Postdoctoral and Early Career Researcher Training and Development Opportunities

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BA ECRN East of England Cluster

led by Cambridge, UEA and ARU

British Academy Early Career Research Network: The British Academy established the network for researchers who represent the future of the humanities and social sciences to support and strengthen their skills and networks and ultimately compete in a challenging job market.

Opportunities include: Media training; Engaging with policymakers; How to write a compelling grant application; Let's talk interdisciplinarity: value and practicalities of working across disciplines; Communicating social sciences to wider audiences; Planning impact; Careers outside academia; Development Fund; Travel and Accommodation support – for Network events and job interviews; Mentoring initiative with BA Fellows.

Postdoc Academy

Resources for Supporting Postdocs: Career Planning and Progression; Online Professional Development; Communication and Communication and Conversations; Productivity and Personal Effectiveness; Research Skills; Leadership; Entrepreneurial Mindset and Skills.

Resilient Leadership in Action: a nationally recognised, practical training programme delivered online in collaboration with several other institutions, including host King's College London. This highly interactive programme offers a unique opportunity to reshape your ideas about being a leader and expand your leadership skills, supported by experienced coaches and fellow researchers from different disciplines and institutions.

Resources include: Guide for PI development and development of research teams; Landscape and context; Leadership and team development; PGR Supervision; Institutional network and support for PIs.

Postdocs to Innovators: Postdocs to Innovators (p2i) is a collaboration between Higher Education Institutes and global enterprises across Europe to provide entrepreneurial training and experiences to early career researchers. Cambridge is a partner institution.

Researchers14: Researchers14 is a group of Universities, which represent 65% of the research staff community in the UK. With this group of researchers as its sole focus, Researchers14 provides a strategic view of the people, culture and issues surrounding this researcher community, and shares good practice in researcher development.

Career Services

Careers support for postdocs, includes: Developing an academic career; Fellowships & Funding; Exploring career possibilities; Academic applications and interviews; Applications and interviews; Research in industry; What do Postdocs do Next; Work Shadowing for Postdocs: Explore Careers Beyond Academia.

Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities (CRASSH)

CRASSH hosts a broad variety of interdisciplinary research initiatives, from grant-funded research projects and centres to fellowships and research networks across the University. We are always looking for new and collaborative ways to enable and foster research activities.

PdOC (Postdocs of Cambridge Society)

PdOC Guides: New Starters; Teaching Information; Travel Grants Guide; Mental Health Support; College Affiliation; Entrepreneurial; Wellbeing and Equality; Diversity and Inclusion; Department Network; USS Pension Information; Newcomers and Visiting Scholars.

Cambridge University Library

Research skills training: these workshops are carefully designed to enhance your skills and knowledge as a researcher. They'll help you to develop your research practice, increase the visibility of your work and understand its impact.

Cambridge Digital Humanities (CDH)

Cambridge Data Schools: intensive, application-only programmes made for individuals committed to engaging critically with digital and analogue data.

Collections, Connections, Communities (CCC)

CCC Early Career Researchers (ECR) Network: The aim of the CCC ECR Network is to catalyse those who are working, or interested in working, in collections-based research to deliver a programme of networking and development activities.

Cambridge Centre for Data-Driven Discovery

C2D3 brings together researchers and expertise from across the academic departments and industry to drive research into the analysis, understanding and use of data science and AI. They offer Early Career Researcher Seed Funding of up to £5,000/project.

Cambridge Public Health

ECR+ Network: (Early and Mid-Career Researcher Network) brings together over 200 members and is dedicated to supporting researchers across early, mid, and transitional career stages in public health. We offer training workshops, foster networking, and create opportunities for members to share their research, build collaborations, and advance their careers within a supportive, multidisciplinary environment.

Conservation Research Institute

Early Career Researcher Programme: The ECR Programme at CRI is designed to provide skill development and support to graduate students and postdoctoral researchers within an interdisciplinary and collaborative research environment. The ECR programme is targeted at those whose research addresses conservation in the broadest sense which appeals to researchers across CRI's network across all six Schools. The programme is delivered through a variety of learning approaches and formats, emphasising the importance of interactive experience to promote active engagement for a deeper and enhanced cross-disciplinary understanding. By participating in these workshops, and the associated informal networking events, we provide participants opportunities to meet conservation-related researchers from other disciplines, creating the potential for closer collaboration in research.

Cambridge Research Methods (CaRM)

CaRM: an interdisciplinary programme providing research methods training to University of Cambridge staff and postgraduate students. Our courses cover qualitative and quantitative research methods, from basic training to advanced statistical analysis.

Centre for Science and Policy (CSaP)

CSaP: helps researchers from early-career to more senior level, to connect with and have an impact on public policy. We offer opportunities for researchers to engage through professional development workshops, internships, meetings with our Policy Fellows, Policy Workshops, and integrated packages of support. Increasingly, researchers are working with CSaP to build policy engagement activities into their research plans.

Cambridge Innovation & Entrepreneurship

Postdoc Venture Creation Challenge (PVCC): aimed at supporting busy University of Cambridge postdocs interested in taking their first steps into creating a venture from their research. The challenge welcomes innovative ideas across deep tech, life sciences, AI, software, and social impact, with two tracks to support different types of ventures. More than a competition the PVCC, provides workshops, mentoring and an incredible launchpad for early-stage ideas.

External Opportunities

Prosper: Unlocking Postdoc Potential: The Prosper portal is host to a wide range of resources relating to postdoc career development – some geared towards postdocs themselves, others for managers of researchers and institutions.

Institute of Historical Research / School of Advanced Study, University of London: IHR Research Training – many sessions are free, paid courses may have bursaries

Cambridge Network: Including the Impulse Programme: Turning world-class science into commercial impact. Delivered through the Maxwell Centre at the University of Cambridge, the programme helps science and tech researchers develop innovative ideas into viable businesses through structured and personalised entrepreneur-led support. Impulse is designed specifically for innovators working at the intersection of research and application. Many participants join with promising technologies at proof-of-concept stage, early validation from collaborators or technology transfer offices, and a growing desire to see their work make real-world impact, but without certainty that entrepreneurship is the right path.