

Lens development

The enterprise lens on the Vitae Researcher Development Framework has been developed with Research Councils UK (RCUK) and through consultation with Enterprise Educators UK (EEUK), the National Centre for Entrepreneurship in Education (NCEE) and other key organisations working in the area of enterprise.

Enterprising researcher quotes

“You do need to have a certain work ethic to drive through the completion of a doctorate, and I think this has served me well in my working life too”⁴

Dr Emma Heathcote-James

“I think that successful academics are the ones who are able to know what is feasible in a context; what kinds of ideas are palatable... to be able to know when it's worth taking a risk...to know which strings to pull in order to bring through an innovation”

Research Fellow

“My years as a doctoral researcher taught me to think critically and academically – highly useful for those embarking on their own business”⁴

Dr Alexander Griekspoor

How to use the enterprise lens

Researchers may wish to use this lens to:

- identify how enterprise can contribute to their professional development as a researcher
- identify how the skills and attributes they have developed through research can contribute to, or underpin their development in enterprise activities
- select areas that they need to develop to be more effective in enterprise activities and use this to inform development reviews
- provide evidence of the transferability of their enterprise skills in their CV, in job applications and at interviews.

Researcher developers may wish to use this lens to:

- demonstrate to researchers and other stakeholders how enterprise activities can contribute towards the overall professional development of researchers
- enable researchers to recognise the learning they have acquired through enterprise related activities and highlight the transferability of these abilities
- strategically align enterprise learning and development provision around the lens.

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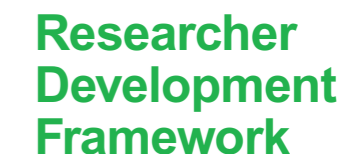
For further information about the range of Vitae activities go to www.vitae.ac.uk or contact website@vitae.ac.uk

⁴ 'What do researchers do? Career profiles of doctoral entrepreneurs', Vitae 2010 www.vitae.ac.uk/wdrd

⁵ www.vitae.ac.uk/rds

⁶ www.vitae.ac.uk/rdfconditionsofuse

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Enterprise lens on the Vitae Researcher Development Framework

Overview

The Vitae Researcher Development Framework (RDF) underpins a major new approach to developing world-class researchers. The framework has been developed by and for researchers working in higher education as an aid to planning, promoting and enhancing professional and career development. It articulates the knowledge, behaviours and attributes of successful researchers and encourages all researchers to realise their potential.

This is one of a series of lenses on the Vitae Researcher Development Framework.

For further information about the Vitae Researcher Development Framework visit www.vitae.ac.uk/rdf

Supporting materials relating to this lens are available at www.vitae.ac.uk/rdfenses

Purpose of a lens

Using the Vitae Researcher Development Framework, the enterprise lens provides an overview of the key knowledge, behaviours and attributes typically developed by researchers that can be acquired through, or used in, enterprise activities.

Context

With increasing international competition, economic challenges, social change and the growing pressures of a complex and uncertain world, unlocking the enterprising abilities of researchers is vital to maximise the benefits gained from excellent research. The Vitae Researcher Development Framework demonstrates to researchers and higher education institutions how that potential can be unlocked.

Describing enterprise

Within this lens, enterprise is described as 'the application of creative ideas and innovations to practical situations'¹. It uses 'a set of skills and attitudes that can enable a culture of innovation, creativity, risk taking, opportunism...etc. that underpins employability, enables entrepreneurship, intrapreneurship and facilitates knowledge exchange'²

“The act of undertaking a doctorate is a good training ground for the development of enterprise skills. Research by its nature requires creativity, determination and problem-solving. These skills are likely to be useful wherever a researchers' career journey takes them”³

¹ QAA 'Enterprise and entrepreneurship education guidance for UK higher education providers' draft for consultation February 2012

² Definition used at the 'Enterprise Skills Workshop', April 2007 arranged by CRAC in conjunction with the UK GRAD Programme (now Vitae), RCUK and EPSRC

³ 'What do researchers do? Career profiles of doctoral entrepreneurs', Vitae 2010 www.vitae.ac.uk/wdrd

Enterprise lens on the Vitae Researcher Development Framework

Behaviour:

- Builds relationships in academic and commercial contexts; approachable and interacts constructively with others
- Leads, motivates and influences where appropriate; persuades through listening and convincing discussion
- Builds and sustains collaborative relationships and works pro-actively to create and develop knowledge with a range of stakeholders, including researchers, funders and users of research

Attitude:

- Recognises the potential for working in sustained partnerships with a range of stakeholders to generate new ideas, insights and maximise the potential for wider societal and economic impact

Knowledge of:

- Appropriate communication and dissemination mechanisms for different audiences

Behaviour:

- Communicates effectively in both written and oral modes with a range of audiences formally and informally through a variety of different techniques and media

Knowledge of:

- Global, organisational, cultural, economic, and environmental contexts, and the wider impact of research
- The range of mechanisms to support knowledge transfer and maximise the impact of research in academic, economic and societal contexts

Behaviour:

- Identifies innovative trends, ideas and applications; is enterprising and entrepreneurial within and beyond academia
- Works collaboratively with all stakeholders to create, develop and exchange research knowledge to influence and benefit policy development, society and the economy; seeks new outlets and promotes the application of research in innovative ways

Knowledge of:

- The legal requirements and regulations relating to the area of research and the research environment
- The principles of intellectual property rights (IPR) and copyright issues, as they relate to research, its commercialisation and dissemination
- Organisational and professional requirements and environmental impact of research

Behaviour:

- Seeks to protect, where appropriate, the intellectual assets arising from research and to maximise the wider value of research findings

