

## Welcome to the April 2009 edition of Midlands Hub News.

We hope to develop this newsletter to give you the chance to tell us what you have been involved with. We also see the newsletter as our chance to let you know what has been happening across the Vitae network.

In this edition there are articles on the Concordat and the various activities some of you have planned. There is a report on the Researcher Development Framework and other researcher activities. Rachel Blanc, from the London Hub, introduces the ABG, the French equivalent of Vitae and there is news of an exciting national competition to find and support talented scientists, run by NESTA famelab.

We have a new administrative assistant in the Midlands hub. Alison Kakoura joined us on 14th April and in her own words is, "...looking forward to getting thoroughly involved with the Vitae network and to meeting new colleagues countrywide and local."

If you would like to contribute to the next edition of Midlands Hub News please contact the Hub Manager.

**Kate Mahoney** Midlands Hub Manager  
[midlandshub@vitae.ac.uk](mailto:midlandshub@vitae.ac.uk)

## “Beyond the Campus”: An interdisciplinary examination of the Value of Research” a conference report.

By **Zoe Allman**  
Institute of Creative Technologies, De Montfort University

In the Institute of Creative Technologies (IOCT) at De Montfort University (DMU) an email simply reads “Zoë – are you interested in this?”

A conference in January at Cumberland Lodge, Windsor entitled “Beyond the Campus: An interdisciplinary Examination of the Value of Research”. Having never been to a conference I was keen to go. I’m studying transdisciplinarity and looking at interdisciplinarity, so this seemed perfect.

Another email, the Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research at DMU had chosen me to attend. I was really pleased and was off to Windsor.

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## (cont from front page)

The conference aimed to “compare and contrast professional life within and beyond the academy” (Cumberland Lodge web site). The schedule included four plenary sessions, each pairing an academic and professional with PhDs in similar subject areas, two keynote addresses, a research skills talk and doctoral student presentations.

Interdisciplinarity came through the presentations and addresses. Comparing and contrasting those in academia and professional situations was interesting and I was pleasantly surprised to hear similar advice and messages from both sides. Advice and key themes included, “broaden your skill base”, “take risks, talk to people in other disciplines”, “research and analysis skills are always useful” and “recognise when you have been lucky”.

Each student presented their work in progress to a group of peers from a cross-section of disciplines. This was informative and the range of discipline and topic areas prompted further interdisciplinary discussions.

Dr Alastair Niven (Principal) and Andrew Taylor (Acting Director) at Cumberland Lodge made everyone welcome and encouraged great discussions. I hope that there will be similar conferences and if there are please consider going, they are extremely beneficial.

Back in the IOCT I’ve a spring in my step, taking on-board what I’ve heard. I thank Dr Tracy Harwood, Professor Andrew Hugill and Professor Vivienne Lowndes at DMU for encouraging me to attend this conference.

## Staff Supporting Researchers Masterclasses

In 2009, Vitae is offering a programme of five masterclasses focusing on specific areas of training and development within the higher education environment. The masterclasses are aimed at staff supporting researchers who are looking to innovate and develop their training provision.

The five masterclasses will be on the following topics:

- using coaching techniques within training programmes (11th June, London)
- designing effective development programmes for researchers (23rd June, Bristol)
- advanced facilitation skills (14th July, Birmingham)
- training needs analysis and PDP (14th October, Edinburgh)

- evaluation and feedback (11th November, Manchester)

Each masterclass will be led by an expert in the particular topic area with experience within the higher education environment.

For further details please contact Jonathan Roberts at [jonathan.roberts@vitae.ac.uk](mailto:jonathan.roberts@vitae.ac.uk) or visit [www.vitae.ac.uk/staff-supporting-researchers-masterclasses](http://www.vitae.ac.uk/staff-supporting-researchers-masterclasses)

## Broadening horizons: Career management for researchers

The ‘Broadening horizons’ programme is an intensive two-day programme that has been developed for use by UK HEIs. The programme provides researchers with the opportunity, skills and tools to engage proactively in their own career development by using a variety of group-based activities to explore and encourage participants to make better sense of their own career direction and situation.

