

## Keynote speakers:

- **Professor Sir Richard Brook**, Director, Leverhulme Trust
- **Dr Andrew Dearing**, Secretary General, European Industrial Research Management Association (EIRMA)
- **Professor Philip Esler**, Chief Executive, AHRC
- **Dr Janet Metcalfe**, Chair and Head, Vitae
- **Professor Ella Ritchie**, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Teaching and Learning, Newcastle University



*Vitae – the course of one's life or career*

**‘ Provided me with a great, wide-ranging overview of developments. ’**

Conference participant 2007

**‘ The workshops I attended really were that – truly participative and encouraged ideas, experience and sharing. ’**

Conference participant 2007

## Vitae Research Development Conference 2008:

8-9 September 2008,  
Novotel London West

Supported by

**NESTA** Making Innovation Flourish

[www.researcherconferences.org.uk](http://www.researcherconferences.org.uk)

Vitae is dedicated to realising the potential of researchers. It supports the personal, professional and career development of researchers in the UK and will play a major role in the global drive for higher-level skills and innovation. Vitae is the first national organisation to champion the professional and career development of both doctoral researchers and research staff in universities and research institutes.

Vitae works with everyone who has a commitment to develop the potential of researchers, including national and international organisations, government, funders of research, universities and other employers of researchers, and researchers themselves.

Vitae is supported by Research Councils UK (RCUK) and managed by CRAC: The Career Development Organisation



Incorporating the UK GRAD Programme and UKHERD

Significant and rapid changes in the global environment create both opportunities and challenges for building the skills base of UK researchers during the next five years. The first Vitae conference will focus on a new era of professional and development support for researchers in the UK.

The government and national stakeholders have stressed the need to increase the value of the UK research base, ensuring international visibility and respect. The importance of sustainable and attractive research careers is critical in a world where 'the UK cannot compete on cost, [but] must raise our game on skills, training and knowledge'. There have been repeated calls for a new national framework for research careers. The focus on 'driving up higher level skills that contribute to innovation in business' was outlined in the recent Innovation Nation white paper.

The revised Concordat to support the career development of researchers, launched in June 2008, aims to demonstrate internationally the high standards of management and support that can be expected by researchers in the UK. It creates a single framework for institutions seeking to meet the expectations of a number of different funders within the UK as well as the European Commission. It provides a new imperative to review and improve professional development support, particularly for research staff: 'an overarching issue is how universities and vice-chancellors think of their research staff, in particular those at the start of their careers... there is an opportunity for mindsets to change.'

This conference will address the strategic and practical implications of a changing framework of support for researchers in the UK.

### The conference will address five themes:

- strategies for sustaining personal and career support for researchers
- new models and approaches for understanding researchers as professionals
- supporting innovation and skills development
- understanding, developing and promoting researcher careers
- research, evidence and evaluation relating to the skills and careers of researchers.

### Participants will:

- explore the key issues in developing researchers over the next five years
- discuss strategic and practical approaches to supporting the skills and career development of postgraduate researchers and research staff in light of a changing global and national context
- share ideas and practice with a network of all those who have a stake in developing the UK's researchers.

### Who should attend:

**The conference is aimed at those with a stake in supporting the development of postgraduate researchers and research staff in institutions, including:**

- senior managers in research organisations, with responsibility for strategy, recruitment, training and management of postgraduate researchers or research staff
- professional associations and institutions including the research councils, government representatives and policy advisors
- research managers and administrators
- careers and HR professionals working with postgraduate researchers or research staff
- training co-ordinators, staff developers and trainers working with researchers.

The Vitae Researcher Development Conference 2008 is delivered by the CRAC Events Team. Up-to-date programme and administrative details are available at [www.researcherconferences.org.uk](http://www.researcherconferences.org.uk)

### Discount

If three members of the same HEI want to book for the conference, one place out of three will be FREE of charge. If you are entitled to this option, please book using the ONLINE BOOKING FORM. Please note that this option can only apply to non-residential places and only if ALL participants book within the same online booking form.

