



Bitesize Guide: Researcher Development

What is Researcher Development?

Researcher development supports the growth of you as a researcher by developing your research and transferable skills, helping you to grow your academic network and build your research profile. We can provide advice and support you to:

- Get the most from your current role or research programme;
- Develop your skills as a researcher
- Create a stronger research profile for applications for funding and future posts



HR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH

Northumbria University was awarded the European Commission HR Excellence in Research Award in January 2013 rewarding the University's commitment to supporting both research careers and excellent working conditions for researchers. This award is closely linked to the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers which Northumbria University committed to in 2012. The Concordat is an agreement between the funders and employers of researchers in the UK regarding the ways in which researchers and their careers should be supported.

Both of these underline the University's firm commitment to developing its researchers, whether they are pursuing a dedicated research career or carrying out research as part of a wider teaching and research role.

Researcher Development for academic staff

Early Career Researchers Forum

The Northumbria University Early Career Researchers Forum provides an opportunity for academics and final stage PhD students in the formative stages of their research careers - regardless of any formal definition of an 'ECR' - to meet, network, discuss research challenges and opportunities, share experiences and advocate for specific research support and events at the University. For more information see <https://www.northumbria.ac.uk/StaffResearcherDevelopment>

Research Mentoring at Northumbria

Northumbria University recognises the importance of supporting and nurturing research staff to enable them to develop professionally and personally. A research mentoring framework has been developed closely with Northumbria's ECR Forum to ensure all research-active staff have access to mentors. This gives staff a confidential and supportive channel through which to discuss issues related to their research, professional and personal development. More information can be found on the Human Resources section of the Staff Portal.

Academic Development and Research Training Programme (ADRT)

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Support for Postgraduate Research Students (PGRs)

Northumbria is committed to enabling doctoral students to develop their full potential, both in completing their research degree programme successfully, and in career planning for the future. Researcher development is therefore central to each individual student’s research programme during their doctoral studies.

Professional Development and Research Training Programme (PDRT)

All PGRs have access to a flexible researcher development programme, organised at University level to provide the skills needed to successfully complete their doctorate.

<https://www.northumbria.ac.uk/PGRResearcherDevelopment>

Researcher Development Personal Planner

The PDRT helps PGRs progress through their doctorate by identifying their existing skills and providing opportunities to further develop their skills and experience. Undertaken annually with the support of their supervisor, and recorded online, this process helps PGRs identify their strengths and areas to develop for the future.

<https://www.northumbria.ac.uk/PGRResearcherDevelopment>

Financial Support Schemes

PGR development is not only about formal courses and training. Your developmental needs may also be about gaining different experience such as participating in research events, conferences, and developing your research network. A research conference and events support scheme offers financial support to PGRs presenting at conferences, or planning to run their own.

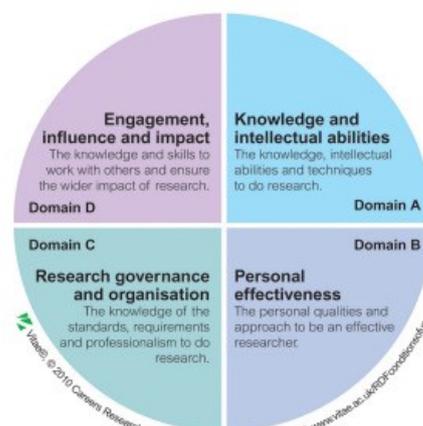
<https://www.northumbria.ac.uk/PGRResearcherDevelopment>

Vitae

Vitae is a national organisation that champions professional and career development for researchers. Our training programmes for staff and students are mapped against the Vitae Researcher Development Framework and supports researchers in four key areas:

- Knowledge and intellectual abilities
- Personal effectiveness
- Research governance and organisation
- Engagement, influence and impact

Northumbria is a member of the Vitae Network and staff and students can access the full catalogue of Vitae’s digital resources www.vitae.ac.uk



Researcher Development at the University Library

The library offers its own researcher development programme for staff and PGR students.

<http://library.northumbria.ac.uk/home>

Further Help and Guidance

For information on Staff or PGR Researcher Development please contact researchsupport@northumbria.ac.uk