

Postgraduate Researchers

Your personal and professional development

The Research Councils are committed to enhancing the quality and output of the UK research base through training the next generation of world-class researchers. We recognise the importance of preparing researchers for academic practice and their wider employment.

We advocate and encourage the researchers we fund to recognise the importance of actively managing your own personal, professional and career development. This position is supported by the following precepts in the QAA code of Practice¹ for postgraduate researchers:

18. Institutions will provide research students with appropriate opportunities for personal and professional development.

19. Each student's development needs will be identified and agreed jointly by the student and appropriate academic staff, initially during the student's induction period; they will be regularly reviewed during the research programme and amended as appropriate.

20. Institutions will provide opportunities for research students to maintain a record of personal progress, which includes reference to the development of research and other skills.

The Research Councils support your career development and transferable skills training by way of (Roberts') payments to the institution where you are studying. These payments are in addition to your studentship fund, and are managed centrally by the institution for the purpose of developing a range of training opportunities, resources and support for the personal and professional development of researchers.

You should receive information on the support provided for your personal and professional development during your induction into the institution. Other information sources include: the graduate school, learning and development units, and the careers service.

The Research Councils also fund and support the work and activities of Vitae (formally the UK GRAD programme). Part of Vitae's remit is to provide access to development opportunities and resources for researchers, providing guidance on how to develop as a researcher and how to manage your career. This includes online resources like forums, newsletters and links to national training events and activities. It also sign posts researchers to resources offered by the Research Councils.

www.vitae.ac.uk

¹ Section 1 of the Quality Assurance Agency Code of practice for the assurance of academic quality and standards in higher education provides guidance on the quality and standards for research degree programmes. www.vitae.ac.uk/cop. Most institutions will have their own version of the Code of Practice.