

# Building an evidence base of the impact of researcher development activities

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The  
Rugby  
Team  
evaluating the impacts of  
developing researcher skills

# Building an evidence base of the impact of researcher development activities

1. The story so far...
2. Highlights to date
3. Next steps

# A comprehensive approach

1. Rugby Team – sector led activity in partnership with stakeholders
2. Postgraduate Research Experience Survey
3. Careers in Research Online Survey
4. RCUK Cohort study
5. Concordat Benchmarking activity
6. Vitae Career Stories

# The Rugby Team Impact Framework is:

1. 'an evaluation model for training and development activity specifically tailored to the context of training and development of researchers in higher education (HE)'.  
2. A methodology  
3. A national framework against which evaluations can be mapped

[www.vitae.ac.uk/rugbyteam](http://www.vitae.ac.uk/rugbyteam)

# The story so far...

1. August 2008 - RTIF is referred to in the Roberts reporting letter and HEIs are encouraged to add examples of evaluation practice to the Vitae Database of Practice
2. Vitae Conference 2008 - RTIF published
3. Policy Forum 2009 - a first update report on evaluation activity in the sector (9 examples)
4. Vitae Conference 2009 - 'The Rugby Team Impact Framework: one year on' (27 examples)

# Impact:

Improves research outputs

grant writing success

fellowship success

performance in research

## University of Leeds

Grant Writing Programmes

Programme success rate 33%

National average 19-26%

## University of Sheffield

Fellowship Careers Day & coaching programme

Increases in number of fellowship applications, numbers obtaining interviews and awards

# Impact:

Enhances the postgraduate researcher and supervisor experience

## Cardiff and Durham University

There is a positive relationship between engagement in needs analysis and research students having a positive view of the research student experience

# Impact:

Enhances  
employability

## The University of Leeds/Vitae

employability case studies

## University of Nottingham placements programme

## Leicester University

GRADschool

Participants gained employment and  
directly attributed this to the training  
provision

# Impact:

Enhances and increases the public understanding and outreach activity of researchers

The University of Southampton

The Institute of Cancer Research

Outreach programmes have led to increases in activity and fund raising

## Building the evidence: the future...

1. Continue to collate impact information – a report to the Vitae annual conference in September 2010
2. Continue to enhance ‘rigour’ in evaluation to support attribution
3. Increase the number of studies and size of data sets
4. Develop further longitudinal studies
5. Develop independent studies

## Summary

1. The sector has made and continues to make significant progress in evaluating the impact of researcher development activity
2. An important body of evidence already exists
3. Ongoing activity across the sector will enhance the evidence over the coming months
4. It is important that the sector continues with this high level of engagement in evaluation
5. Vitae Conference 2010 – a significant body of evaluation of impact evidence will be presented