During the programme participants explore their skills, motivations, values and talents and how they can apply these to their career planning. They are provided with a variety of tools to help them consider what is important to them in a career, what underpins their ambitions, and how they can translate these elements into potential jobs they might like to investigate further.

The programme has been designed in modules so that institutions have the option of running it as a two-day course, two one-day sessions or four half-day sessions.

All the information needed to organise and deliver the programme is available free from Vitae and includes:

- a programme organiser manual with guidelines, additional handouts and suggested timelines
- a programme leader manual which provides guidelines for facilitators to lead and debrief the programme and individual exercises
- a participant learning journal which provides support resources and acts as an aid to capture the learning from the programme.

We also have a network of experienced external trainers who are able to deliver or support the delivery of the programme on your behalf.

For further details please contact Jonathan Roberts at [jonathan.roberts@vitae.ac.uk](mailto:jonathan.roberts@vitae.ac.uk) or visit [www.vitae.ac.uk/broadeninghorizons](http://www.vitae.ac.uk/broadeninghorizons)

The Midlands Hub is running a regional pilot on the 22-23 June. Please Contact Kate Mahoney [k.r.mahoney@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:k.r.mahoney@warwick.ac.uk) if you would like to attend.



# New Vitae Databases

## Database of trainers and developers

The database of trainers and developers provides higher education institutions, and others who work with researchers, with access to experienced individuals working in the field of researcher training and development.

The database includes details of individuals with expertise across a range of development activities including training design and development, training delivery, coaching, mentoring, auditing, reviewing and evaluation, and research into skills development.

For further details please contact Jonathan Roberts at [jonathan.roberts@vitae.ac.uk](mailto:jonathan.roberts@vitae.ac.uk) or visit [www.vitae.ac.uk/database-of-trainers-and-developers](http://www.vitae.ac.uk/database-of-trainers-and-developers)

## Database of resources

The database of resources is a place for sharing training related materials for staff who support the development of researchers. Current resources range from skills training sessions to policy documents.

Institutions are able to upload their own resources onto the database in order to share practice with the sector and can link resources to institutional practices on the database of practice. A number of Vitae resources are already included on the database with plans to add more throughout the year.

To support institutions with the delivery of resources there is a facility to link resources to individuals, on the database of trainers and developers, who have experience and expertise in delivering the materials.

For further details please contact Jonathan Roberts at [jonathan.roberts@vitae.ac.uk](mailto:jonathan.roberts@vitae.ac.uk) or visit [www.vitae.ac.uk/resources](http://www.vitae.ac.uk/resources)

## Researcher activities

This month Vitae launched its 2009 programme of national researcher activities. The 2009 programme is expanded to include a number of new events on top of the traditional GRADschools. The programme caters for research staff and postgraduate researchers, offering a range of events covering a variety of topics.

### For research staff:

**'Advancing in academia'** - taking place on 1 June will be the first event for research staff this year – addressing how to succeed in a competitive and complex research environment and allowing participants to consider the pros and cons of different career options available. Vitae will also be holding a research staff conference on 5 November – bringing together research staff representatives from across institutions and disciplines to discuss the researcher experience.

### For postgraduate researchers:

We are again offering three national **'GRADschools'** and two **'Careers in academia'** events. New activities specifically designed for postgraduate researchers include a **'Careers in focus: environmental sector' event**, 24 September and a **'Creativity in research' workshop**, 7 December.

### For research staff and postgraduate researchers:

A one day event looking in to **'researcher careers and recession'** will run on the 13 July and will enable both research staff and postgraduate researchers to think about the economic climate within which they are operating and to consider what impact it might have on their career. A three day residential course designed to explore and develop researchers' **leadership skills** through experiential learning will run from 28 – 31 July and will also be open to any researcher.

For more information on the events mentioned above please visit Vitae's **events diary**:

[www.vitae.ac.uk/56271/Current-events.html](http://www.vitae.ac.uk/56271/Current-events.html)



# The Part-time Researcher.

## Nationwide Launch of the Midlands Developed Workshops.

In a project managed by the Midlands Hub, a collaborative team from the Universities of Leicester, Nottingham, Loughborough and Warwick has explored the experience of part-time researchers. Findings suggest that many feel isolated and do not feel a part of the research community in which they operate. This presents a considerable barrier to part-time researchers completing their doctorates and entering an academic career. In order to provide part-time researchers the time and space to share their experiences and develop their understanding of the academic environment and process of research, the Midlands Hub developed a series of workshops. Research was undertaken in parallel with these workshops to investigate the needs of part-time researchers and suggest ways to enhance their experience.

