

Research Futures Academy

The Research Futures Academy (RFA) provides researcher development and research-related training for academic staff and postgraduate research students at Heriot-Watt University. In helping to implement the ambitions of Strategy 2025: Shaping the Future Together, the RFA aims to:

- develop research capacity, maximise research excellence, and enhance researchers' current and future careers.
- inspire research ideas' generation, build interdisciplinary research collaborations, and share best practice amongst peers.

Celebrating Research at HWU

- RFA will officially launch in June 2019.
- HWU Festival of Research – RFA will run a 2 day 'Festival of Research' on the Edinburgh campus in August 2019 to coincide with the opening of the new Research Hub.

Supporting our Research*

"Supporting our Research Programme" - new programme of professional development workshops for academic staff outlined in the Strategy 2025, 'Excelling in Research and Excellence Implementation Plan'. Designed by RFA in collaboration with leading research staff at HWU who will also contribute to its delivery (2019/2020 academic year).

Supporting 'research culture'

- Research Culture grant scheme - to enhance research culture for research student & staff community across our global campuses via innovative projects led by PGRs and researchers. Deadline: 8th July 2019. Selection panel: academics from the Research Degrees Committee.
- 3 Minute Thesis Competition – HWU's first participation in this national competition. 17 PGR students selected to take part on 10th June 2019, including 2 students from Dubai.
- Thesis Writing Retreat- residential workshop at Galashiels (24-26th June 2019) facilitated by the Royal Literary Fund and forming part of a summer school in Scotland for Dubai PGRs.

Globalising researcher development

- Online workshops – RFA developing online workshops comprising the RFA "Getting Started" series for 1st Year PhD students (October 2019).
- Webinars - RFA trialling its first Supervise session (for PhD supervisors) delivered as a webinar to both Edinburgh and Dubai (30th May 2019).

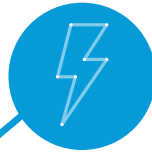
Capacity and career development of Research Staff

- "How to collaborate with Business" - training workshop for early career researchers to enhance their career and/or research collaborations. Run in collaboration with University of Edinburgh with contributors from RED Business Development, HWU Enterprise Team, academic staff and industry. (12th June 2019)
- 'Software Carpentry' and 'Data carpentry' – two foundational coding and data science skills workshops for researchers supported the international "carpentries" organisation.

Interdisciplinary research collaboration

- "Optical Imaging Crucible Event" – run in collaboration with three Scottish Research Pools, SUPA, SULSA and SINAPSE, the national event funded by SFC aimed to stimulate new research collaborations and networks. Included speakers from Stanford and Berkeley, USA the Scottish Minister for Higher Education and Science. (2nd April 2019)

Heriot-Watt University's new development programme for Research Leaders – launching 2019/20



All Staff

Effective Supervisor of Postgraduate Research Students

1. The supervisor/student relationship.
2. Getting the best from your co-supervisors.
3. Managing student performance.
4. Legal obligations and the universities supervisory code of practice.
5. What to do when things go wrong.
6. Sources of support

Engaging the Public

1. Why engagement is important.
2. Developing an impactful public engagement strategy
3. Presenting with confidence.
4. Gamification – Creating a hands-on activity around your research
5. Creating engaging written/online content/social media
6. Evaluation and legacy

All Staff on T&R or open-ended R contracts

Getting Grant funding

1. Knowing the funding landscape.
2. Effective networking.
3. Writing a compelling proposal.
4. Developing partnerships and negotiation.
5. The peer review process.

Publishing World Leading Research

1. The ingredients of a world-leading output.
2. Where to publish.

Growing Your Influence

1. Understanding bibliography.
2. What to write about.
3. Promoting you work to others.
4. Working you network.

For Grant Holders

Managing a Research Grant

1. Managing staff (recruitment, contract of employment, mentoring, managing performance (PDR))
2. Managing finance (responsibilities, monitoring expenditure, procurement, funder regulations)
3. Making the most of the opportunity (publishing your work, promoting your work, planning for success)

For Promoted Staff on T&R and open-ended R contracts

Managing a Research Group

1. Mentoring and coaching PDRAs.
2. Maintaining and portfolio of funding.
3. Internationalising your network.

Developing Industrial partnerships

1. Understanding your industrial sector.
2. Presenting your work to industry.
3. Managing the relationship.
4. Developing an “ask”.
5. Closing the deal.

For Professorial Staff

Growing Your Influence

1. Building an influential network.
2. Communication with Government.
3. Communication with funders.

