Although student views are extremely important in the design of the PPD Programmes, the content has also been defined by the views of external bodies. In 2010 Vitae, in conjunction with the Research Councils, issued a Researcher Development Framework (RDF) with their common view of the skills and competencies that research students are expected to have, or develop, during their period of study. The framework recognises the broad range of skills – for example, leadership, creativity and enterprise – required to be an effective researcher and employee in a world driven by knowledge production and innovation and also recognises that some transferable skills might be usefully developed within a subject context. You and your supervisory team are encouraged to use the RDF as a basis for you to review your own strengths and weaknesses and plan your personal and professional training and development requirements.

The full Researcher Development Framework can be found at: www.vitae.ac.uk/researchers-professional-development/about-the-vitae-researcher-development-framework

“The offer of PPD courses is very extensive and covers the majority of training necessary for PhD students.”

“A good selection of training to choose from.”

ENQUIRIES
Postgraduate Research Service, UEA, Norwich Research Park
www.uea.ac.uk/pgresearch
+44(0)1603 59 1709
PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR RESEARCHERS

Successful researchers think carefully and strategically about their skills, objectives and the areas in which they need to develop. Therefore, you are expected to take responsibility for your personal and professional development. All first year students are required to undertake a training needs analysis with your supervisory team and produce a plan for developing your skills and competencies through PPD sessions and advanced discipline-related training. These processes are designed to identify where your developmental needs are and to help you address them. In addition to evaluating the training you need for your research, your personal development will also involve thinking about your values, desired lifestyle, career aspirations and personal attributes and skills.

You should see your training plan as a dynamic document which you continue to return to and amend throughout your career and as part of your wider personal and professional development.

“Your personal and professional development by undertaking activities such as presenting papers at conferences, or engaging with communities beyond your professional domain. The PPD programmes encourage you to be an active member of the University’s research community as well as a participant in the wider community with an emphasis on learning through experience and activity.”

Your training plan will need to be reviewed and updated at least once a year. The PPD programmes encourage you to take an active role in planning your personal and professional development by planning and taking responsibility for your training needs analysis, training plan, and progress towards reaching your goals. During your PhD, you will be expected to undertake a range of activities that will help you develop your skills and experiences.

Full details of the PPD programmes published by the four faculties can be found at www.uea.ac.uk/pgresearch/ppd where you can also enrol online for any of the courses.

PPD PROGRAMMES

The PPD programmes aim to develop your intellectual and practical needs as a higher level researcher. We believe that the most innovative work develops within a vibrant and challenging intellectual culture that draws on the expertise and experiences of different academic and professional specialities. Most of the sessions on the programmes are provided by research active academic staff to provide practical and technical training and career development for PGR students.

Although some of the training takes place in formal sessions, there are many opportunities for you to gain recognition for your personal and professional development by undertaking activities such as presenting papers at conferences, or engaging with communities beyond your professional domain. The PPD programmes encourage you to be an active member of the University’s research community as well as a participant in the wider community with an emphasis on learning through experience and activity.

The programme offers plenty of opportunities for acquiring transferable skills throughout a PhD programme.”

DEVELOPING YOUR CAREER

Engagement with personal and professional development should also relate to your longer term career aspirations. How you spend your time during your postgraduate studies will have a major impact on your future career and research. The PPD programmes enable you to undertake a range of activities that will provide you with skills and experiences to enhance your employability and prospects of success in your chosen career.