



# Faculty of Humanities Postgraduate Researcher Development Guide

## 2014/15

### Humanities Researcher Development Team

**Crawford House  
Oxford Road  
Manchester  
M13 9PL**

**0161 306 1113**

[humanities-training@  
manchester.ac.uk](mailto:humanities-training@manchester.ac.uk)

The Researcher Development Team works in collaboration with [methods@manchester](mailto:methods@manchester) and [artsmethods@manchester](mailto:artsmethods@manchester) to offer relevant, effective and comprehensive professional development for researchers at various stages of their careers.

### Follow us!



**Twitter**

[@HumsResearchers](https://twitter.com/HumsResearchers)



## Contents

2	Introduction
3	About us
4	The Researcher Development Framework & eProg
5	Approaching Training Strategically
6-7	The RDF Wheel
8	Training & Reflective Practice
9	Other Training Providers
10-11	Researcher Development Training
12	Handy Guide / Useful Information

## Introduction

### **Welcome to the 2014/15 Faculty of Humanities Researcher Development Guide!**

The Faculty of Humanities Researcher Development Programme has been created to reflect the changing professional development needs of researchers across the duration of a research programme. Courses have been mapped to the Researcher Development Framework (RDF) and structured so that researchers can plan a bespoke development programme.

Our aim is to offer opportunities:

- To enhance the personal and professional development of researchers, help them to fulfil their potential and succeed in a highly competitive environment
- To offer a wide range of workshops which offer an insight into the research process
- To enhance the “Manchester Experience” by contributing to the vibrant research communities that exist within the Humanities



# About us

## **Mission Statement 2014/2015**

The Faculty of Humanities Researcher Development Team works in collaboration with [methods@manchester](mailto:methods@manchester) and [artsmethods@manchester](mailto:artsmethods@manchester) to offer relevant, effective and comprehensive professional development for researchers at various stages of their careers. We also work alongside other University training providers, each School in the Faculty and with Researcher Development teams in the other Faculties allowing for shared delivery of training events, and promoting an interdisciplinary approach to the development of first-class research skills and expertise.

Our embedded and holistic Researcher Development Programme is aligned with the expectations of the Research Councils and, by mapping our development opportunities to the Researcher Development Framework (RDF), we aim to ensure that we provide a broad range of relevant and practical training options.

## **The Team:**

Dr. Ian Fairweather: Researcher Development Manager

Dr. Claire Stocks: Researcher Development Officer

Ms Nicola Sheehan: Researcher Development Administrator

**Contact us:** [humanities-training@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:humanities-training@manchester.ac.uk)



# The Researcher Development Framework & eProg

## **The Researcher Development Framework (RDF)**

The Researcher Development Framework (RDF) is a professional development tool, created by Vitae, to help researchers at all stages of their careers to understand the knowledge, attributes and behaviours required to succeed as a professional researcher in Higher Education or beyond. Empirical data, collected from interviews with researchers, underpins the RDF, and it therefore offers a real insight into what professional researchers and academics believe is needed to progress in a research career. More information about the RDF is available on the Vitae website: [www.vitae.ac.uk/rdf](http://www.vitae.ac.uk/rdf). A full outline of the RDF “wheel” is available on pages 6 & 7 of this brochure—the wheel gives a comprehensive overview of the four domains and twelve sub-domains outlined in the RDF as well as the knowledge, attributes and behaviours required of successful researchers.

## **eProg**

eProg is an online research progression tool and researcher development workshop catalogue for Post-graduate researchers. eProg can be used to record all training and development activity and it also forms the central booking system for researcher training courses and workshops throughout the Faculty. For more information please visit [www.eprog.manchester.ac.uk](http://www.eprog.manchester.ac.uk).



# Approaching Training Strategically

## Building a Training Plan - Thesis as a Product & Process

An effective training & development plan will enable researchers to: (1) develop the appropriate knowledge and expertise to complete the thesis as a product of their research and (2) develop as a research professional with the necessary skills, attitudes and experience to succeed as a researcher within the field of Higher Education and beyond. The Humanities Faculty as a whole offers three types of training and development opportunity. A programme incorporating all three will enable researchers to develop the skills and knowledge to succeed:

**Discipline-specific** training will often be undertaken individually or amongst a small group of researchers who share similar research interests or supervisors. This training is specialist and is crucial to the development of the thesis as a product.

