

# Part-time researchers training package

## for postgraduate researchers

Quote from participants

“*I feel great. This was a good opportunity to discuss and share problems and look at how to make them right.*”

**The part-time researchers training package is a freely available resource for UK higher education institutions. The training package has been developed by Vitae as a resource to organisers of researcher development programmes.**

### Overview

Vitae has explored the experiences of part-time researchers by undertaking a research and resource development project. Findings suggest that many feel isolated and find it challenging to engage in the research community in which they operate and this presents a considerable barrier to them completing their doctorates.

To enhance the experience of part-time researchers, Vitae has produced the following resources for free use by HEIs. These resources can all be accessed from [www.vitae.ac.uk/part-time\\_researcher](http://www.vitae.ac.uk/part-time_researcher) or hard copies of the report and DVD can be requested from [orders@vitae.ac.uk](mailto:orders@vitae.ac.uk):

- a research report on the part-time researcher experience, which is freely available in PDF or hard copy
- a training resource pack for the delivery of a one day training programme, which includes a choice from six 90 minute skills sessions. These materials can be downloaded from the Vitae Database of resources
- film clips offering tips and advice gathered from successful part-time researchers talking about their experiences. These are available in DVD format, through the Vitae website, or via YouTube. The film clips can be embedded in an institution's own website or DVD.

Quote from participants

“ *Very good! Made some really useful contacts and gained some great insights.* ”

## Training programme aims

This interactive one-day programme offers part-time researchers the opportunity to:

- take the time and space to share and discuss, with peers and academics from outside their supervisory arrangements, what research is and how its quality is assessed
- get some succinct training in a range of key areas for part-time researchers.

Skills session topics include:

- academic writing styles
- accessing information
- getting the best from a part-time supervisor
- making progress: avoiding defeatism and self sabotage
- planning to manage your time
- structuring your thesis.

## Training programme delivery

Manuals with all the information needed to organise and deliver the programme are freely available from Vitae and include:

- administration guidelines with timelines
- guidelines and slide templates for facilitators to lead and debrief the programme and skills sessions
- access to a network of experienced external trainers who are able to deliver or support the delivery of the programme on an institution's behalf.

The manuals are flexible enough to allow the programme and the skills sessions to be run as either a stand-alone programme or be integrated into existing programmes.

Further information about the part-time researchers training package can be found on the Vitae website. [www.vitae.ac.uk/part-time\\_researcher](http://www.vitae.ac.uk/part-time_researcher)

## Vitae programmes

Vitae offers several researcher training and development programmes freely available for use by the Higher Education sector.

All programmes are based on an experiential and interactive learning approach and encourage researchers to work and collaborate with peers from a variety of backgrounds and disciplines.

### Vitae resources are:

- piloted in partnership with institutions to ensure that content, resources and support materials are fit for purpose
- supported by a central team who can provide advice and guidance on all aspects of organisation and delivery
- supported by a network of trainers and facilitators who have experience of using the resources and materials
- often developed centrally for use by professionals in HEIs.

### Programmes currently include:

- Broadening horizons: career management for researchers
- Careers in focus
- Careers in focus: academia
- GRADschools
- How to be an effective researcher for postgraduate researchers
- How to be an effective researcher for research staff
- Part-time researcher

For further information on any of these programmes, please visit [www.vitae.ac.uk/vitaeprogrammes](http://www.vitae.ac.uk/vitaeprogrammes)