The UK’s European university

RESEARCHER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME 2017/18

The Graduate School
RESEARCHER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

The Graduate School’s Researcher Development Programme is free and is designed to equip postgraduate and postdoctoral researchers with a full range of research and transferable skills. The programme aims to improve their effectiveness when conducting research and increase their employability for a variety of careers by the end of their research project.

The Researcher Development Programme (RDP) offering, of over 200 workshops, covering over 70 topics, varies from one-to-one sessions to 2-day workshops, with some being Faculty specific and others cross-disciplinary. The workshops are run by academic and professional service staff as well as some external consultants. These sessions provide the opportunity for researchers to interact with students from different departments and backgrounds which can have very beneficial outcomes for their research and development.

Workshop bookings:
For dates of future workshops and for workshop descriptions please register with our on-line booking system at: https://bloom.kent.ac.uk

Support and opportunities at Kent

Associate Fellowship Scheme (AFS)
The University offers the Associate Fellowship Scheme (AFS) which is a formal qualification intended for Graduate Teaching Assistants, part-time and sessional teachers.

For more information visit: www.kent.ac.uk/teaching/qualifications/pgche

Statistics Consultancy Desk
The Statistics Consultancy Desk, run by the SMSAS Statistics Group, is free for postgraduate students and covers all aspects of the quantitative analysis of research problems in a wide variety of fields.

For more information visit: www.kent.ac.uk/smsas/statistics/statsdesk

Library resources
The library makes available a variety of resources and information for postgraduate researchers, which can be found here: www.kent.ac.uk/library/students/postgraduate.html

Research Café
The postgraduate research café has been created to provide an opportunity for researchers to showcase their research in an informal setting and network over coffee with researchers from a variety of disciplines.

For more information visit: www.kent.ac.uk/graduateschool/skills/programmes/researchcafe.html

IT online learning guides
Information Services offer a variety of learning guides that can be used for self-paced learning or reference material. Topics include; ECDL (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Improving Productivity) and more.

For more information visit: www.kent.ac.uk/itservices/training/studenttraining/learning-guides

PG Experience Awards
The PG Experience Award allows postgraduates to apply for funding to run events or projects which have an interdisciplinary focus and will enhance the postgraduate experience at Kent. Applying will help to develop skills in bid writing, budget preparation and project delivery.

For more information visit: www.kent.ac.uk/graduateschool/news/pgexperience.html
**Researcher Development Framework**

The workshops that run as part of the RDP are mapped to the Vitae Researcher Development Framework (RDF). The RDF is a professional development framework which describes the knowledge, behaviours and attributes required of successful researchers.

The RDP provision complements subject-specific research skills training delivered by academic schools.

We are always keen to receive suggestions from students for additional workshops and will do our best to provide these if there is sufficient demand.

**Researcher Development Assessment**

The Researcher Development Assessment is a tool through which all new research students are able to consider their existing portfolio of skills, as well as the skills they need to develop while undertaking their doctoral research and for their future careers. Students are introduced to the RDA during the ‘Kickstart your PhD’ workshop and following this workshop students should complete the document and discuss this in detail with their supervisor.

Completion of an RDA is a condition of the probation review for all new PhD students (at 10 months for full-time students, 12 months for part-time students).

**Key contacts**

**Carla Doolan**  
Postgraduate Development Co-ordinator  
Carla is responsible for co-ordinating and enhancing the operation of the Researcher Development Programme and the on-line booking system.

**Dr Jo Collins**  
Postgraduate Development Advisor  
Jo leads on the development of new postgraduate training initiatives for the Graduate School and delivers workshops as part of the programme.

Enquiries about the programme should be directed to skills@kent.ac.uk in the first instance.
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Mapping to Vitae’s Researcher Development Framework

- Knowledge base (A1)
- Cognitive abilities (A2)
- Creativity (A3)
- Personal qualities (B1)
- Self-management (B2)
- Professional and career development (B3)
- Professional conduct (C1)
- Research management (C2)
- Finance, funding and resources (C3)
- Working with others (D1)
- Communication and dissemination (D2)
- Engagement and Impact (D3)
- Effective Researcher
- Preparation for your Viva
- Information management workshops
- Research methods and data analysis workshops
- Communication, engagement and impact workshops
- Career development workshops
- Personal effectiveness workshops
- Writing and publication workshops
- Approaches to teaching workshops
- Wellbeing workshops