

Development of the Public Engagement Leadership lens

The public engagement leadership lens on the Vitae Researcher Development Framework has been developed with the Wellcome Trust, NCCPE and UKRI, and other key stakeholders from the research and public engagement sector.

“The NCCPE support universities to realise the value of public engagement as an integral part of their work, which includes effective leadership at every level. We were delighted to support the development of the public engagement leadership lens, which helps draw out the many skills needed for researchers to lead engagement well”.

How to use the Public Engagement Leadership lens

The lens identifies 20 key descriptors that we believe are those in which effective public engagement research leaders would be expected to excel. The descriptors accompanying them are at the higher levels 4-5 of the RDF in order to demonstrate real strategic leadership in public engagement. This lens may be used in partnership with other lenses including leadership, public engagement and knowledge exchange.

Research leaders may wish to use this lens to:

- Develop themselves and others
- Identify which skills and attributes are essential in helping them to lead in public engagement
- Reflect on the identified skills and attributes and consider their own behaviour as research leaders within each descriptor
- Identify how the skills and attributes they have developed can be utilised as research leaders in public engagement
- Select areas that they need to develop to be more effective in leading public engagement within their institutions

Researcher developers may wish to use this lens to:

- Demonstrate to researchers the importance of public engagement at leadership level a
- Demonstrate the need for skills required for public engagement
- Help research leaders to plan their professional development considering public engagement
- Enable research leaders to recognise their own learning through public engagement
- Help researchers to develop public engagement leadership skills

Other Resources

NCCPE Leadership Resource Pack

www.publicengagement.ac.uk/sites/default/files/publication/leadership_resource_pack_0.pdf

Wellcome - Public Engagement

www.wellcome.ac.uk/what-we-do/our-work/public-engagement-support-researchers

Concordat for engaging the public with research

www.ukri.org/files/legacy/scisoc/concordatforengagingthepublicwithresearch-pdf/

Public Engagement - A Practical Guide

www.senseaboutscience.org/activities/public-engagement-guide/

Ten Briefing Notes for Researchers on how to involve members of the public in research

www.invo.org.uk/resource-centre/resource-for-researchers/

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Public Engagement Leadership lens on the Vitae Researcher Development Framework

Overview

The Vitae Researcher Development Framework (RDF) is a well-embedded 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.

Purpose of a lens

The Public Engagement Leaders lens is designed to help researchers and research leaders to develop their competencies for leadership in public engagement.

Its purpose is to:

- Support capacity building to develop, embed and sustain leadership of public engagement in HEIs
- Underpin efforts to realise cultural change, in line with the Concordat for Engaging the Public with Research
- Inform the development of resources targeted to middle managers, who are currently recognised to be requiring support in how best to support PE within the teams and departments they lead (as identified in the 2016 State of Play report)

www.publicengagement.ac.uk/sites/default/files/publication/state_of_play_final.pdf

It focuses attention in two key ways:

- It prioritises 20 of the 64 RDF descriptors as being particularly pertinent to the task of leading public engagement
- It explores the behaviours, knowledge and attributes of researchers operating at phases 4 and 5 of the RDF in each of these areas

In using this lens we expect to help researchers (and those who support researchers) to:

- Lead others and their institutions in planning and delivering high quality public engagement and to get better at 'leading' public engagement
- Enhance how they develop and deliver high quality public engagement with research

Context

NCCPE (National Co-ordinating Centre for Public Engagement) defines public engagement as "the myriad of ways in which the activity and benefits of higher education and research can be shared with the public. Engagement is by definition a two-way process, involving interaction and listening, with the goal of generating mutual benefit."

There is a growing understanding of the need for good public engagement to ensure that research is tuned to the needs of society, and sensitive to public concerns. Public Engagement with Research (PER) also helps to maximise the wider impact of research - through stimulating learning, skills development and social innovation.

This lens allows researchers who want to take leadership roles in public engagement to reflect on their skills and competencies in this area. Public engagement leadership can take many forms, for instance:

- Acting as an effective manager of others, creating the conditions for public engagement to thrive in their team/department/institution
- Acting as a leader in public engagement and engaged research, based on personal achievements and contribution to the field

A Public Engagement Research Leader acts as an agent of change, inside and outside HE. Examples include, developing or implementing PE strategies within their teams, departments or institution, championing and celebrating PE or supporting their staff by ensuring PE is included within policies and processes (such as inductions, performance reviews, promotions or workload planning). They are convinced of the need to 'open up' universities and to deepen the quality and purposefulness of engagement with the public. Universities and research funders are increasingly recognising the vital role of such leaders, and this lens is intended to provide a helpful platform to support people to progress into these important roles.

Vitae Researcher Development Framework

Public Engagement Leadership lens



Researcher Development Framework

