

London Hub E-bulletin - Issue #1

London, 2 September 2009

The London Hub E-bulletin has been created to keep staff who support researchers up to date with the latest regional and national news of professional, personal and career development for researchers. The target audience to whom the information should be disseminated is indicated in the core subject.

The e-bulletin is divided in 4 categories:

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EVENTS

- **Vitae connections: using Vitae resources to develop the skills and careers of researchers**

Thursday 19 November 2009, 10am-4pm
London.

This event is aimed at those who are using, or are considering using, Vitae programmes and resources (programmes include GRADschools, 'How to be an effective researcher', 'Broadening horizons', 'Careers in academia'). It will provide an opportunity to share practice, increase awareness of Vitae training resources, build relationships, and input into the development of future Vitae resources for institutions.

The event is free of charge and further information about the day's programme and details about how to book your place, are available from the Vitae website at www.vitae.ac.uk/vitaeconnections

- **Vitae South East Hub one day workshop: Implementing the Concordat**

Thursday 29 October 2009, 09.30 – 15.30
Somerville College, University of Oxford

This one day workshop organised by the University of Oxford, in partnership with the Vitae South East Hub, will offer an opportunity to hear about and discuss approaches to implementing the Concordat drawing on progress made so far by Universities in the South East and London. It will highlight what the Concordat will mean for researchers and their employers, and the impact the Concordat is having at local and national levels.

If you would like further details or would like to book a place please contact liisa.worrall@learning.ox.ac.uk by 5 October 2009.

- **Inclusion and Engagement**

Monday 14 December 2009,
London.

A highly-practical one-day event in which leading practitioners share their experience and insight from their work in the fields of inclusion and engagement within museums and galleries.

Among the key issues which will be addressed will be:

- how to obtain sustainable, ongoing funding to support long-term programmes which make a difference
- how to build the right organisational structure for effective programme delivery
- how to evaluate the short- and long-term impact of your projects
- how to reaching the most excluded groups or individuals
- how to prioritise your work with distinct communities
- how to use new community-based communication media
- learning from the experience of other sectors working in the field

Presentations from highly experienced speakers will include strategic overviews, practical how-to sessions, and detailed case-studies.

Who should attend?

This event will be of value to professionals involved in: social inclusion and community outreach and engagement; audience development; developing access; learning and education; project management; organisational development; interpretation and presentation; information services; strategic planning; human resources services.

To book your place, visit <http://www.museumsetc.com/?p=933>

- **Winter Conference 2010 – The Future of the Research Degree: Diversity, Convergence, Comparability**

Monday 15 February 2010, 9.45am-4pm,
The British Library Conference Centre, London.

The traditional research degree has undergone considerable transformation in recent years. This has included changes in content and of the management of the doctoral candidate that in some ways has made an institution's awards in all disciplines more comparable. However, in parallel with these developments, in the UK, Europe and further afield, there have been many attempts at the creation of "new" doctorates each of which must achieve comparable outcomes to the traditional PhD. The research Masters has undergone similar transformations.

The conference will review the current nature of the UK doctorates and research Masters in all their richness, consider the global picture, and discuss how these qualifications might develop in the future. To book your place, go to <http://www.ukcge.ac.uk/events/eventsarea/wc10.htm>

PUBLICATIONS

- **Quality and Standards of Postgraduate Research Degrees 2009**

Gill Clarke, University of Bristol and Stuart Powell, University of Hertfordshire
UK Council for Graduate Education

This report seeks to identify the current context within which doctoral level education is being undertaken in the UK and review the kinds of developments that are taking place. The report revisits some of the thematic issues that were referred to in the 1996 report, namely the purposes of a doctoral education, assessment mechanisms and international aspects of doctoral education. This paper is intended to promote further discussion across the sector regarding research degree education.

The full report is available at

<http://www.ukcge.ac.uk/Resources/UKCGE/Documents/PDF/UK%20Council-Quality%20and%20Standards%20Book.pdf>

- **Leading the world: the economic impact of UK arts and humanities research.**

AHRC
(July 2009)

This report summarises why the £110 million that the UK Government allocates annually to the AHRC represents an excellent investment for the nation. The arts and humanities cover a very wide range of intellectual and practice-based disciplines and research areas. These include history, classics, archaeology, English literature, philosophy, religion, law, modern languages, linguistics, informatics, media studies, drama, and music and design. Research into these subjects is an investment that generates wealth, improves public policy and helps to maintain quality of life. To confirm the truth of this statement the report answers three critical questions:

- Why is arts and humanities research important?
- Why should the taxpayer pay for arts and humanities research?
- Why fund arts and humanities research through the AHRC?