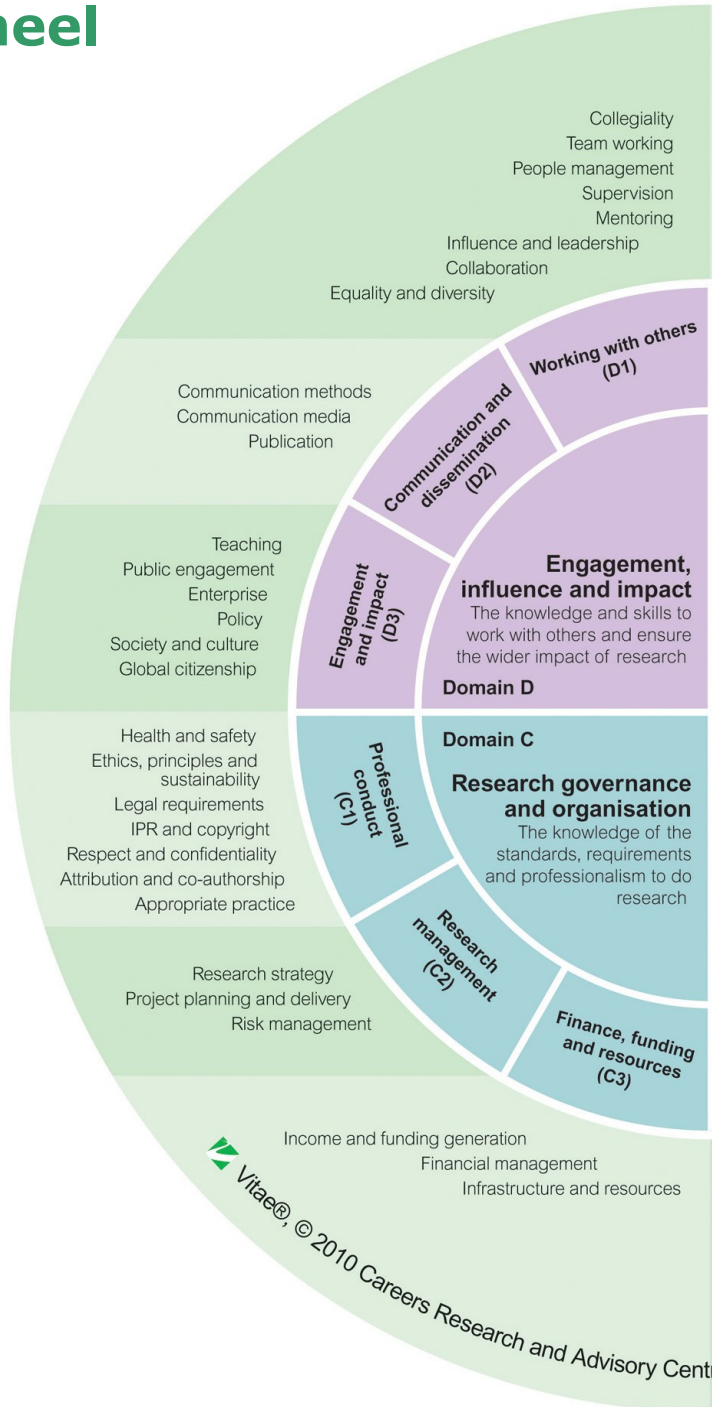
**Methodological/theoretical** training is offered via the **methods@manchester** and **artsmethods@manchester** programmes (please see page 9). It unites researchers in an interdisciplinary environment to discuss a particular methodological or theoretical approach.

