



THE UNIVERSITY  
of EDINBURGH



# Research Staff Newsletter

## May 2020

### Support for Researchers around the University

This month's newsletter includes our usual updates about relevant events and training, but we've also been in touch with some of our colleagues in the other support services to remind you of all the help and expertise that's available to you at the moment. Here we present the highlights of support from Edinburgh Innovations, Edinburgh Research Office, the Research Data Service, Human Resources and an invitation to join in the new cross-University Postdoc Seminar Series that the George Square Postdocs have created.

As we start a new month we recognise that our researchers are adjusting in different ways and have different needs. We are keen to support researchers working from home during the covid-19 pandemic by running online workshops. We would be interested to know if there are any workshops or events you would like us to run over the next few months. Topics might include presentation skills for online conferences, writing and publishing. Please complete this form with suggestions - <https://edin.ac/3f7Nj23>

Sara, Nicola and Theodora

### PhD Supervision - Coaching Conversations (Online Session)

21<sup>st</sup> May 2020 or 4<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Many of our research staff supervise research students both formally and informally. Part of the supervisory role is to enable students to develop their independence as researchers. This can be challenging as there is always the temptation to tell the student what to do especially if the student is linked to a specific funded project. This practical workshop aims to equip you as supervisor with the ability to "coach" your students to enable you to support the development of independent research. Within the workshop we will explore:

- Coaching skills such as active listening and problem reframing.
- A framework for having coaching conversations to enable problem solving by your students.
- Research focussed coaching style questions.

During the workshop there will be an opportunity to put these skills into practice and gain feedback on your approach. The skills discussed in this workshop will have relevance to the management of research staff and working inside research collaborations – however the focus of the workshop is how these conversations can be managed within the context of a PhD supervisory relationship.

More information here - <https://edin.ac/3de6HbZ>

## SUPPORT AND OPPORTUNITIES FROM OUR RESEARCH STAFF SOCIETIES

### Research Staff Societies

Our Research Staff Societies are active across the University. If you are feeling isolated and would like to connect with other researchers, have a look at the societies or let us know if you want to connect with others. We are running online coffee mornings for PhD students and plan to open the “IAD Coffee Shop” to staff as well to help researchers connect. We’ll pilot a coffee morning later in May – look out for updates on our social media channels (see below) and website.

We’re also still keen to hear from researchers who would like to share their expertise and experience with doctoral students. If you’d like to be part of a short online session, followed by a Q&A session, just let us know. Our first session on Thesis Writing was a great success and we’re now thinking about what to run next. You can suggest topics or offer your support by emailing your local research staff society or the IAD who will connect you: <https://www.ed.ac.uk/institute-academic-development/research-roles/research-only-staff/networks/societies>

### POSTDOC SEMINAR ONLINE SERIES 2020

Dear all,

We are moving our Postdoc Seminar Series online!

The main idea behind this initiative is to showcase the work of our talented postdocs but also to foster potential collaborations and get to know what your lab neighbours are doing and what kind of expertise you can share. Therefore the sessions will be open to EVERYONE (from students, technicians to PIs).

We encourage EVERY POSTDOC, from any university campus, at any stage of their postdoctoral training to give it a try. You don’t need to have a complete story to participate. You can use this to practice for a conference talk, to talk about your preliminary results or your innovative ideas!

If you are keen to participate as a speaker, please drop us an email to [g2pd@ed.ac.uk](mailto:g2pd@ed.ac.uk)

Find us on twitter [@g2\\_pd](https://twitter.com/g2_pd) (G2 Post Docs)

Kind regards,

G2PD committee

*If you would like to be part of the online Seminar Series but want to brush up your presentation skills first, let us know on [iad.researchers@ed.ac.uk](mailto:iad.researchers@ed.ac.uk) and we’ll arrange a Pop-Up session to go through the basics and help you build your confidence.*

## SUPPORT FROM HUMAN RESOURCES

### Learning and Organisational Development

In addition to the research related training from the IAD, there's a wider range of more general online training and resources from the L&OD team in HR. Their website gives an overview of their support, including advice on annual reviews. <https://www.ed.ac.uk/human-resources/learning-development>

Additionally, they've produced a range of "toolkits" which are online and include videos, worksheets and resources.