## Workshops will include:

- Updates on the EUA Council for Doctoral education and Bologna process
- What will the Concordat mean in practice?
- Getting started: new to supporting postgraduate researchers and research staff?
- PRES and the changing perceptions of researchers
- Recruiting, developing and retaining researchers
- Institutional strategies for sustaining professional and careers support
- Developing an underpinning competency framework for researchers in the UK
- Exploring intrapreneurship in the research environment
- Creating leaders and managers for the future
- Measuring the impact of skills development
- Supporting researchers careers and career choices
- Responding to diversity with part-time study and flexible modes of working

## Contributors will include:

- **Mark Beatson**, Head of Science and Innovation Analysis, Department for Innovation, University and Skills
- **Professor Chris Park**, Director of the Graduate School, Lancaster University and Senior Associate, Higher Education Academy
- **Dr Fiona Denney**, Head of Graduate Development, Kings College, University of London
- **Dr Odette Dewhurst**, Research Training and Development Officer, University of Leeds
- **Mark Gittoes**, Analytical Services Group, HEFCE
- **Dr Sharon Gordon**, Skills Development Advisor, University of Aberdeen
- **Dr Gerard Hall**, Research Training and Roberts Money Manager, University of Nottingham
- **Alison Mitchell**, Manager, Collaborative Training Account, University of Strathclyde
- **Kate Reading**, Portfolio Manager, Research Careers and Diversity Unit, Research Councils UK
- **Dr Jane Wellens**, Leadership Development for Principle Investigators project, University of Leicester
- A representative of Universities Personnel Association

# Conference programme

**Conference Chair: Professor Mary Ritter, Pro-Rector for Postgraduate Affairs, Imperial College London**

## DAY ONE: Monday 8 September

- 10.00** Conference registration
- 11.00** Welcome and introduction
- 11.15** Drivers for UK research in a global context
- 11.30** Research aspiration in an age of professionalism
- 11.45** Responding to a changing environment: a UK HEI perspective
- 12.00** Reflecting on key themes  
Interactive session enabling participants to discuss and raise questions in groups in response to presentations
- 12.30** Q&A panel session with morning speakers
- 13.00** Lunch, networking and exhibition
- 14.15** Workshop session A  
Exploring issues that relate specifically to postgraduate researchers or research staff
- 15.25** Workshop session B  
Repeat of previous session
- 16.30** Refreshments and facilitated networking sessions
- 17.30** Optional fringe sessions until 18.00  
Providing further scope for participants to network and build relationships around issues of shared interest
- 19.15** Reception  
Launch of the Vitae programme
- 20.00** Dinner

## DAY TWO: Tuesday 9 September

- 09.30** Welcome and introduction
- 09.40** Strategies for sustaining personal and career support for researchers  
Chair: Jeffrey Defries, Chief Executive, CRAC
- 10.45** Refreshments
- 11.15** Workshop session C
- 12.45** Lunch
- 14.00** Workshop session D  
Repeat of previous session
- 15.30** Making an impact – creating the future
- 15.50** Conference closing
- 16.00** Tea and end of conference

## For more information or help with your booking, please contact us:

Marketa Kubickova ■ Events Co-ordinator  
CRAC ■ Sheraton House ■ Castle Park  
Cambridge ■ CB3 0AX

Telephone: 01223 448 546

Fax: 01223 311 708

Email: [marketa.kubickova@crac.org.uk](mailto:marketa.kubickova@crac.org.uk)

# Booking Form

Please post to the address below or fax to 01223 311 708

Vitae Researcher Development Conference 2008:

## Realising the potential of researchers

8-9 September 2008, Novotel London West

### Participant Details:

Name:	
Job Title:	
Company Name:	
Company Address:	
Country:	
Company Postcode:	Telephone:
Email:	
Dietary Needs:	
Other Needs:	
How did you hear about the event?:	

Please note you can also register and pay online by credit card or cheque at [www.researcherconferences.org.uk](http://www.researcherconferences.org.uk)  
This form may be photocopied if you are registering more than one participant.

