

RESEARCHER CONNECT

Researcher Development

Some learnings from around the world

Welcome!

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Why:

- to share our learning on the variations in researchers' professional development to help improve international research relations
- *and to find out your experiences!*

Plan

- A bit on Researcher Connect
- The info sources (what we did, how and why)
- What we have learnt
 - **How could this be useful for you?**

Researcher Connect is...

- 7 courses (half day to 1 day length)
- Theme: communication skills and know how
- Face to face delivery (workshop style)
- USP = based on a unique methodology (experiential)
- Global (but not UK)
- And 3 online courses from our partner Epigeum
- Train the trainer program

For

- early career stage researchers

Researcher Connect courses

- Know Your Audience (Foundation)
- Abstracts
- Better Presentations
- Effective Emails
- Professional Proposals
- Writing for Publication (BASICS)
- Writing for Publication - Getting Published
- *(The Responsible Researcher)*

What researchers / HEIs need and what sells are two different animals!

Added value

- Fits with Researcher Development Framework (Vitae)
- For any discipline / field (mixing it up adds value)
- In English
- Online groups to connect RC ers post-course

- Delivered in 3 day workshops (usually)
- Commercial (for sale)
- From global Science team

- Now one of Newton Fund deliverables

Where from? (our research)

- 2011 needs analysis (INSPIRE for English) and market sector analysis (346 researchers in 9 countries)
- Piloted / delivered in India, France, Switzerland, China, Egypt, Kazakhstan, UAE, Qatar, Taiwan, Brazil (13 workshops, 3 TOTs)
- Market research (433 researchers, 46 HEIs, 8 countries in full + 3 partial)
- Negotiating delivery in E Asia, Gulf and NF countries

2011 research: the needs...

- **Communicating by email with your foreign partner to plan and organise project activities**
- **Writing bid proposals in English for research or project funding**
- **Giving a workshop or presentation on your research**
- Reading academic literature on your subject area
- Listening to and understanding presentations given in English by UK researchers

Note:

Market research and NA did not show a need for writing skills
– many existing providers do this / too big

2012 Motivators for buying RC

National, institutional and individual ambitions:

- to have a stronger, wider and higher quality international (research) presence
- to have more and more productive, better quality ties with industry
- to improve communication in English language

- Also for the intrinsic value of being an excellent communicator and a professional
- Institutional ambitions for research excellence (and reputation)

Of note about the countries...

- HE sector on ends of high growth spectrum (just entered, middle of, just slowing)
- Many countries we looked at are either just refocusing their national / institutional policies and funding into the development of research capacity or have been focusing on development of research for a few years and now wish to drive reputation up globally
- Some are pushing KE (largely as tech transfer and research contracting) and nearly all have strong drivers to internationalise = driver to professionalise

What we've learnt so far...

- What we found.....

You decide:

- Is this similar to my experience?
- Is this a useful area to flag?
- What could this mean for professional development of international researchers?

Learnings – are they useful to me?

- Most countries / HEIs have no national policy or framework on researcher development
- Resistance
- The problem with supervisors
- Limited awareness of, access or exposure to international trends, issues and changes in practice
- Limited exposure to cross-disciplinary working
- Confidence
- Beliefs about the power of research to determine careers
- It's all (and only) about publishing

Learnings continued.....

- Non didactic learning approaches – low
- It's ok to fail?
- Caste and status – how these play out
- The role of English
- Access to IT
- Critical thinking skill and reflexivity vary (low)
- Network based societies

Question: how much do we need to prepare the 'receivers' (UK HEIs) – what awareness do they have re some of these issues?

For more info ... to chat...

- Researcher Connect is a program from the British Council
- Marta Tedros – Program Manager (based in London)
- Jo Chaffer – Researcher Connect Lead Consultant
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 - <http://www.britishcouncil.org/education/science/british-council-researcher-connect>