Innovative Approaches To
Developing Research Capacity and Outputs

The following series of six workshops are designed to help foster the conditions and maximise the opportunities for creating and delivering research outputs from across the academic community. They are intended to help researchers in all disciplines;

- find the motivation and support to progress partially completed ideas or papers **(Workshop 1: "Skeletons")**
- create the context for the conceptualisation, design and development of edited volumes **(Workshop 2: "Edited Collections")**
- assist individual researchers in the development of their distinctive academic voice which is alert to both the academic context and is also reader-friendly **(Workshop 3: "Academic Writing")**
- master the skills and capabilities of effective PhD supervision, particularly in relation to the relationship issues associated with supervision (**Workshop 4: "Completion and Collaboration')**
- discuss and develop a deeper understanding of the use and value of qualitative methodologies in research particularly in cross-disciplinary working. (**Workshop 5: "Out of the Box"),** and
- share experiences of the REF case based approach to demonstrating research impact and exploring some of the questions this raises. **(Workshop 6:"Cases")**

The workshops can be offered as stand-alone events or as part of a more comprehensive suite of workshops which form part of the implementation plan for a research strategy (at institutional, Faculty or School level).

Workshop 1: "Skeletons":
Bringing Unfinished Work to Publication

1 day workshop

"Skeletons" are all of those papers/Ph.D. chapters/articles/ conference presentations that require more work, that have been rejected, that need to respond to readers' comments, that are hidden in bottom drawers, that must be converted from Ph.D. chapters to self-standing essays. Participants in the workshop submit these papers for pre-circulation among themselves. The workshop takes a conference format and participants work in groups and give each other feedback on their papers.

Workshop 2: "Edited Collections": Focus, Collaboration and the role of Editors

1 day workshop

The workshop participants are the editors and contributors to an edited collection of academic papers. This edited collection could also be conceptual, with participants who are interested in being involved in such a project. The over-arching imperative is the necessity for shaping a focussed, coherent book out of a number of different scholarly contributions. The workshop is practical and concrete and deals with the material that forms the substance of the book. Within this context, there are three main areas that the workshop covers: Firstly, democracy versus role of editors; Secondly, free brainstorming versus concrete honing of book and finally coherence versus debate and rough edges.

Workshop 3: "Academic Writing": Finding a Research Voice

1 day workshop

This workshop focuses on the importance of aesthetics and style in scholarly writing. This relates crucially to questions of personal growth and self confidence, which enable the scholar to develop and craft a unique writing voice. This means finding one's own powerful language and images. It necessitates the translation of theoretical concepts that scholars use, alter or transform into their own style. It means being alert to the form and structure of academic writing, enabling it to be as reader-friendly as possible.

Workshop 4: "Completion and Collaboration": The Expertise of Ph.D. Supervision

1 day workshop

This workshop is designed for Ph.D. supervisors and research leaders, who are committed to ensure that Ph.D.s are properly supervised and that completion occurs within the prescribed time. The relationship between supervisor and student is complex at this most senior level. There is a degree of collaboration between them and collegiality is appropriate and productive, but progress has to be monitored and completion encouraged. The workshop looks at the specific areas in which a supervisor potentially makes a critical intervention, and at the expectations of both student and supervisor. It also uses the expertise of experienced supervisors of Ph.D.s within the institution.

Workshop 5: "Out of the Box": Rigor in Cross-Disciplinary Research Collaboration

1 day workshop

Rigor is as much a requirement of qualitative research as of quantitative. This workshop questions how to replicate results without quantitative data. Qualitative research is sometimes thought of as fluffy, subjective and "unscientific". We grapple with what it is, concretely, that gives qualitative research its rigor and its weight as scholarship. How are its methodologies robust enough to be repeated, taught and to produce new knowledge?

Workshop 6: "Cases": Capturing Evidence of Research Impact (in development)

1 day workshop

The new REF is planning to use a case based approach as part of the process by which the impact of research will be assessed. This workshop will explore the alternative ways in which the case based approach is being deployed and help develop responses to some of the challenges which are posed.

For further information or an exploratory conversation about how these programmes could be of benefit to your institution please contact;

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