On 19 May Vitae will launch all of resources for the Part-time Researcher Workshops for UK higher education institutions (HEIs) to use. The resources will include:

- a research report focusing on the part-time researcher experience
- a resource pack for training professionals charged with supporting part-time researchers
- a DVD offering tips and advice gathered from successful part-time researchers.

To book to attend the launch event or find out more about the 'Part-time researcher' resources visit [www.vitae.ac.uk/part-time\\_researcher](http://www.vitae.ac.uk/part-time_researcher)

## Part-time Researcher Workshops 2009 – Places Still available!

After a very successful pilot series of workshops in 2007-08, culminating in a Time Higher Education Award Nomination, the Midlands Hub is pleased to announce that the Part-time Researcher Workshops will run again in 2009. The series of events has been updated and renewed taking account of the feedback from the pilot year.

The workshops will be run at various Midlands universities and will be free to every part-time PhD researcher based at any Midlands University. The workshops will cover issues faced by part time PhDs including 'Getting the best from long-distance supervision'; 'Structuring your thesis' and 'Recognising and making progress'. There will be the opportunity to hear from a former part-time PhD researchers and also discuss different research perspectives with current academics.

Researchers registered at Midlands Universities are invited to sign up using the link below:

<http://www.vitae.ac.uk/policy-practice/1746/Midlands-Hub.html>

The Workshops will be held at:

- De Montfort University -13th May 2009
- University of Nottingham - 29th May 2009
- Coventry University -17th June 2009
- University of Gloucestershire - 3rd July 2009

Participants from the workshops are encouraged to join the online Part-time Researcher forum hosted by Facebook.



## Concordat Activities:

## What are you doing?



Since the launch of the Concordat in June last year, there have been a number of events run by Vitae Hubs, institutions and other organisations.

In December, the YNE Hub took the Concordat as the main theme of their annual conference. In January, the SWW Hub held a joint seminar with HEFCW for institutions in Wales. March saw the Scotland and Northern Ireland Hub inviting participants to a sector wide conference to discuss Concordat implementation. On 10th June, the Midlands Hub will be holding an event looking at the implementation of the Concordat, while the London Hub and the East of England Hub will be holding a joint event examining progress one year on from the Concordat's launch.

To book a place on the Midlands Hub event go to

<http://www.vitae.ac.uk/policy-practice/916-74421/The-Concordat-Supporting-the-Career-Development-of-Researchers.html>

In addition many universities have held events for research staff and for academics to highlight the Concordat. We would like to encourage you to submit outline aspects of your institution's responses to the Concordat to the Vitae 'Database of Practice' [www.vitae.ac.uk/dop](http://www.vitae.ac.uk/dop)

Typical areas could include:

- launch activities that you have undertaken to raise the profile of the Concordat within your institution
- examples of gap analysis or self-audit processes that you have undertaken to identify where your institution should focus its response to the Concordat
- policy and practice relating to how your institution is managing the use of fixed-term contracts with research staff
- innovative or exemplary practices in response to one of the Concordat's seven principles.

## Careers in research On-line Survey(CROS)

Are you thinking of running the Careers in Research On-line Survey (CROS) in your institution? CROS will be open until May 2009 so it is not too late to sign up. CROS results will provide your institution with valuable evidence to inform decision making and review initiatives relating to the employment, training and career development of research staff and implementation of the Concordat principles.

For more information or to sign up contact

[peter.walker@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:peter.walker@bristol.ac.uk)

## The Concordat Implementation in Scotland

*Claire Jackson*

A sector-wide event focussing on the implementation of the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers was held at Our Dynamic Earth, Edinburgh last month.

Hosted by Universities Scotland, Vitae and ScotHERD, with sponsorship from the Scottish Funding Council, attendees were given the opportunity to share practice and consider how to apply the Concordat's principles across Scottish Universities to facilitate the development of tomorrow's research leaders.

