uk/communications-marketing/media/>

**To share my concerns?**

[Richard.adlington@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:Richard.adlington@bristol.ac.uk)

**For help identifying my next steps as a tenant/member of Engine Shed or SETsquared?**

Speak to one of the Engine Shed team or email [paige.melhuish@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:paige.melhuish@bristol.ac.uk)

If you have stories about the role that Engine Shed has played in your career or business, we'd love to hear them. Please share them by completing [this short form](#).