

Opportunities from the Learning & Development Centre

The Researcher workshop programme from Jan - July 2010 is available online and in pdf format at:

www2.warwick.ac.uk/services/ldc/researchers/earlycareerres/

Other learning & development offers that may be applicable to Research Staff are on the general programme:

www2.warwick.ac.uk/services/ldc/calendar/

Your annual review should now be completed and you should have a clear idea of your planned development for the next 12 months.

Developments:

The Researcher programme for the next academic year 2010/2011 is being developed. Focus groups will be meeting during June to obtain your input into the Researcher programme for next year. We need to know essential learning/skills training so it is anchored in where staff/post docs/supervisors and sponsors see the need. If you are keen to be involved and want to attend a focus group please contact me. If you are unable to attend but would like to send in some ideas, please send an email to sandy.sparks@warwick.ac.uk

Researcher 1st stop shop website – ongoing development continues and will be ready for comment during May.

Careers in Research Online Survey (CROS) - The University of Warwick will not be taking part in the CROS survey this year.

April Workshops feedback:

Practical Project Management - held 23 April

Dr Alana E C Collis, Research Fellow, Department of Chemistry

"The course was probably one of the best I've EVER been on. Really, really good. Very useful. I think a lot of us realised we have project management skills but didn't realise it but also a lot of us often get frustrated at not knowing key facts from our PI or have to juggle lots of things. It really drew everything together and I learnt a lot of ways of understanding issues and how to plan."

Dr Emma Eyre, Research Associate, Clinical Sciences Research Institute

"The course was very useful to me as a researcher because it gave me some practical tips on how to easily manage project(s). This would be very useful to those who are writing grant applications, where you can demonstrate how the project will be completed, what time scales you should expect and to monitor yours plus additional researchers progress in the project. You can describe in detail how you have progressed and how you will be heading forward, to give a clear indication of whether the project can be completed within the time frame, budget and so forth. Finally, Caron delivered the course well. She had a vast knowledge of the topic as well as practical application in many different fields. The module was taught practically, which meant you could really take useful information away that related to your own field, as opposed to just reading the literature."

May Workshops (free to attend):

- **The Enterprising Researcher** - 6 May, 12 - 4.30pm
www2.warwick.ac.uk/services/ldc/development/entres/
The aim of this workshop is to identify the skills, strategies and techniques you can use to become an even more enterprising researcher and assisting you for future bids.
- **Making and Defending Your Point** - 10 May, 1.45 - 4.45pm
www2.warwick.ac.uk/services/ldc/development/defendpoint/
After the session you will have:
 - Increased confidence in public speaking
 - An ability to frame and structure arguments
 - An ability to deal with questions and challenge from audiences*Previous delegate – Dr C Mockford, RCNI*
"A course with a bit of a difference. Benet has a unique style of teaching which keeps you focused and engaged. I learned a number of simple, but effective, key points which have been very useful for my own presentations and at meetings. A really enjoyable and fun afternoon too."
- **Dealing with People in Difficult Situations**
- 11 May, 12 - 4.30pm
www2.warwick.ac.uk/services/ldc/development/difficultrp/
This workshop session will review tips and techniques for handling difficult situations and conversations and look at tools for dealing with conflict.
- **Practical Networking** - 17 May, 10am - 1pm
www2.warwick.ac.uk/services/ldc/development/pracnetworking/
The workshop session will offer a selection of techniques and methods that participants will be able to apply usefully at conferences and in other environments.
- **Interview Success** - 18 May, 12 - 2.30pm
www2.warwick.ac.uk/services/ldc/development/interviewsuc/
This workshop aims to help understand the interview process, including assessing what interview panels are looking for, and how to predict questions. It will cover preparation, interview format and tackling difficult questions.
- **From Innovation to Invention** - 25 May, 12 - 2.30pm
www2.warwick.ac.uk/services/ldc/development/innovinven/
This workshop will examine how commercial exploitation of academic research can be used to generate impact and improve funding chances, some of the routes and terminology used in the commercialisation process, and some of the key criteria which need to be considered to aid success.

Funding opportunity for researchers:

For further information about individual or departmental funding opportunities, please see www2.warwick.ac.uk/services/ldc/funding/researchers/

All of the staff that have received Roberts' funding have agreed to share best practice with other Research Staff.

There is a Window On Research session about Roberts' funding on 1 June.

Opportunities from the Learning & Development Centre - cont'd

Focus on: Research Staff Forum (RSF)

Written by Mairi-Ann Cullen, Senior Research Fellow, CEDAR

The Research Staff Forum meets termly. The Forum was founded at Warwick University in 2002. All departments and centres with research staff are able to nominate a representative and many have done so. It is also represented on the University Research Committee and Science Faculty Research Committee.

Since it began, the Forum has contributed to debate and developments on key matters affecting research staff including; the Fixed Term Employee [Prevention of Less Favourable Treatment] Regulations 2002; the national Framework Agreement; equal access to study leave; the ESRC project on Managing Research Projects; the creation of a research skills training and development programme influenced by the Joint Research Councils Skills Statement and the Roberts Skills Agenda; job evaluation; representation on Faculty research committees; redundancy pay; contract research online survey (CROS); induction; the University of Warwick mentoring scheme; the Denham Review of Research Careers; the University of Warwick research staff professional development programme and the Research Staff development fund.

Over the last year, Forum reps have worked hard to influence the implementation at Warwick of The Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers.