Over 80 key stakeholders involved in the recruitment, management and career development of research staff attended on March 11<sup>th</sup> 2009 to consider the responsibilities attached to their role within Scottish HEIs to promote the Concordat. Participants included Vice Principals of Research, Senior Managers, Deans, Heads of Academic Department, Principal Investigators, HR and Careers Advisors and Staff Development specialists.

Professor Peter Holmes, SFC Research and Knowledge Committee, chaired the event, and introduced key note speakers Dr Iain Cameron from RCUK and Professor David Gani of SFC in the morning plenary session to discuss background issues and implementation of the Concordat in Scotland explicitly.

A number of self-selected practice-sharing workshops followed the presentations bringing together a wide range of topics related to the Concordat.

Dr Partick Hadoke (University of Edinburgh) and Dr David Proctor (University of Dundee) shared their experiences relating to Research Staff Societies. The ad-



-vantages and challenges of sustaining successful societies were discussed, focussing primarily on the benefits of the Concordat for such groups.

The University of Edinburgh Code of Practice for the Management of Research Staff formed the basis of another workshop presented by Professor Andrew Jarman and Sheila Thompson; specifically looking at how the code was developed, the benefit of a pilot exercise before final publication, and tailoring the Code of Practice in certain Schools.

The Supporting Principal Investigators workshop focused on the challenges PIs face and how their training needs can be met. Professor Sheila Rowan from the University of Glasgow relayed her experience as a PI, detailing the attributes required for success. Dr Sharon Gordon explained the approach University of Aberdeen took to support PIs via a specialised development programme, and how they will use this to introduce the Concordat to this primary group.

Dr Gill Clark from Scottish Government and Dr Brendan Barker from the University of Dundee concentrated on Supporting International Researchers and Mobility. Dr Clark emphasised the importance of attracting researchers to Scotland and the Scottish Government's role in this, as well as encouraging researchers to consider their own career mobility. Dr Barker's presentation discussed Scotland as a research intensive country, and the Concordat as a useful tool for continuing such success.

Following a networking lunch participants regrouped for a joint presentation from Ellen Pearce and Dr Jon Turner relating to Vitae and the Concordat, before breaking into facilitated job-role specific discussion groups (Senior Managers, HR Specialists, Staff Developer, Careers Specialist, Managers of Researchers and Research Staff) to focus on what the Concordat meant in these areas. Key themes which emerged across the groups included the importance of:

- University buy-in from all key stakeholders
- Collaboration cross-institution in areas including HR, Careers and Skills development
- Clarity on the roles and responsibilities of implementing the Concordat within institutions

A full list of discussion outcomes can be accessed at [www.vitae.ac.uk/snihub](http://www.vitae.ac.uk/snihub)

For more information relating to the Concordat visit [www.researchconcordat.ac.uk](http://www.researchconcordat.ac.uk)

## Employers' briefing: 'Targeting the postgraduate and researcher market'

Vitae will be launching a new briefing document aimed at employers and potential employers of researchers. This publication has been co-produced by Vitae, AG-CAS and AGR to explain the skills and experience of postgraduates and people with a background in academic research to non-academic employers. Carl Gilleard (Chief Executive, Associate of Graduate Recruiters) writes in the publication's introduction that 'postgraduates are well-qualified, enthusiastic and committed. They are an important pool of talent and may offer competitive advantage to a wide range of organisations.' The publication helps employers to deepen their understanding of the postgraduate labour market, covering:

- an overview of postgraduate qualifications and experience
- skills and experience of postgraduates and researchers
- why people undertake postgraduate qualifications
- the postgraduate population
- next steps for employers.

For further information about this publication or the Vitae employer network contact Maica Rubio on [maica.rubio@vitae.ac.uk](mailto:maica.rubio@vitae.ac.uk)



## Researcher development framework

The 2008 Policy Forum recognised the need to develop an overarching framework of professional development for researchers in higher education (HE) that includes the complete researcher continuum – from postgraduate researcher to research staff to research leader – and incorporates the ‘Joint Skills Statement’.