Personal Effectiveness	Management	Leadership
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Career Development</li><li>• Change</li><li>• Communication</li><li>• Owning your own Development</li><li>• Personal Impact</li><li>• Project Management</li><li>• Resilience</li><li>• Time Management</li><li>• Time Management Bitesize</li><li>• Toolkits for Development</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Aspiring Manager</li><li>• Delegation</li><li>• Developing your Team</li><li>• Difficult Conversations</li><li>• Giving and Receiving Feedback</li><li>• Edinburgh Manager - coming soon</li><li>• Managing Teams Remotely</li><li>• Meaningful Management Conversations</li><li>• New Manager</li><li>• Setting Effective Objectives</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Coaching</li><li>• Influencing Others</li><li>• Influencing Skills</li><li>• Introduction to Leadership</li><li>• Leadership</li><li>• Senior Leadership Programme</li><li>• Thinking and Acting Strategically</li><li>• Thinking and Acting Strategically Workshop</li></ul>

The University also has a subscription to an Online Development Toolkit with a very wide range of resources. You can access all these resources from their website: <https://www.ed.ac.uk/human-resources/learning-development/courses>

*If you there are topics here that you find interesting, but want to hear about how they relate to researchers, let us know on [iad.researchers@ed.ac.uk](mailto:iad.researchers@ed.ac.uk) and we'll see if we can develop a Pop-Up session.*

## SUPPORT FROM EDINBURGH RESEARCH OFFICE

At Edinburgh Research Office, we work alongside researchers to grow ideas into fundable proposals. We continue to provide support to you during this challenging time while we are remote working. Our website is your first port of call for finding [funding opportunities](#), including how to get the most out of [ResearchProfessional](#). We also have a wealth of resources on [crafting your research application](#), including a collection of [successful applications](#).

Contact your Research Funding Specialist or Research Grants Administrator for personalised advice on a [proposal](#) or an existing [grant](#) you are currently working on. We have dedicated website area on [Covid-19 and research](#) including support for researchers, funding opportunities and information about our Covid-19 research across the University.

## SUPPORT AND OPPORTUNITIES FROM EDINBURGH INNOVATIONS

### Consultancy for your Career

**Online workshop via Collaborate** 9.30 – 11.30, Thursday, 25/06/2020

Learn about how you can develop your career by engaging in consultancy as part of your job, here at the University. We start with defining what consultancy is, how the University of Edinburgh supports you as a consultant and discuss some of the benefits and challenges.

Next we take you through a series of activities to help you think of yourself as a consultant:

- What skills and expertise you can offer to companies
- Think about what companies or sectors of industry might be interested in you
- How to communicate that efficiently and effectively to the outside world

This is also a great opportunity to network with other academics across Schools and Colleges, in the facilitated groupwork via MS Teams (1 hour session)

For all teaching and research staff, across all colleges. Register [here](#)

### Engaging external partners with your research: Enhance your skills (CAHSS)

**Online workshops via Collaborate** June 1<sup>st</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>

Do you want to explore developing your career by engaging business, government or 3rd sector with your knowledge, skills, and experience? You can as part of your academic post here within CAHSS at the University of Edinburgh, with the help of the KE and Impact Team and Edinburgh Innovations.

In this training course you will

- explore business/government needs and challenges which academia can support
- define and develop skills and expertise you can offer to companies or partners
- scope potential companies, organisations or sectors that might be interested in you
- practice communicating your research, knowledge efficiently and effectively to the outside world

#### Course Details

This course will be delivered in a two-part online series. In between that time we will expect participants to undertake some homework by themselves, as well as a one hour group session organised by the host. Altogether approximately 8-10 hours of learning.

Dates to save

Workshop 1: Getting started 1st June 10am – 12.30 Live webinar via Collaborate

Workshop 2: Implementing your ideas 10th June 10am – 12.00 Live Webinar via Collaborate

If you are interested, please contact [Claire.pembleton@ei.ed.ac.uk](mailto:Claire.pembleton@ei.ed.ac.uk), and event will be live on MyEd for enrolment shortly.

## SUPPORT AND OPPORTUNITIES FROM LIBRARY RESEARCH SUPPORT

The Research Support teams in the Library can help you with everything you need to know about managing and publishing your research.

<https://www.ed.ac.uk/information-services/research-support>

The Research Data Service is a suite of tools and support that helps research staff across the university be effective with their research data before, during and after their research project is completed.

