

When can we return to in-person attendance, and what will this look like?

Understandably, there are areas of uncertainty around events in 2022, so we have had to make some planning assumptions for our centrally organised events. Research undertaken by the RSC and by industry partners indicates that there is a growing intention to return to in-person attendance at scientific events, but our plans need to be adaptable to change. We are working on the assumption that when a return to in-person events is feasible*, we are likely to see a lower footfall in physical attendance at conferences and symposia than pre-pandemic levels during the first year. We are therefore treating 2022 as a period of recovery for physical events, and where possible, we are taking a hybrid approach to enabling delegate attendance.

The core principles we are operating on are:

Where an event can be successfully run virtually, it will remain online

Where an event cannot achieve maximum success in terms of delegate experience**, we will plan for it to be hybrid where possible

There will be exceptions where an event must be in-person, but these are limited in number.

What is 'hybrid' for centrally organised events in 2022?

Event organisers across the industry are starting to plan for a hybrid approach to events in 2022. This document is based on the best information we have in January 2022, and we are aware of the need for on-going agility in adapting our plans to changing market conditions.

*At the time of writing, most RSC events with a physical component are planned for after Easter 2022.

** Most events that cannot take a hybrid approach will be in-person.

