



Incorporating the UK GRAD Programme and UKHERD

Realising the potential of researchers

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www.vitae.ac.uk

Vitae is supported by Research Councils UK (RCUK),
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and delivered in partnership with regional Hub host universities

Realising the potential of researchers



- ❑ Importance of investing in researchers
- ❑ Policy related to postgraduate researchers
- ❑ Supporting researcher skills and career development
- ❑ Evaluating the impact of researchers and researcher careers

Importance to society



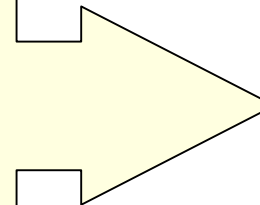
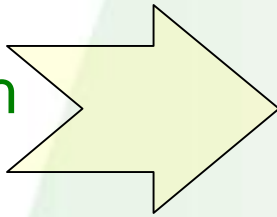
“The importance of sustainable and attractive research careers is critical in a world where the UK cannot compete on cost, [but] must raise our game on skills, training and knowledge”

Rt Hon John Denham MP
[Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills]

Government science and innovation framework



Research Base



Economic Impact

Qualified people



“The output of highly educated people rather than research results is widely regarded as the most effective knowledge transfer mechanism.”

Warry et al, Research Council Economic Impact Group
Increasing the Economic Impact of the Research Councils
(2006)

Postgraduate policy



‘We lack clear public policy in taught and research postgraduate studies.’

‘Our universities must not only be able to attract the world’s best postgraduate researchers but also ensure that research careers are attractive and attainable for a substantial number of home students. Funding can be ad hoc and un-strategic, and it is not clear where responsibility lies.’

‘The HE framework will set out how we move forward. It should give us, for the first time, the way to a clear strategy on postgraduate research, shared across HEFCE and the Research Councils, aimed at ensuring the adequacy of British research numbers and the attraction of the world’s best students and the appropriate spread and concentration of effort.’

Rt Hon John Denham MP, February 2009
[Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills]

Key issues



- ✔ Promoting the UK doctorate overseas
- ✔ Raising awareness of the UK doctorate in the UK
- ✔ Funding and sustainability
- ✔ Researcher experience
- ✔ Employability and impact

Attractiveness of UK doctorate



- ✔ Bologna Process
- ✔ Professional doctorate
- ✔ Competition
- ✔ Change in visa requirements
- ✔ Supply of UK-domiciled researchers

Funding and sustainability

- ✔ Economic pressures on HEIs
- ✔ Comprehensive spending review
- ✔ JM Consulting report
- ✔ RC funding mechanisms: DTC/DTUs
- ✔ 'Roberts' funding

Researcher experience

- ✔ PRES
- ✔ Part-time researchers
- ✔ International researcher experience
- ✔ Alumni feedback (BIS & RCUK studies)
- ✔ Role of graduate schools

Employability and impact

- ✔ Professional and career development
- ✔ Researcher development framework
- ✔ What do researchers do?
- ✔ Career profiles
- ✔ Employers' views and needs

Vitae vision and aims



“For the UK to be world-class in supporting the personal, professional and career development of researchers”

- ✔ Championing the development and implementation of effective policy
- ✔ Enhancing higher education provision through sharing practice and resources
- ✔ Providing access to development opportunities and resources
- ✔ Building an evidence base to support the researcher development agenda

Vitae activities



- ✔ UK network of regional Hubs: newsletters, events and activities
- ✔ Networks, communities of practice, practice sharing databases
- ✔ Vitae website: research staff & postgraduate researchers sections; careers section, policy and practice
- ✔ Publications: GRADBritain, PGR Tips, PhD planner, Balanced Researcher, overVIEW
- ✔ Direct provision: GRADschools, Effective Researcher, Careers in Focus, Broadening Horizons, Careers in Focus, Part-time Researcher
- ✔ Research and development, innovation, national activities, training and career development materials, policy publications

Research & development projects



- ✔ What do researchers do? (2009)
- ✔ Researcher careers portal (2009)
- ✔ Roberts Policy Forum consultation (2009)
- ✔ Vitae employer survey (2009)
- ✔ CIHE project (2009)
- ✔ Researcher development framework (2009/10)
- ✔ RCUK cohort study (2009/10)
- ✔ Rugby Team Impact Framework report (2010)
- ✔ External evaluation of Roberts (2010)

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- Concordat Implementation benchmarking process