For more information about the Forum, speak to your rep. To find out about becoming a rep for your department or centre, contact Sandy Sparks: sandy.sparks@warwick.ac.uk

Focus on: Careers Support for Research Staff

In January 2010 Asaf Federman started working as the Careers Consultant for Research Staff funded by LDC from Roberts' money. This means that there is a specialist in the careers team who offers individual advice, development sessions and manages relevant information resources for Research Staff in Warwick. Individual appointments are free of charge and offer an excellent opportunity to explore any aspect of your present and future work. Guidance consultations can last up to 50 minutes and you are free to set the agenda for the discussion. You can bring a technical question about composing a CV for a particular job, or an open ended question about a tentative career change. Asaf can help you to prepare for an interview or help you to create a realistic career plan for the next 3 years.

To book an appointment please email Asaf directly at a.federman@warwick.ac.uk. If you are not based on campus there is an option for telephone and email consultations.

In addition to individual appointments Asaf leads career workshop sessions as part of the researchers programme of LDC: www2.warwick.ac.uk/services/ldc/researchers/earlycareerres/

The next two sessions are on interviewing skills and careers outside academia.

Asaf was an IAS early career fellow, he has a PhD in psychology (Warwick), an MA in religious studies (Bristol) and a BA in philosophy.

Further opportunities within Warwick

Windows on Research – WoR

Information on upcoming sessions:

go.warwick.ac.uk/researchexchange/wor

IT courses on eg. SPSS / Nvivo8 / End Note / Sitebuilder etc
www2.warwick.ac.uk/services/its/service-support/training/calendar

An Introduction to the Ethical Approvals Required for Studies Involving Human Participants - 27th May, 12.30 - 14.30. Room R1.03 Ramphal Building

To book a place, please contact Jas Bains at:

j.k.bains@warwick.ac.uk

Opportunities outside Warwick

Vitae - Information for Research staff, see <http://vitae.ac.uk/researchers/1269/Research-staff.html>

Some courses that may be useful to Research Staff are:

- **Broadening Horizons – 17 May, Loughborough University**
www.vitae.ac.uk/policy-practice/916-230061/Broadening-Horizons-Loughborough-2010.html
- **Leadership in action course - 8-11 June**
A three-day residential course which will allow you to explore and develop your leadership skills. This course takes a 'learning by doing' approach. Do you want to... develop your leadership skills? explore the concept of leadership? build confidence in your own leadership style? Places are limited so book now! www.vitae.ac.uk/leadershipinaction
- **Women in SET - 22 September, Loughborough University**
www.vitae.ac.uk/policy-practice/916-231251/Women-in-SET-Loughborough-University-.html
- **Project Management in the Real World for Research Staff – 15 November**
<http://www.vitae.ac.uk/policy-practice/916-205141/Project-Management-in-the-Real-World--for-Research-Staff.html>

Useful information and links - cont'd...

JSPS London - Short-Term Award - call for Applications

The Short-Term Award provides the opportunity for pre and post doctoral UK researchers and European and North American researchers based in the UK to visit Japan for 1 to 12 months to undertake co-operative research with leading research groups at Japanese Universities and Institutions. Successful applicants are asked to start their fellowship between November 2010 and the end of March 2011.

The closing date for applications is 17:30 on Tuesday 1 June
For further information see: www.jsps.org/funding/fellow_short.html

Research Ethics - 13th May

The workshop will review the key strategies and materials required for a "Toolkit" for Research Ethics training of academic staff and research managers in HEIs. Overviews of policies from the Research Councils, NHS (including the Research Passport Scheme) will cover latest developments in Research Ethics and Research Governance in Higher Education Institutions.

<http://www.ukcge.ac.uk/events/eventsarea/ethics2010.htm>

Marie Curie Fellowships

The UK Research Office (UKRO) is running four sessions (in Leeds, Glasgow, London and Bristol) aimed at UK-based researchers who are interested in or planning to submit a proposal to the current Marie Curie Individual Fellowships or the Reintegration Grant calls.

www2.warwick.ac.uk/insite/newsandevents/notices/ukro_marie_curie

Visit of the Royal Society - 20 May

<http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/services/rss/bj/roysoc/>

THE Awards 2010 - <http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/insite/newsandevents/intnews2/theawards10>

School of Advanced Study

http://www.sas.ac.uk/fileadmin/documents/events/sas_eventsbrochure_april_august_2010_01.pdf see p63/64 for the more research relevant course (courses are very much humanities and soc studies focussed).

Research Excellence Framework (REF)

Consultation outcomes - http://www.hefce.ac.uk/pubs/circlets/2010/clo4_10/
Information - <http://www.hefce.ac.uk/research/ref/>

Statutory rights to training time - launched 6 April

HR policy to follow. All employees now have the statutory right to apply, and not be unreasonably turned down for, training that relates to their role - the 'Employee study and training regulations 2010'

- Full legal stuff: http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2010/uksi_20100155_en_1
- Easy to understand version: http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Employment/Employees/Timeoffandholidays/DG_183635

RCUK Statement of Expectations Regarding Researcher Development

<http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/rescareer/rcdu/training.htm> - see Statement of Expectations

To inform you of the attached statement of expectations regarding researcher development that has been agreed by all seven Research Councils. "Recover funds to support researcher development from all funders of research and research students"

Contact:

Sandy Sparks, Learning and Development Advisor, sandy.sparks@warwick.ac.uk x74121

Val Bentick, Researcher Programme Administrator, v.bentick@warwick.ac.uk x24698