

## Enabling enhancement and innovation through collaboration

The Centre for Academic Leadership and Development supports enhancement of research excellence by the institution's academic community via its award-winning initiative, Research Futures. To find out about other Research Futures opportunities, visit the Centre's website for news and updates throughout the year: [www.hw.ac.uk/ald](http://www.hw.ac.uk/ald)

Opportunities offered via Research Futures at ALD include:

**Scottish Crucible** – the prestigious leadership and development programme set up and run by Research Futures at ALD for 'research leaders of the future' across Scotland: [www.hw.ac.uk/scottishcrucible](http://www.hw.ac.uk/scottishcrucible)

**Heriot-Watt Engage** – Heriot-Watt's public engagement initiative encouraging and supporting outreach by the academic community: [hwengage@hw.ac.uk](mailto:hwengage@hw.ac.uk)

**Research Futures Training & Development** – a large programme of development workshops, symposia and other events running throughout the year for postgraduate research students and academic staff: <https://pdms.hw.ac.uk>

ALD also promotes other development opportunities in Researcher Development, Learning & Teaching Enhancement, Knowledge Exchange and Public Engagement via its "Current Opportunities" listing: [www.hw.ac.uk/research/ald/opportunities.htm](http://www.hw.ac.uk/research/ald/opportunities.htm)

# Heriot-Watt Crucible

## Research Leadership and Innovation



### Interdisciplinary collaboration support for:

- Research Associates
- Lecturers
- Professors
- Institutional Research Partners

### Contact Us

**RESEARCH FUTURES**  
**Centre for Academic Leadership & Development**  
Postgraduate Centre  
Heriot-Watt University  
Edinburgh  
EH14 4AS

[www.hw.ac.uk/ald](http://www.hw.ac.uk/ald)  
[ResearchFutures@hw.ac.uk](mailto:ResearchFutures@hw.ac.uk)  
+44 (0)131 451 3520/3789

Centre for Academic  
Leadership & Development

## Collaboration, interdisciplinarity, innovation and leadership

Heriot-Watt Crucible is the highly successful leadership and development programme designed and delivered by the Centre for Academic Leadership & Development (ALD). The programme enables academic staff, principal investigators and senior researchers at Heriot-Watt University and its collaborative research partners to:

- Explore ideas for new interdisciplinary research collaborations
- Establish networks with peers across a wide range of disciplines and sectors
- Enhance leadership capacity, research impact and innovation
- Engage productively in knowledge exchange and public engagement

By fostering development of the key attributes of collaboration, interdisciplinarity, innovation and leadership, Heriot-Watt Crucible reflects funding bodies' strategic aims and promotes the research excellence of individual researchers, research institutes and collaborative partnerships.

## Heriot-Watt Crucible – Programme and partners

Heriot-Watt Crucible is an intensive, interactive programme comprising three two-day workshops - "Labs" - run over a 3 month period. Each Lab focuses on important elements contributing to the development of academic leadership in a research intensive environment. Together they inspire and equip participants to be more ambitious, creative and innovative in their research.

Each Heriot-Watt Crucible programme takes place at a set of partner host organisations and includes contributions from numerous experts from academia, industry, media and government. Heriot-Watt Crucible has thus seen participants explore impact at the Royal Society of Edinburgh, research collaboration at Moredun Research Institute, innovation at Selex ES, internationalisation at the British Council, policy at the Scottish Parliament and public engagement at Our Dynamic Earth, Edinburgh. Science writers and broadcasters, Vivienne Parry and Quentin Cooper of BBC Radio 4, are amongst the regular facilitators, and keynote speakers and guests include University Principals, Deputy Principals, Heads of Schools and Departments, and other senior research leaders in academia and business.

## Maximising impact

Heriot-Watt Crucible alumni are recognised as a group of high-achieving, motivated individuals who are willing to lead new initiatives, form new partnerships and represent Scottish research in an international market.

*Heriot-Watt Crucible helps researchers develop skills, knowledge and connections to enhance their research capacity and impact through interdisciplinary collaborations and knowledge exchange*

*Dr Ruth Neiland, Head of the Centre for Academic Leadership & Development, Heriot-Watt University*

## Programme Participants

Heriot-Watt academics are specially nominated to take part in Heriot-Watt Crucible by their Heads of School or Directors of Research, with additional places being made available to colleagues from collaborating institutes. Former participants have come from all the academic Schools across Heriot-Watt University, as well as from the University of Edinburgh, Moredun Research Institute, British Geological Survey and high-tech companies, Renishaw and Selex ES.

Each programme cohort comprises 30 researchers and is carefully balanced to ensure appropriate representation of discipline, gender and institution.

## Heriot-Watt Crucible Alumni

Alumni from Heriot-Watt Crucible go on to form novel interdisciplinary research projects for which internal funding and mentorship can be made available. Many have marked the start of promising new research directions, attracting further external sponsorship and prominence. Alumni-led networking continues amongst HW Crucible contributors and participants to encourage further knowledge exchange and research impact.

## Scottish Crucible and Heriot-Watt Exchange

Heriot-Watt Crucible is based on the annual national programme, Scottish Crucible, which is also designed and led by the Centre for Academic Leadership & Development at Heriot-Watt University. Elements of Heriot-Watt Crucible have been incorporated into other ALD initiatives such as its "Heriot-Watt Exchange" events aimed at stimulating new research with external research institutes.