They have produced a range of online guides to help understand their services and how to manage your own data to the highest standards.

<https://www.ed.ac.uk/information-services/research-support/research-data-service/guidance>

Research Information Management oversee the systems that help manage and organise all the information associated with our research. This includes PURE, which feeds into Research Explorer and enables the university to report on our research activities.

<https://www.ed.ac.uk/information-services/research-support/research-information-management/pure>

These teams are recognised experts and are behind the highly regarded MANTRA online training course:

<https://mantra.edina.ac.uk/>

and the Coursera Research Data Management and Sharing – MOOC – **STARTS MAY 1st**

This free five-week Coursera MOOC - created by the Universities of Edinburgh and North Carolina - is designed to reach learners across disciplines and continents.

Subjects covered in the 5-week course follow the stages of any research project. They are:

- Understanding Research Data
- Data Management Planning
- Working with Data
- Sharing Data
- Archiving Data

The MOOC (The Massive Open Online Course) uses the Coursera on-demand format to provide short, video-based lessons and assessments across a five-week period, but learners can proceed at their own pace. Although no formal credit is assigned for the MOOC, Statements of Accomplishment will be available to any learner who completes a course for a small fee.

<https://www.coursera.org/learn/data-management>

## Pop-Up IAD



IAD4RESEARCHERS

Researcher Development at The University of Edinburgh

[Home](#) [Contributors](#) [About](#)

### Category: Pop Up Training



A Fresh Look at Resilience



Career Choices for Researchers



The Insiders' Guide to Thesis Writing

We've added new sessions to the Pop-Up IAD this month. This is an informal training programme run by the Head of Researcher Development, Sara and she is keen to hear from researchers about the topics they need at the moment and to hear from anyone who would like to run their own, or co-deliver. The sessions can be found, with supporting links and resources on the IAD4Researchers blog: <https://blogs.ed.ac.uk/iad4researchers/category/pop-up-training/>

*If you there are topics here that you find interesting, but you aren't a life sciences researcher... perhaps suggest a Pop-Up session!*

### Converge - Latest Update

Converge is a unique programme that brings together academic entrepreneurs from every university in Scotland. Our mission is to empower people to take their future into their own hands. We do this by providing intensive business training – tailored to academic entrepreneurs – a dynamic and supportive network and one to one guidance for staff, students and graduates.

Now, more than ever, the world needs new ideas an innovation. Step up and make the difference. Apply for Converge by May 14 <https://www.convergechallenge.com/>

### SULSA Webinars

SULSA have recently launched a series of interactive webinars taking place across the month of May on Zoom. These are open to Life Sciences researchers and can be booked on the SULSA website : <https://www.sulsa.ac.uk/isolation-workshops/>

Topics include: Turning Ideas into Proposals, LinkedIn: Building your Profile & Increasing Connections Remotely, Staying on Track & Keeping Motivated, Research Project Management, Developing Your Research Strategy, Building Effective Collaborations.

- Find out more at <https://bit.ly/3bokTyu>

### Drop-In Careers Surgeries

We've been reviewing the demand for our 1:1 career appointments and the topics being discussed. To help more of you take control of your career, on June 2nd we're going to trial a new Drop-In Careers Surgery from 2pm - 4pm (direct booking link: <https://edin.ac/3b15Fyn>). You can come along with any career related questions and have a short conversation (in private) with either Eleanor, our Careers Consultant, or Sara, Head of Researcher Development. If you want to come along, sign up on MyEd and we'll send the link to the session and suggest what time to call in. As this is a new approach, there might be a little hanging around as we get to grips with the timings, but there will be some reading materials in the waiting room, and the chance to chat to other researchers as you wait!

### Research Staff Support - Contact Details:

**Phone:** 0131 651 6662

**Email:** [iad.researchers@ed.ac.uk](mailto:iad.researchers@ed.ac.uk)

**Website:** [www.ed.ac.uk/iad/researchers](http://www.ed.ac.uk/iad/researchers)

**Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/researchersated>

**Blog:** [blogs.ed.ac.uk/iad4researchers](http://blogs.ed.ac.uk/iad4researchers)

The IAD can be found at: 1 Morgan Lane, Edinburgh, EH8 8FP