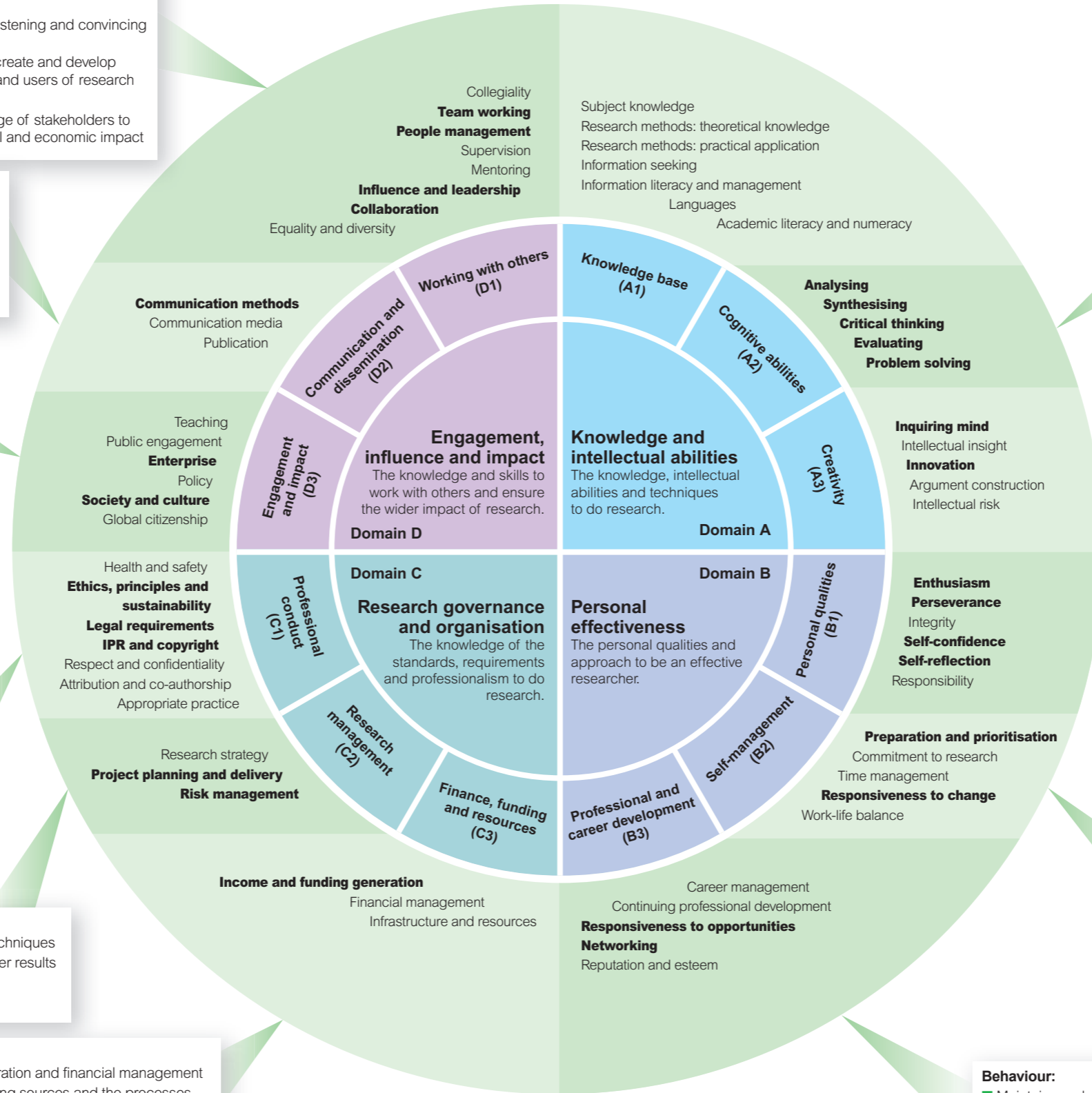
Behaviour:

- Applies appropriate project management tools and techniques
- Sets goals and plans and manages resources to deliver results
- Effectively assesses and manages risks
- Evaluates the effectiveness of research projects

Knowledge of:

- The requirement for research income generation and financial management
- Mechanisms for funding, the range of funding sources and the processes for making applications

Bold text in outer circle – key RDF descriptors that relate to enterprise and vice versa.
Boxed text – summary statements from the Vitae Researcher Development Statement that relate to enterprise www.vitae.ac.uk/rds



Behaviour:

- Thinks originally, independently and critically
- Critically synthesises information from diverse sources
- Evaluates progress, impact and outcomes of research
- Recognises and validates problems; formulates and applies solutions to a range of research problems

Behaviour:

- Develops new ways of working; has novel ideas and realises their potential
- Identifies new trends (spots)/creates new opportunities
- Challenges the status quo

Attitude:

- Is open to new sources of ideas
- Takes a creative, imaginative and inquiring approach to research

Attitude:

- Approaches research with enthusiasm, passion and confidence
- Is resilient and perseveres in the face of obstacles
- Is self-reflective: seeks ways to improve performance and strives for research excellence

Behaviour:

- Anticipates and responds to directions and trends in research
- Plans, prioritises and conducts research in a proactive way

Attitude:

- Is flexible and responsive to change
- Has a strategic approach to research (has vision, leads thinking)
- Has focus, commitment and ambition

Behaviour:

- Maintains and develops relevant skills set and experience in preparation for a wide range of opportunities within and outside academia
- Actively networks for professional and career purposes and seeks to enhance research reputation and esteem