### TERMS AND CONDITIONS

#### Data Protection Act

Please note that the information supplied on this form may be stored on our computer records for data processing purposes.

#### Privacy Policy

The Careers Research and Advisory Centre (CRAC) Limited ensures that all personal and transactional information is protected to the highest standards. We never make your personal details available to companies outside CRAC for marketing purposes, although our representatives may hold your data so that your details and/or order can be processed and/or account maintained. We may also need to disclose your information if required to do so by law.

#### Personal Information

Personal information is anything that enables us to identify you as an individual, for example, your name and email address. When you supply information to us, we are legally obliged by the Data Protection Act 1998 to ensure that the information you have provided is only used for the purpose for which it was requested, and to ensure that the data is kept securely.

#### What Does Providing My Personal Information Mean?

When you provide us with your personal data, you are agreeing to consent to the collection and use of any information you provide in accordance with the above purposes and this privacy statement.

#### Notification of Change of Privacy Policy

We reserve the right to amend this privacy statement. Should this happen we will post a notice of the change on the website, and you will be deemed to have accepted the changes.

#### Booking Conditions

No reservation can be accepted unless the full amount has been collected. The balance must be received at least four weeks before the conference. In the event of a cancellation, if written notice reaches CRAC:

- four weeks before the conference a full refund will be made
- between four and two weeks before the conference, a refund will be made less 20% of your participant fee + VAT
- less than two weeks before the conference, no refund will be made but a substitute may be accepted.

Full details and joining instructions will be sent to participants four weeks in advance. If you have not received details within a week of the conference, please telephone CRAC Events on (01223) 448546.

### Rates:

- One-night residential £441 +VAT
- One night residential member £369 +VAT
- Non-residential £360 +VAT
- Non-residential member £288 +VAT
- Day rate + Dinner £280 +VAT
- Day rate £230 +VAT

Please indicate which day(s):

- 8 September  9 September

Attendance to the conference dinner

- yes  no

- Residential places includes accommodation on 8th September, breakfast, lunches, conference dinner and refreshments
- Non-residential places includes refreshments, lunches and gala dinner on 8th September 2008
- **NOTE:** Residential places at the Researcher Development Conference 2008 include accommodation where the conference is taking place. Accommodation at the Novotel London West is limited in number and will be on first come - first serve basis. **Availability of the residential package will be shown on the online booking form. We recommend online booking for residential places.**

### Special Offer:

If three members of the same HEI want to book for the conference, one place out of three will be FREE of charge. If you are entitled to this option, please book using the ONLINE BOOKING FORM.  
**Please note that this option can only apply to non-residential places and only if ALL participants book within the same online booking form.**

**Payment Details:** I wish to pay by:  **cheque** *Please make cheque payable to CRAC*  
 **credit card** *Please fill in section (a) below*  
 **invoice** *Please fill in section (b) below*

#### (a) please complete if you are paying by credit card

Please debit my: <input type="checkbox"/> Mastercard <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> American Express <input type="checkbox"/> Maestro/Switch <input type="checkbox"/> Solo	
Total Amount:	Card Number:
Valid from:	Expiry date: Issue Number"
Cardholder Name:	
Cardholder Signature:	
Purchase order/ref:	

#### (b) please complete if you wish to be invoiced

Please invoice to: Name:	
Address:	
Country:	
Postcode:	Telephone:
Email:	

Please tick here if you would like us to keep you informed of our forthcoming conferences. We will not give your information to a company outside of CRAC. Please see Terms and Conditions for our commitment to the Data Protection.

Please send this completed form (with accompanying cheque if appropriate) to  
**CRAC Events, Sheraton House, Castle Park, Cambridge CB3 0AX**