

## Update from the Research Staff Office

Hello and welcome to this issue of the Research Staff Newsletter. Over the last month I have been meeting with colleagues from across the University to put plans in place for a range of tailored events for research staff. In addition to our termly Research Staff Forum (the next of which will take place in October), we will be bringing you a number of events/workshops that aim to address some of the areas you highlighted in the recent training and development survey.

It will be the first time that there has been a tailored programme of development events for Sussex research staff, so I'm excited that we'll be offering these opportunities and I look forward to bringing you the full details once dates are confirmed.

In the meantime you'll find a taster of what to expect in this newsletter, along with information about some innovative funding opportunities.

Best wishes,  
Natalie James (Research Staff Officer, Research and Enterprise)

### Higher Education Innovation Fund Kick Start scheme: Third call for proposals

The University has issued the third call of the [Kick Start scheme](#), which aims to connect Sussex academics with non-academic research users. This call is part of the University's knowledge exchange activities, and is supported by the Higher Education Innovation Fund (HEIF).

The Kick Start scheme will support the development of relationships with non-academic organisations. Funds can be used to embark upon discussions with potential collaborators from business and industry, the policy world and other end users of research and can facilitate a range of interactions including for example, workshops, travel to meet partners, web-based interaction. Other creative ways of engaging with non-academic partners will also be considered.

In total, funding of £7,500 is available through this scheme. Sussex Research envisage funding between one and three projects. Deadline for applications is **Friday 10<sup>th</sup> October** .(Funding has to be incurred before 31 July 2015.)

An important objective is to establish medium - or long-term relationships that will be maintained beyond the period of Kick Start funding. Further information on the scheme how to apply is available on the [Sussex Research website](#).



## Forthcoming Events....

[Research Staff Career Development Day](#) – 1<sup>st</sup> September

[Springboard women's development programme](#) – Starts 4<sup>th</sup> September

[RSC Careers Conference](#) – 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> September

[Vitae Research Staff Conference](#) – 13<sup>th</sup> November

## Research Staff Events Programme ...

We have been working hard over the summer to put together a schedule of events and workshops especially for research staff over the coming year. Details and dates will be available from September.

We are planning events/workshops that fall into the categories of:

- Career Management
- Communication and Engagement
- Managing yourself and others
- Research Management and Environment
- Progression and Leadership

We hope there will be something for everyone. We look forward to bringing you more details in the next issue of the newsletter.

**Save the Date:**  
**4<sup>th</sup> Dec 2014**

## **Joint Brighton and Sussex event for research staff**

The University of Sussex and University of Brighton are teaming up to host:

**Establishing Yourself: Productivity and People** - A one-day workshop for early-career research staff in the first or second postdoctoral research role.

The workshop will cover the theme of being more productive and working more effectively with others.

The event will take place on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2014.

Further course details and booking information will be available soon.

## **Research Staff Career Development Day**

**Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September,**  
Careers Seminar Room,  
Library, 10am -4pm.

An interactive workshop from the Careers and Employability Centre for research staff in the early stages of their career.

You will discuss and explore

- Career aims and ambitions
- Working in academia and beyond academia
- Generating different career options
- Support available at Sussex

[Register for this event here](#)



## **Do you have a big idea that could help address a 'Grand Challenge'?**

The University of Sussex, in partnership with local organisations, has launched a new competition to discover talented individuals who have the vision and clear intention to develop viable business concepts that help address humanity's hardest problems, leading to a better, safer world.

The annual [Brighton Grand Challenge](#) competition, sponsored by American Express, will offer two finalists the opportunity to attend [Singularity University's](#) Executive Programme at NASA Research Park in California during 2014.

The winners will combine their skills with the latest knowledge about exponential technologies, and network with Silicon Valley's leaders.

The competition (closing date 15 September) is open to any individual (or groups of up to four people), but applicants must be aged 18 or over on 26 September 2014 (when the award event takes place). [Further information and eligibility criteria](#) are available [online](#).

## **New opportunities for women researchers**

This Autumn will see the launch of two new opportunities for women research staff:

### ***Springboard Women's Development Programme***

The University is running the highly popular and successful Springboard women's development programme during the Autumn term. Places are free and open to all women research staff across the University. The course was run previously at Sussex in 2012 with excellent feedback from participants.

[More information and booking](#)

### ***Women in STEMM mentoring circles (pilot scheme)***

In September in conjunction with the University's Athena Swan Self-Assessment Team the Research Staff Office will be launching a pilot '**mentoring circles**' scheme for women researchers in STEMM disciplines. This forms part of a range of University and School level initiatives aimed at addressing gender imbalances at senior levels and other challenges encountered by women working in STEMM disciplines. It is hoped that lessons from this pilot will be used to inform future mentoring schemes for research staff.

More information about the scheme and how to apply will be available in September

## **Contributions**

If you have an article or information you would like included in the Research Staff Newsletter please send it to [N.A.James@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:N.A.James@sussex.ac.uk)