The report is downloadable at

<http://www.ahrc.ac.uk/About/Policy/Documents/leadingtheworld.pdf>

- **RCUK Code of Good Research Conduct sets out clear guidelines**

Research Councils UK (RCUK) have launched a new policy document setting out clear guidance on best practice for researchers. The Code, developed after a wide consultation last year with partners across the higher education and research sector, aims to provide clear guidelines to help researchers and research organisations achieve the highest standards possible when carrying out research. Covering a wide range of suggested best practice areas, from the need for appropriate training and development at the early career stage to how to handle the resignation of a researcher under investigation, the Code is designed to fit in with research organisations' own internal procedures. To find out more, the document can be downloaded at

<http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/cmsweb/downloads/rcuk/reviews/grc/goodresearchconductcode.pdf>

- **Students and universities: eleventh report of session 2008–09.**
House of Commons, Innovation, Universities, Science and Skills Committee
(July 2009)

The experience of the student is at the heart of higher education. Successive governments have successfully increased the numbers of students gaining a higher education qualification but debate has raged about whether this has resulted in a diminution of the quality of the student experience. How has the student experience changed? Is it getting better or worse? Are students getting value for money out of higher education? Part of the answer lies in the needs for a change of culture at the top in higher education. You can download the report at

www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmselect/cmdius/170/170i.pdf

TOOLS

- **'Planning your doctorate - schedule for success' - PGRs**

This year's Vitae 'Planning your doctorate' wall planners are now available and we would like to distribute copies to all first year PGRs who will be starting their PhD in the autumn.

If you are not familiar with the planner it gives step-by-step advice and tips on how to complete a PhD and reach all the key stages from beginning research to submission. It has proven to be very popular when distributed in induction packs or at induction events. You can find a copy on the Vitae website via the following URLs

http://www.vitae.ac.uk/CMS/files/upload/Schedule_for_success_planner.pdf

http://www.vitae.ac.uk/CMS/files/upload/Schedule_for_success_tips.pdf

If you would like to receive paper copies of the planner and have not already been in touch with us, please let us know how many you would like to receive together with a postal address.

- **New videos show how researchers use advanced technology.**

JISC

(August 2009)

New videos showing how JISC is helping researchers achieve faster, better and different research through virtual research environments have just been released. The videos feature projects from JISC's virtual research environment (VRE) programme, which is trying to find ways to connect people and speed up research processes across disciplines.

www.jisc.ac.uk/Home/news/stories/2009/08/videos.aspx

- **University researchers and the job market. A practical career development resource for research staff. - RS**

AGCAS

(April 2009)

University Researchers and the Job Market is a practical career development resource for research staff. It is intended to offer support and encouragement to researchers who are considering their next career move, either inside or outside of academia.

The publication is available as a complete document or as separate volumes at www.agcas.org.uk/agcas_resources/115-University-Researchers-and-the-Job-Market

- Volume I - The Career Plan (Making Choices; Identifying Skills; Career Direction; Researching Options; Building Academic Networks)
- Volume II - The Effective Job Selection Package (Making Applications; Interviews; Assessment Centres)
- Volume III - The Support (Visiting the University Careers Service; Making the most of Human Resources)

- **London Researcher Development Opportunities – *PGRs & RS***

Don't forget to add your training opportunities and courses on the London Researcher Development Opportunities website at www.lrdo.org.uk.

This website is dedicated to the sharing of programmes between institutions across the London area and has been created by the Vitae London Hub. You will find a central list for development opportunities together with their location and date.

If you don't have editor rights and want to add your training opportunities please contact the London Hub at londonhub@vitae.ac.uk

CONSULTATIONS

- **JISC seeks feedback on its future strategy**

December 2009 will see the launch of JISC's next three-year strategy and it is seeking feedback on its first draft. JISC is seeking responses to the consultation process from UK higher education and further education institutions, membership bodies, mission groups, key partners and other relevant organisations. In light of the changing environment, JISC is keen to know if the planned future investment priorities are focused on the areas of greatest importance to those in education and research. Responses are welcomed as soon as possible; closing date is 24 September 2009. www.jisc.ac.uk/aboutus/strategy/strategyreview1012