

## Update from the Research Staff Office

Hello and welcome to the May issue of the Research Staff Newsletter!

It has been a busy month in the Research Staff Office. We held the second meeting of the Research Staff Working Group on 13<sup>th</sup> May (papers on Sussex Direct) and we have initiated a research staff Training and Development review project to gain a better understanding of how the university can better meet your training and development needs and inform our future plans for this area. To help us in this I ask you to please complete our short training and development survey (see below) and be in with the chance of winning an Amazon voucher.

We are also putting plans in place for the first 'New Research Staff Welcome Event', which will be an opportunity for new research staff to meet each other and find out about support and opportunities on offer across the university. All of you that have started at Sussex since 1<sup>st</sup> April will receive an invitation shortly and I hope to see you there.

Of course it is the Summer Research Staff Forum on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> June, 12.00-13.30, Fulton 202, where we will be focussing on Careers with our guests, Jane Riley and Catherine Reynolds from the Careers and Employability Centre. I look forward to seeing many of you there.

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

## Prize Draw!

**Complete our short survey on Research Staff Training and Development to be in with a chance to win a £10 Amazon voucher (5x£10 vouchers to give away)....**

To inform our future plans for research staff specific training and development opportunities it is essential that we hear from you about your training and development experiences and needs.

Please complete [this short survey](#) before **Friday 6<sup>th</sup> June** to give us your views and to be entered into the prize draw. (Winners will be notified w/c 9<sup>th</sup> June). <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/LV539SY>

## Publishing Insight:

**Great book proposals and where they come from**

The [Sussex Research Hive Scholars](#) recently invited Mila Steele from SAGE Publications to share valuable advice on identifying a potential readership, writing book proposals and identifying the right publisher for you. The slides and audio of the presentation are available at

<http://www.sussex.ac.uk/library/getpublishedseminar>



## Forthcoming Events....

[Research Staff Forum](#) – 4<sup>th</sup> June

[Covering your Research Costs](#) – 4<sup>th</sup> June

[Researcher Development Planner: launch Event](#) -5<sup>th</sup> June

[Establishing Yourself](#) (external event) – 9<sup>th</sup> June

[Science Communication for Early Career Researchers](#) (external event) – 11<sup>th</sup> June

[Getting the Better of Technology](#) – 11<sup>th</sup> June

[Managing your Research Data](#) – 27<sup>th</sup> June

[Measuring Research Impact using Bibliometric Tools](#) – 7<sup>th</sup> July

## **‘Establishing yourself’:**

**Free Vitae Workshop for research staff, 9<sup>th</sup> June, University of Chichester**

Free workshop aimed at research staff who are in their first or second research contract post PhD or equivalent and aspire to become PIs or project team leaders.

[Full details and booking information](#)

## RCUK Briefing on Maternity, Paternity and Adoption Leave and Pay

Research Councils UK (RCUK) has recently published a [briefing on Maternity, Paternity and Adoption Leave and Pay](#) to provide clarity for researchers and their employers around their rights and responsibilities.

It is intended primarily for Research Council funded students and researchers to assist their discussions with their supervisors and line managers.

The briefing provides information relating to Maternity, Paternity and Adoption Leave and Pay from the Terms and Conditions of Grants and Training Grants; and the RCUK Training Grant Guide and Research Council Funding Guides.

The University of Sussex guidance for Maternity, Paternity and Adoption can be found in the [Family Friendly Policies](#).

### What do Research Staff Do Next...?

The '[What do research staff do next?](#)' project run by Vitae in collaboration with Naturejobs is investigating the careers of researchers who used to be employed as research staff in UK or European universities, but have since moved on to other employment sectors.

It will reveal the tipping points in their careers, understand their decision-making processes and explore their experiences and reflections of their career paths.

Please forward [the link to the survey](#) to former HE research staff that you know and encourage them to share their **#PostAcStory** on Twitter.

## Opportunity: Researcher Links Workshops

International research collaboration is essential for the global knowledge economy, and it has been shown that internationally mobile researchers tend to be more productive. Furthermore, a shared research interest can help to build trust and relationships between people from very different backgrounds and cultures.

In response to this, The British Council has re-opened the call for workshop proposals under the [Researcher Links initiative](#). They are inviting Leading Researchers (as defined in the call eligibility criteria) to propose themes for bilateral workshops to be held in one of the 18 partner countries (see below), which will bring together early-career researchers to discuss their research and start to build international relationships. Successful workshops will receive funding, and the applicants will, with the exception of certain countries, be responsible for organising the workshop. Some countries have priority areas, and only themes within these will be considered. Please read the guidelines document for details.

**Country list 2014-15:** Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Brazil, Colombia, Egypt, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Qatar, Russia, South Africa, Thailand, Turkey and Vietnam.

Further information on the Researcher Links initiative can be found [here](#). An article providing [further guidance for applications](#) to the call is available through Research Professional.

## New 'Teach & Research' teacher training programme exclusively for post-doctoral researchers

[Researchers in Schools \(RIS\)](#) is launching a bespoke teacher training programme exclusively for post-doctoral researchers that will maximise their subject knowledge and considerable experience of higher education. It is designed to help researchers develop transferable and teaching skills while maintaining an academic profile, with the option to return to university research after two years.

Post-doctoral researchers from any discipline can apply to this scheme, and RIS are offering considerable salary uplift to maths, physics and engineering researchers which will see them paid £40,000 in their first year and rising thereafter. This acknowledges that across all sectors from engineering to tech companies, improving our pipeline of mathematicians, physicists and engineers is vital for future growth.

For more information or to apply visit [www.ResearchersInSchools.org](http://www.ResearchersInSchools.org)

### 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)