The primary purpose is to encourage self-reflection and continued professional development by researchers, whilst providing a framework to ensure that institutional provision for researcher development is appropriate. It will be based in HE, but acknowledge mobility between sectors, and internationally, and that researchers will be at different stages in their development.

Vitae and the Rugby Team have been taking this forward. A March meeting of key stakeholders reviewed the outputs from several Vitae workshops, an initial literature review of existing frameworks and two ongoing projects by Glasgow Caledonian University and the University of Manchester. The group agreed an evidence-based approach to develop the ‘Researcher development framework’ (RDF).

The literature review and existing projects identified a wide range of descriptors of researchers’ skills, competencies and attributes. These will be meta-analysed to create a map of existing descriptors and a gap analysis. This will be used to develop a profile of missing ‘interviews’, eg ensuring a wider demographic profile of researchers, researchers who have moved into or out of HE research roles.

A steering group is currently being set up to review progress and ensure that we are involving key stakeholders. The aim is to present a draft RDF at the Vitae conference for sector consultation.

We are interested to hear about any existing frameworks or descriptors of researchers’ skills, competencies and attributes. Please contact [jen.reynold@vitae.ac.uk](mailto:jen.reynold@vitae.ac.uk)

## Become part of a European network for assisting researchers

Euraxess ([http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess/index\\_en.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess/index_en.cfm)) is a European Commission initiative aimed at making life easier for mobile researchers. It has four strands: Euraxess Jobs (a website detailing jobs and information about funding opportunities across Europe);

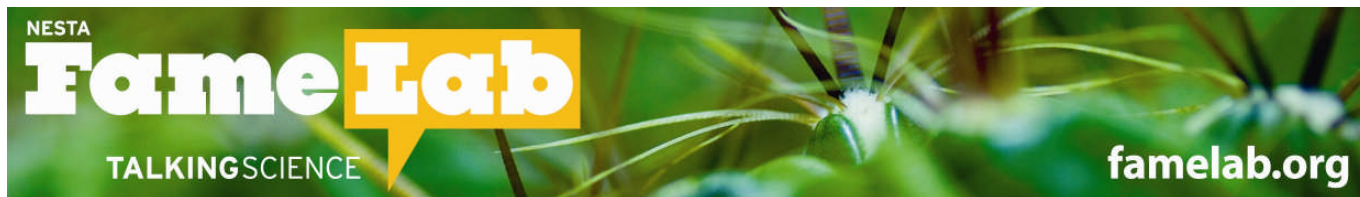
Euraxess Services (a network of in-country service centres which provides practical assistance to researchers who are relocating); Euraxess Rights (incorporating the Charter and Code for Researchers); and Euraxess Links (a network for researchers outside Europe).

If part of your job is to help recruit or provide information or assistance to foreign researchers you should consider getting involved in this Europe-wide project. It offers many benefits, including training and networking opportunities, as well as increasing the visibility of institutions on the European stage.

There are two main ways to get involved. First, if you recruit researchers you should consider putting your job advertisements on Euraxess Jobs ([http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess/index\\_en.cfm?l1=0&l2=1](http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess/index_en.cfm?l1=0&l2=1)). This is free of charge and once you have registered you can post jobs on an *ad hoc* basis or through a regular feed from your jobs database. The site had 65,000 visitors from Jan-Mar this year from 179 countries and there are already 143 registered UK organisations.

Second, if you or your colleagues provide practical assistance to international researchers (help with finding accommodation; information about childcare, etc) you should consider signing up through the British Council as a Euraxess Local Contact Point. In return for noting the number of researchers you assist, and the types of enquiry that they have, you will have access to a growing network ([http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess/index\\_en.cfm?l1](http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess/index_en.cfm?l1)) of similar service providers across universities and research institutions in 35 European countries. The European Commission provides training and networking opportunities on a regular basis and you will be able to raise the profile of your institution with peers across Europe.

