

VITAE GOOD PRACTICE EVENT 20th NOVEMBER 2008

Establishing Links and Supporting Biosciences Researchers at Sutton Bonington Campus, University of Nottingham

1. Background

Sutton Bonington Campus is approx 11 miles from main University Campus but has significant numbers of postdoctoral and postgraduate scientists. It is not always possible for them to attend career training and support events held at University Park and feedback received indicated that researchers would welcome bespoke events at Sutton Bonington. A number were also unaware of the individual support and guidance available through the Centre for Career Development.

2. Establishing Links between Local Staff Development Representatives and Careers Adviser Research Staff/Postgraduate Research Students

Through attendance at a regular university wide meeting of school and faculty staff development representatives I met the then Chair of the SB Biosciences Staff Development Committee. I was able to give an initial overview of the specific support available to postdoctoral researchers and indicate my ability to bring bespoke career management training to them. This initial conversation resulted in contact being made with the postdoc representatives on the staff development committee and we worked together to set up an introductory careers workshop for postdoctoral staff. This half day workshop, with lunch, was held in May 08 with 23 postdocs attending. The programme offered an overview of career planning and researcher career issues both inside and outside academia, a short introduction to CVs and interview skills. It was designed to be a taster session with the intention of developing a more intensive programme subject to feedback and response from the participants.

The evaluation and feedback was positive and this has led to further work on a follow up programme (see point 3) and has also resulted in my attendance at a faculty staff development meeting. I hope to be able to continue working directly through the staff development group and with the post doctoral community so that the support offered is tailored to their needs.

3. February – March 2009 Programme

1. Career Planning – Luck or Management?

The workshop will use the Planned Happenstance Approach to career management and offer researchers at SB new insights into the events that have occurred so far in their careers and how they can use these insights to help them in the future.

2. CV Workshops – Academic and General CVs

Two hour workshops:

Developing Your Academic CV

Developing a General CV

3. Interview Skills Workshop

A two hour workshop which will help to develop researchers' skills in preparing for, and participating in recruitment interviews.

4. Academic Career Issues

An expert panel of academics who can speak about their career paths and also offer insights into such things as making effective grant applications, academic networking, what makes a good job application and impressing the interview panel.

Clare Jones

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