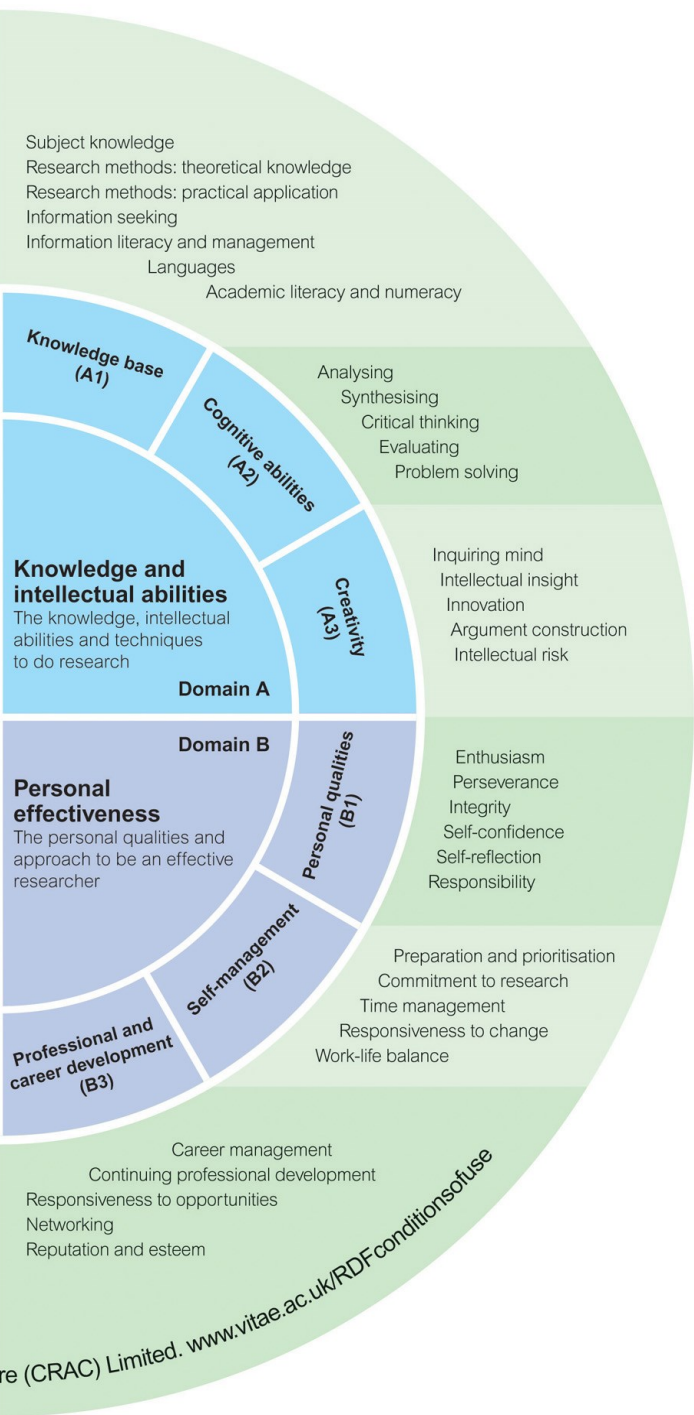
**Process-orientated training** is offered via the **Researcher Development Programme**. Researchers meet in an interdisciplinary environment to explore the process of undertaking a research degree. This includes planning research, writing a literature review, presenting at academic conferences and publishing in journals. The focus of this programme is on helping the researcher develop as a professional within Higher Education.

### **New for 2014/15: Building Research Communities events**

which support researchers to network and build collaborations across disciplinary boundaries.

# The RDF Wheel









# Training & Reflective Practice

## What constitutes training?

Professional development for research can take a variety of forms. Researcher development activities can include (but are not limited to) attendance and participation in workshops provided by [methods@manchester](mailto:methods@manchester), [artsmethods@manchester](mailto:artsmethods@manchester) and the Researcher Development Programme, self-directed reading, discussion with peers, attendance and participation at conferences, supervision meetings, review panels, participation in reading groups, participation in researcher-led initiatives and engaging in self-reflection.

## Reflective Practice

Becoming a reflective practitioner is an important part of the research process. Indeed, the viva itself could be seen as a reflective event. It is crucial that researchers approach their training strategically in order to achieve an appropriate balance between the development of the thesis and the gaining of appropriate and useful research skills and knowledge. At the beginning of the PhD programme, researchers should identify their training needs and develop a training plan, in consultation with their supervisor(s). The training plan should be updated at the beginning of every academic year and provides a record and a framework for discussing and documenting progress.

Researchers are also actively encouraged to keep a research diary or a blog. Reflecting on the PhD experience helps researchers to record their progress and develop a greater awareness of knowledge and expertise. Research diaries allow space for assessment of strengths and successes as well as enabling researchers to identify any weak areas and make steps to manage these, and perhaps overcome them completely.





## Other Training Providers

### **methods@manchester**

**methods@manchester** is an initiative which showcases the breadth of social science methodological expertise used across the Humanities. **methods@manchester** also runs research methods courses, hold informal methods-based discussions and has a range of resources available on the website: [www.methods.manchester.ac.uk](http://www.methods.manchester.ac.uk) or email [methods@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:methods@manchester.ac.uk).

### **artsmethods@manchester**

**artsmethods@manchester** is a programme which mirrors **methods@manchester** for arts research across the Faculty. There are various workshops and talks throughout the academic year, available to book on eProg via our training calendar. For more details visit the website [www.artsmethods.manchester.ac.uk](http://www.artsmethods.manchester.ac.uk) follow the blog <http://artsmethodsmanchester.wordpress.com> and follow us on Twitter [@ArtsMethodsManc](https://twitter.com/ArtsMethodsManc).

### **The University of Manchester University Library**

Courses run throughout the year and cover literature searching, citation analysis, reference management and keeping up-to-date with the latest information. Training is also available in the use of specialist resources including news sources, maps and archives. The library can also provide one-to-one advice with a subject specialist in your field, and is able to help with Open Access publishing. For further information on the services offered to researchers or to book onto any courses, visit the website at: [www.manchester.ac.uk/library/academicsupport/researchers](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/library/academicsupport/researchers) or follow them on Twitter [@UoMLibrary](https://twitter.com/UoMLibrary).