As the UK’s nominated ‘Bridgehead’ organisation, the British Council coordinates the Euraxess-UK initiative. If you would like further information please contact [claire.mcnuilty@britishcouncil.org](mailto:claire.mcnuilty@britishcouncil.org)



## MANCHESTER NESTA FAMELAB REGIONALS TURN UP THE HEAT!!

Manchester really opened the NESTA FameLab season with a bang at the Museum of Science & Industry on 4<sup>th</sup> April. The standard of the contestants has set the bar high for the rest of the country. There was a huge range of three minute presentations from frogs (including a live one!), to astrophysics and chaos theory. All were well explained presentations that left the judges and audience much more educated.

The judges included Trevor Cox, Professor of Acoustics at Salford, Dr Laura Grant, public engagement consultant and BBC presenter, Dr Chris Lintott astrophysicist and BBC presenter for 'The Sky at Night', Dr Lloyd Anderson, Director of Science for the British Council. All judges commented on how wonderful the experience it was to judge the Manchester and the quality of the contestants made it extremely hard to determine the overall winners.

The contestants had a great day and really thought that the experience was well worth it:

*"It was good to get feedback from the judges as their comments were quite unexpected. This is probably because FameLab is quite different to any other public engagement activities I have undertaken before. I may try entering another regional heat to put the judges' feedback into practice and plan my talk accordingly."*

*"Nice crowd! Staff casual and friendly! Judges helpful!"*

*"Really useful. The judges were nice and made helpful comments for improvement. It's a friendly atmosphere as well so you're less nervous."*

*"The most terrifying and exciting 3 minutes of my science career. Everyone should do it at least once!"*

After a very entertaining and close regional heat battled out by 8 contestants the Manchester Regional Winner was **Lewis Dartnell**, a Post Doctoral researcher from the University College of London studying astrobiology.

The selected wildcards who will go into a further round against other wildcards from around the UK were **Simon Choppin** a sports engineering researcher from Sheffield Hallam University and **Andrew Russell** a local Postdoctoral researcher from the University of Manchester.

Lewis wins an all-inclusive weekend MasterClass in May with producers, professional science communicators and a production crew. As the Manchester Regional Winner, Lewis will have direct entry into the NESTA FameLab Grand Final, held at the Cheltenham Science Festival on the 5<sup>th</sup> June.

There is still time to enter the last Famelab on

**9th May at Edinburgh**

Either submit a video or drop in at the heat. To find out more visit:

[www.famelab.org](http://www.famelab.org)



## The Association Bernard Gregory in focus

Rachel Blanc, Vitae London Hub

In the UK, PhD students and research staff can rely on the Vitae website to find resources to help them develop their professional and personal career. They can also find tips to enhance some of their transferable skills. Does such a programme exist in other European countries? What are the resources available to researchers abroad?

Well, if you pop the question to French PhD students, they will probably come up with the ABG. Interestingly, this acronym is part of their jargon and stands for Association Bernard Gregory. So, what is the ABG and why



Is it so famous among the postgraduate researchers in France ? Since 1980, the ABG, a not for profit association, has been aimed at supporting postgraduate researchers to make a connection with the business environment.

The ABG involvement starts from the early stage of finding funding for a PhD with an access to the “PhD openings database” and ends up after the Viva with an access to job opportunities thanks to the “Job offers database”.

But, the resources provided are more diverse than a simple access to databases. Indeed, in order to achieve its mission, the ABG has developed through the years an international network of partners and members from inside and outside Higher Education.

As part of its activities, the ABG provides access to free publications such as the quarterly magazine “Docteurs & Co” (accessible in English) where testimonies from PhDs who have chosen to work outside Academia can be found. The ABG also runs popular events like “The new chapter of the Thesis” which, interestingly, were originally built on the UK GRADSchool model that CRAC shared with the French association.

Are you interested to find out more about the ABG?

Go and visit its website [www.abg.asso.fr](http://www.abg.asso.fr) and click on the English flag!

## Manchester establishes “Research to Enterprise” programme for researchers

*Robert A. Phillips, University of Manchester*

The Research to Enterprise (RTE) program has been created at the University of Manchester using EPSRC funding to encourage researchers to be more enterprising, whether they intend to remain in academia and possibly create a spin-out company, work in a small company where they will need to be multi-skilled, or whether they will work in a large corporation where they will need to be intrapreneurial. A mix of different activities has been initiated including an annual event, a series of workshops, a mentoring scheme and a website resource.

