

North West Enterprise School 2012

First Workspace: Preston Marriot, 24 - 27 March 2012

Event Overview

This is a four day residential workshop for research students and post-docs followed by online collaboration and a final weekend residential. You will engage in a series of team-working challenges and entrepreneurial project work. Employers, mentors and skilled tutors facilitate a working environment designed to create projects, enhance skills, create networks and develop ideas into tangible projects. The school allows participants to develop themselves in a safe environment while working together on real projects and enterprise related activities. After the four day residential the course continues for a period of five weeks of online collaboration during which participants will be expected to give a minimum of two hours a week to team activities. **The whole course reaches a climax with the second residential weekend May 5-6 when the teams complete their projects and present their findings back to a panel of employers.**

Is this course right for you?

Researchers used to the academic environment are sometimes wary of enterprise but all of the activities on the enterprise school are designed with the researcher in mind showing them pathways for alternative careers , ways in which they can enhance their research and how to bring essential research business processes into any workplace. The course will also focus on social enterprise as well as *intra* and *entrepreneurialism*. Research projects are increasingly centred on multiple collaborations with other universities (often abroad) and with business partners. These large collaborations produce mutually beneficial outputs for all involved and the school will develop the sort of collaborative behaviours that are required to thrive in such an environment. These kinds of skills are planning, working with others, critical thinking, analysis, innovation, time management, risk analysis, IP issues and general enthusiasm and creativity.

In the forthcoming Research Excellence Framework (REF) all of the skills and behaviours that course will seek to develop are central to the *Impact* factors that must contribute to 20% of an institution's REF submission. In a world where resources for research are being stretched collaboration with business will form a growing part of the resource that researchers will need to conduct their projects.

You will be

- someone comfortable with the research environment but also who embraces change
- someone looking for something different in or outside of research
- interested in making a difference
- someone who wants to make ideas happen
- someone who enjoys meeting and working with others
- someone who enjoys learning by doing
- interested in enterprise (in all its forms) as a career choice

What will it involve?

There will be little formal input in terms of lectures or instruction. Activities will take place within a format designed to lead participants over the duration of the whole course to independent group work where they own and are responsible for their project and its output. One of the main purposes of the course is to put researchers in direct contact with employers, mentors, and entrepreneurs of all kinds so that each party can learn from the other. You will need a personal computer to access the online section of the course.

What's in it for you?

- Meet, and work with a range of researchers from a variety of disciplines and career stages
- Explore collaboration within the research, knowledge exchange and enterprise environments
- Have the opportunity to develop enterprise skills in a variety of settings from the commercial to the public sector and from social enterprise to academia
- Opportunity to show and develop influence and leadership skills
- Opportunity to challenge yourself and others in a friendly and safe environment away from the pressures of your research.
- Opportunity to reflect on your own skills, ambitions, capabilities and career direction

Eligibility

The course is open to all early career researchers either research degree students or first contract post-doctoral researchers.

Funding

The course is run by Lancaster University and the University of Liverpool. If you are a researchers from these two institutions your place is paid for, however the numbers are limited. If you are a member of another Northern University it may be that you can also gain a free place. You do not have to be funded by a research council to attend this course.

Venue Information

Both residential periods (24-27 March and 5-6 May) will take place at the [Preston Marriot Hotel](#) and Spa on the outskirts of Preston by the junction of the M55 and M6 in the village of Broughton.

How to Book:

- **Contact Ann Parratt** (+44 (0)7760 785 275, annp@c3events.co.uk)
- **Online registration form:**
<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/viewform?formkey=dHREanhyTWJCV0o5Wjl4NmhudHpwYIE6MQ#gid=0>