# Researcher Development Training

## Domain A training

### Knowledge Base / Cognitive Abilities / Creativity

- Talks/workshops provided by methods@manchester
- Talks/workshops provided by artsmethods@manchester
- Workshops provided by the JRUL
- Academic writing lectures
- Speed reading
- Writing your literature review
- Viva survivor
- Approaches to fieldwork
- Preparing for your review panel
- Thesis submission briefing

## Domain B training

### Personal Qualities / Self Management / Professional & Career Development

- Talks/workshops provided by methods@manchester
- Talks/workshops provided by artsmethods@manchester
- Planning your research
- Keeping your research on track
- Planning your final year
- An introduction to Web 2.0/ social media for researchers
- Introduction to Blogging
- Writing a blog.
- Writing a fellowship application
- Simon & Hallsworth fellowship briefing
- Speed reading
- Viva survivor
- GTA training
- Preparing for your review panel
- Approaches to fieldwork
- The resilient researcher
- Planning for an academic career
- Transitioning out of doctoral study
- Working with your supervisor
- Reflective practice
- How to shine at fellowship interviews
- Building research communities

All courses can be booked through eProg via our PGR development calendar:  
<http://www.humanities.manchester.ac.uk/researcherdevelopment/researchers/calendar.html>

## **Domain C training**

### **Professional Conduct / Research Management / Finance, Funding & Resources**

- Talks/workshops provided by methods@manchester
- Talks/workshops provided by artsmethods@manchester
- Workshops provided by the JRUL
- Academic writing lectures
- Writing your literature review
- Viva survivor
- Preparing for your review panel
- Publishing in journals workshop
- Approaches to fieldwork
- Planning your research
- Keeping your research on track
- Planning your final year
- Writing a fellowship application
- Simon & Hallsworth fellowship briefing
- Writing a conference abstract
- Writing for oral presentation
- Planning for an academic career
- Thesis submission briefing

## **Domain D training**

### **Engagement & Impact / Working with Others / Communication & Dissemination**

- Talks/workshops provided by methods@manchester
- Talks/workshops provided by artsmethods@manchester
- GTA Training
- Academic writing lectures
- Editing and proofreading your thesis
- Preparing for your review panel
- Publishing in journals workshop
- Presentations for beginners
- Improve your presentation style
- An introduction to Web 2.0/ social media for researchers
- Introduction to blogging
- Writing a blog
- Managing feedback
- The resilient researcher
- Designing a research poster
- Presenting a research poster
- How to shine at fellowship interviews
- Building research communities
- Attracting academic audiences, making your mark, and measuring it.

For details of methods@manchester and artsmethods@manchester courses please consult the websites: [www.methods.manchester.ac.uk](http://www.methods.manchester.ac.uk) and [www.artsmethods.manchester.ac.uk](http://www.artsmethods.manchester.ac.uk)

## Handy Guide / Useful Information

### Twitter: who to follow

- [@HumsResearchers](#): Humanities Researcher Development
- [@MethodsMcr](#): methods@manchester updates
- [@ArtsMethodsManc](#): artsmethods@manchester updates
- [@UoMLibrary](#): The University of Manchester Library
- [@ManPGCareers](#): Postgraduate Careers updates from UoM
- [@vitaenwhub](#): Updates from the NW Hub of Vitae
- [@timeshighered](#): Updates from the Times Higher Education
- [@postgradtoolbox](#): Resources for PhD researchers
- [@britishlibrary](#): Updates from the British Library
- [@thesiswhisperer](#): The Thesis Whisperer

### Blogs: the ones to watch

- <http://artsmethodsmanchester.wordpress.com>  
The blog for artsmethods@manchester
- <http://manunicareersblog.com/>  
An excellent careers blog for postgraduates at the University of Manchester
- [thesiswhisperer.com](http://thesiswhisperer.com)  
The blog of the Thesis Whisperer
- <http://researchstafftraining.wordpress.com/>  
Blog for Humanities Faculty Research Staff.

### Websites: those to check regularly

- [www.humanities.manchester.ac.uk/researcherdevelopment](http://www.humanities.manchester.ac.uk/researcherdevelopment):  
Humanities Researcher Development
- [www.artsmethods.manchester.ac.uk](http://www.artsmethods.manchester.ac.uk): artsmethods@manchester
- [www.methods.manchester.ac.uk](http://www.methods.manchester.ac.uk): methods@manchester
- [www.library.manchester.ac.uk](http://www.library.manchester.ac.uk): The UoM Library
- [www.manchester.ac.uk/library/academicssupport/researchers](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/library/academicssupport/researchers):  
useful information for researchers at the UoM Library
- [www.vitae.ac.uk](http://www.vitae.ac.uk): Vitae's website includes useful advice and resources for postgraduate researchers.