

# Vitae Annual Programme 2016/17

## Shaped by members: stay informed, network, collaborate, innovate

The Vitae Annual Programme aims to continuously advance the researcher development profession to realise the potential of researchers through collaboration, innovation and reflecting sector needs.

The Annual Programme addresses the needs of our membership and therefore adds value to the sector as a whole, organisations and researchers at all levels. It achieves this by informing and catalysing our community, enabling networking and sharing of best practice to create efficiencies in the pursuit of excellence in researcher development for the research base.

### Addressing member needs

We recognise the importance of providing both online resources and activities, and opportunities for the network to come together at face-to-face events and meetings. The Annual Programme includes exclusive events, open events for wider collaboration, resources and discounts for members; providing value to member organisations and allowing them to operate more efficiently by making use of the resources, activities, information, and networking provided by Vitae membership.

Throughout the year, sector interests are addressed through the emerging issues and challenges for researcher development. The balance of the annual programme is designed to meet the needs of all organisations developing researchers in the UK and internationally, including those with an established high number of researchers, those that are developing research capacity, and those with other related interests in developing researchers.



### How we consult

Many channels allow us to consult extensively with members throughout the year, for example through focus groups, online feedback, surveys and polls, and through regionally-hosted member seminars.

Members are also able to inform us of their needs through our network of regional representatives, key contacts and advisory groups.

Find out about and contact your representatives here [www.vitae.ac.uk/how-we-work](http://www.vitae.ac.uk/how-we-work)

### Contributing to sector capacity building in researcher development

Through Vitae's unique sector position, the annual programme is informed by the broader policy landscape and provides opportunities for all to contribute policy and practice in researcher development at a local, national and international level.

**The guiding principle of the annual programme is inclusivity. It is designed to:**

- include researchers at all stages of their career
- be available to all staff, researchers and students
- be relevant to different types of organisation committed to excellence in researcher development
- acknowledge the diversity of researchers' backgrounds and career directions.

**We enable participation by ensuring that our programme includes:**

- continuing professional development for researcher developers from all career backgrounds
- online resources for different audiences
- opportunities to share practice across the sector
- access to an international network of members
- support for the global ambitions of institutions and researchers.

# What's happening in 2016/17?

## 'Focus on' themes for researchers



### Focus on Getting started as a researcher

From August to October look out for:

- dedicated page collating our web resources on starting a doctorate, the supervisory relationship, planning your development, and lots more [www.vitae.ac.uk/focus-on](http://www.vitae.ac.uk/focus-on)
- #vitaechat Twitter chat: 'How to make a successful start as a PhD or research staff' - save the date **5 October 2016**
- e-pack of resources sent to Vitae organisational key contacts to support researcher inductions

### Focus on Planning ahead to manage your career

From November to January look out for:

- a dedicated page collating our web resources, including career ownership, diverse career directions, presenting yourself for promotion, and lots more
- opportunities to engage with other researchers, such as our #vitaechat and #vitaehangout online events
- an e-pack of resources sent to Vitae organisational key contacts to support career development

### Focus on Work-life balance and wellbeing

From January to April look out for:

- a dedicated page collating our web resources, including 'Every Researcher Counts', time management, recognising and coping with stress, and lots more...
- opportunities to engage with other researchers, such as our #vitaechat and #vitaehangout online events
- e-pack of resources sent to Vitae organisational key contacts to support the welfare of researchers

### Focus on Navigating the research environment

From April to July look out for:

- dedicated page collating our web resources, including responsible research and innovation, being a digital researcher, public participation in research, networking, confident communication, open research, and lots more...
- opportunities to engage with other researchers, such as our #vitaechat and #vitaehangout online events
- e-pack of resources sent to Vitae organisational key contacts to support researchers in a changing environment

## Continuing professional development for researcher developers

### Vitae Connections

- Getting to Grips: Vitae Connections, 6 July 2017, Birmingham. Our annual CPD event for staff with new responsibility for the development of researchers [www.vitae.ac.uk/gettingtogrips2017](http://www.vitae.ac.uk/gettingtogrips2017)
- Career development summer school: Vitae Connections, our first annual residential CPD event for researcher development professionals, looking at leadership, influencing upwards, research into practice, and career progression [www.vitae.ac.uk/events](http://www.vitae.ac.uk/events)

Also coming up:

- CPD webinar series for researcher developers to be more efficient and effective in their role
- case studies, collaborative projects, and other opportunities to share practice and research
- mentoring programme for researcher developers
- invitations to contribute to the Vitae annual programme and future direction of Vitae membership

## Impacts on researcher development

### Policy and impact events

- Structures, policies and change in researcher development, 31 January 2017, [www.vitae.ac.uk/structures-policies](http://www.vitae.ac.uk/structures-policies)
- Embedding researcher development for positive researcher outcomes, 9 May 2017, [www.vitae.ac.uk/embedding-RD](http://www.vitae.ac.uk/embedding-RD)

Also coming up:

- understanding the policy landscape and impact of researcher development
- opportunities for consultation, discussion and practice sharing
- implications of policy changes for researcher development

## Annual member networking seminars

From February to May 2017, look out for our annual series of regionally-hosted network meetings; showcasing regional best practice, sector updates, challenging discussions and implications for researcher development. The seminars are also a key way to influence the annual programme for the coming year. The call for regional host institutions will be announced in late 2016.

Remember to register on the Vitae website for access to member resources and updates: [www.vitae.ac.uk](http://www.vitae.ac.uk)