The first annual RTE event, which was attended by over 500 in the Whitworth Hall in Manchester, had speakers from successful Manchester spin-out companies in Rod Benson (Imagen Biotech) and Alasdair

Rawsthorne (Transitive) as well as other successful entrepreneurs Luke Johnson (Channel Four, Strada, Pizza Express, Giraffe) and Ian Livingstone (Games Workshop and Eidos – Lara Croft and Tomb Raider). Following the event was a very popular networking session. People said of the event:

*“Excellent and innovative event. Great to see that the University of Manchester is supportive of enterprise. Great variety of speakers, who gave inspiring talks, makes you feel you can get out there and do it too!”*

*“It was really encouraging for us (who have just set up a company 7 months ago!) and would definitely be looking forward to taking part in similar events.”*

*“I really enjoyed it and it fired me up.”*

*“I left the event buzzing.”*

Another aspect of the program has involved setting up a series of university-wide enterprise workshops which attract postgraduate and postdoctoral researchers from all faculties. Workshops include introductions to finance, marketing and writing business plans and also a number of more hands-on workshops such as networking, patent searching, finding market information and the Xing business strategy game. More than 600 have attended such workshops since the program started in September 2008.

The mentoring scheme is aimed at researchers who have ideas which are at too early a stage to be assessed by the technology transfer office and want to know what to do next. The focus is on allowing the researcher to develop skills to investigate the commercial potential of an idea and to develop networks outside their usual area of research.

The Research to Enterprise website ([www.rte.manchester.ac.uk](http://www.rte.manchester.ac.uk)) has up to date event listings, information and useful links. For further information contact Dr Robert Phillips ([robert.phillips@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:robert.phillips@manchester.ac.uk))



# Diary Dates:

*Upcoming conferences, events and training opportunities*

See also [www.vitae.ac.uk/events](http://www.vitae.ac.uk/events)

## What's on...?

### May 2009

- 6 **London Hub Strategy Planning Day**, LSE, London
- 7 **Research Strategy post RAE2008**, Missenden Centre
- 7 **Alternative Forms of Doctoral Study**, Goodenough College, London
- 8-22 **National GRADschool**, Windermere
- 27 **Local GRADschool: Developing the Effective Research Communicator**, Manchester
- 12 **Quality Auditing for PGR**, Goodenough College, London
- 12 **Evidencing the impact of researcher training**—a Vitae NW Hub practice workshop, Manchester
- 13 **Part-time researcher workshop May 2009**, De Montfort University
- 14-15 **Making a successful research grant proposal**, Missenden Centre
- 19 **Vitae Part time researcher launch**, Birmingham
- 21 **Implementing the Concordat: nurturing research excellence** University of Oxford  
contact [lisa.worral@learning.ox.ac.uk](mailto:lisa.worral@learning.ox.ac.uk)
- 29 **Part-time researcher workshop**, Nottingham

### June 2009

- 2 **Making Management work: a course for practising managers**, Aston Business School, Aston University, Birmingham
- 4 **GRADschool tutor training**, Glasgow. One day workshop designed for anyone planning to be a tutor on a GRADschool programme run by a higher education institution
- 8 **Careers in Focus: Careers in academia**, Birmingham
- 10 **The Concordat: supporting the career development of researchers**, Loughborough
- 11 **Staff supporting researchers workshops - using coaching techniques within training programmes**, London
- 16 **Implementing the Concordat - one year on**. The importance of research staff in higher education today. Joint event London and EE Hubs, Royal Institution London  
Contact: [londonhub@vitae.ac.uk](mailto:londonhub@vitae.ac.uk)
- 17 **Part-time researcher workshop June 2009**, Coventry University
- 18-19 **Learning from litigation: cost-effective responses to PhD complaints**, Missenden Centre
- 23 **Staff supporting researchers workshops—designing effective development programmes for researchers**, Bristol
- 26 **University futures, 2010 and beyond - the tectonic plates are moving**, Missenden Centre

**Do you want to join the Vitae Midlands Hub network mailing list?**

**Would you like to contribute an article for Midlands Hub News?**

Email Kate Mahoney at [midlandshub@vitae.ac.uk](mailto:midlandshub@vitae.ac.uk)