Mentoring and Making Connections using Platform One | **Call for Mentors**

The Human Resources Organisational Development team and the Institute for Academic Development (IAD) run the Mentoring Connections University wide mentoring programme.

In 2019, we are introducing a new online resource where Mentors can self register to offer support across the University community. The resource enables mentors to create and manage their own profile, identifying the support they can offer and how often. The open access platform enables all staff to search for support themselves, and make connections as and when needed. The new resource is Platform One.

Call for Mentors

We are now looking for Mentors to register their support profile on Platform One, creating an online community of mentors across the University.

We are looking for people with a genuine interest in helping their colleagues and who can commit to being a mentor. In addition to helping colleagues, being a mentor can help to develop your communication and interpersonal skills and gives you the opportunity to reflect on your own practice. Mentors have noted the benefits of passing on useful information and lessons drawn from their own experience.

To register interest as a mentor please email: mentoring@ed.ac.uk.

Further guidance, training, resources and tools are available from our Mentoring website.

Career Management for Early Career Academic Researchers

A free online course that aims to support research students and research staff to explore their career options and make career plans is being offered again this month. Researchers will be encouraged to consider what they want out of a career; to explore the academic career path and many other career options; and to increase their confidence in job search and applications.

The course was developed by careers consultants at the Universities of Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Sheffield and is open to researchers at any institution in the UK and beyond - so you get the opportunity to learn from many different researchers.

It can be studied in your own time so can fit flexibly around research commitments.

My motivation to take control of finding my future career has increased exponentially from the day I started this course. (Quote from previous participant)

The course starts on 21st January 2019. For more information and to sign up go to: https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/career-management

Research Staff / Postdoc Societies | Video Resources & Case Studies

A number of research staff or postdoc societies exist across the University. These societies can help you to meet other researchers and integrate into School/Centre life, access local information relevant to your research discipline, locate opportunities for discussion and collaboration, attend talks and seminars relevant to your local work area and your career development, and allow you to join in valuable social and networking opportunities. Visit our webpages to see if a society already exists in your School/Centre, and if it doesn’t we have guidance on how to go about setting one up! https://edin.ac/2tX9Kko

Video Resources: The IAD has created new video resources for research staff societies, where current and previous society members from across the University provide their insights into what the benefits of research staff societies are, give practical advice on how to set up and maintain a society, and showcase some of the successful events that their societies have run. To view these resources visit: https://edin.ac/2LbmFoR

Case Studies: We are keen to identify and share the many activities of research staff societies across the University, to highlight the many events and activities that happen and the impact these can have to individuals and their Schools and Institutions. If you would be happy to provide a case study we can provide you with a simple template to record and share ideas for events or activities, as well as celebrate their successes and impacts. Other societies can use this resource to get new ideas or inspiration for their own activities. If you are interested please email: iad.researchers@ed.ac.uk  thanks!
Creating the Seven Secrets of a Highly Successful Research Student (for Supervisors)
26th Mar 2019, 09:30 - 12:00, Room 3.3 Lister Building

You know what your research higher degree (RHD) student should be doing, but it just doesn’t seem to be happening. Despite your best efforts to set up good habits for your student, it does not work. Why is this, and what can you do to make completing a RHD easier for your students and for you? Students attending the seven secrets workshop have consistently reported a marked improvement in their progress towards completing their RHD. Now they have asked us to please tell their supervisors the same things! This course gives you practical strategies to deal with common problems such as:

- supervisor/student relations
- dealing with writer’s block
- attitude (or lack thereof!) in relation to the RHD – it’s not a Nobel prize
- getting your student to seek help when they are stuck
- the student who never has enough time
- treating the RHD like a job
- keeping on going when the going gets tough

Who is it for? Supervisors of research students at any point in their candidacy. To book visit: http://edin.ac/2Et1CMK

Digital Transformation: Planning and Updating Digital Skills Researchers Workshop

As part of the Digital Transformation programme sponsored by Gavin McLachlan we are investigating what it means for researchers to plan and update their digital skills.

We would like to invite you to our workshop on 17th January to find out more about the processes and services you currently use to evaluate, plan and update your digital skills, and how you might like to do this in future. Your input will be used to inform this area of the programme, and to help shape and improve solutions and services.

The session is participative and interactive and lasts no more than two hours. Refreshments are provided.

The session takes place on 17th January between 2pm and 4pm in Argyle House room E14.

Please book a place using the following links to the Event Booking channel:
- Researchers: https://www.events.ed.ac.uk/index.cfm?event=book&scheduleID=32978

Questions about the workshop? – email is.skills@ed.ac.uk

Questions about the programme? email the programme manager stephen.roy@ed.ac.uk or see the https://www.ed.ac.uk/digital-transformation

Tutors and Demonstrators

Will you or your PhD students be tutoring or demonstrating this semester?

All semester 2 training workshops for tutors and demonstrators are available to book - workshops take place at Kings Buildings and Central Area and are suitable for those teaching in all disciplines.

Upcoming Courses:

Effective Tutoring Introduction: 23 January 2019  Find out more & booking link
Tutoring in the Sciences: 30 January 2019  Find out more & booking link