CoRe Skills for research staff

CoRe Skills is a stream of professional and career development activities designed specifically to target the requirements of research staff, although many of these events are also open to other academic staff as well.

These events relate to development areas around career planning, career development and practical research-related activity such as funding, grant management and public engagement.

Funding opportunities

External organisations, such as Vitae, provide valuable development opportunities for researchers. Research Staff can apply to the CAPOD Researcher Development Fund for financial support to attend such external courses or events where they provide development opportunities not covered elsewhere within the University (www.st-andrews.ac.uk/capod/funding).

Research Staff Representatives fund

Most schools also have one or more ‘Research Staff Representatives’, who attend the Research and Teaching Staff Forum. These reps (and the Teaching Fellow reps who represent Teaching Fellows across schools) have access to the Research and Teaching Fellow Rep Fund. This provides a renewable fund of up to £250 per event, up to 4 times per year, to support networking and professional development within the school. Further details of Research Staff and Teaching Fellow reps can be found on the University website (www.st-andrews.ac.uk/staff/research/policies/researchstaffforum) and details of the funding are provided on the CAPOD webpages (www.st-andrews.ac.uk/capod/funding).

Booking a place on a CoRe Skills course

Visit the Research Staff pages of the CAPOD website (www.st-andrews.ac.uk/capod/staff/researchstaff) to see the development opportunities available.

You can register on a CoRe Skills event, or other course, via the University’s online Personal Development Management System (www.st-andrews.ac.uk/pdms). Select your cohort (Research staff) using the Audience drop-down menu to see all upcoming courses. (Note that some courses only “go live” for booking a month before they are due to run). Registration and further details are confirmed by email and bookings can be cancelled up to 24 hours before a course is due to run by going to the “My Training Record” part of the system.

What researchers say about CoRe Skills courses

“Go, if you need to map and organise your career path and options in your head.”

“Learnt how to use the VITAE Researcher Development Framework Planner.”

“Don’t attempt a grant application without attending this session.”

“The clear benefits of the mentoring scheme should encourage others to participate.”

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Enhancing researchers’ skills and employability

CoRe Skills is a stream of courses, events and activities specifically for research staff coordinated by the Centre for Academic, Professional and Organisational Development (CAPOD). The CoRe Skills programme aims to support the development of research staff at the University of St Andrews, improving their research capability and widening their employability inside and outside of academia.

CoRe Skills offers:
• Training courses and workshops
• Passport to Research Futures programme
• Networking opportunities
• Cross-institutional mentoring scheme
• Online resources
• Funding to attend external training events

The CAPOD staff developer with responsibility for research staff is Michelle Paterson. Researchers can contact Michelle with any questions about professional and career development.

CoRe Skills opportunities, available free of charge to University of St Andrews research staff, are widely publicised via Developing News (email newsletter for research staff) In the Loop and our website at: www.st-andrews.ac.uk/capod/staff/researchstaff

Early Career Academics’ Mentoring Scheme
Run cross-institutionally with the University of Dundee, this established scheme provides the opportunity for early career academics to participate in a mentoring partnership with a more experienced and senior colleague.

Training and development opportunities

Passport to Research Futures
Passport to Research Futures is a structured development programme focusing on employability and career development. By choosing from a range of optional components, participants in the programme can obtain an in-house certificate and an Institute for Leadership and Management award. The programme includes a range of CoRe Skills workshops, other unique events, as well as priority access to opportunities such as the Early Career Academics’ Mentoring Scheme and on-line resources such as Epigeum (‘Professional Skills for Research Leaders’) and Kintish.

For more information and to apply go to www.st-andrews.ac.uk/capod/staff/researchstaff

CoRe Skills workshops
Most CoRe Skills workshops are scheduled to take place at least once each semester.

Current workshops include:

Research funding: An introduction
This course, delivered by the Research Business Development and Contracts team, provides a basic introduction to the streams of funding available to researchers and the main ways in which these can be accessed. The course also provides an overview of the research funding process within the University, and includes information about the advice and support available within the University during the grant application/funding process.

Research finance: Full economic costing and research grant management
This event, provided by CAPOD and presented by Finance Advice and Support (FAS), provides an overview of key aspects of research grant management and Full Economic Costing (FEC) to Principal Investigators, research supervisors and research staff involved in managing research grants.

Winning research funding
This one day course provides information, hints and tips, targeted at individuals with little or no experience of writing funding applications. The course offers the chance to learn from a senior academic with significant experience in writing applications and from a professional communicator skilled in the techniques of presenting information persuasively.

Knowledge Transfer: An introduction
This session aims to de-mystify the topic of Knowledge Transfer/Knowledge Exchange, explain what government and other sponsors are referring to when they talk about research outputs, outcomes and impact, and help you develop your own strategies to support a pathway to impact for your research.

These and other workshops are listed on the University course booking system at www.st-andrews.ac.uk/pdms - select ‘research staff’ in the audience field and all relevant scheduled events will be listed.

CAPOD always welcomes further suggestions for courses and events that could be included within our programmes for research staff by emailing capod@st-andrews.ac.uk