



University of  
St Andrews

## Case Study

### Dr Damien Williams - Passport to Research Futures Graduate



Jos Finan (CAPOD) presented Damien and two other graduates of the programme with their certificates at an awards ceremony in December 2015. They received the Passport to Research Futures (PRF) University Certificate and [ILM Development Award](#). The programme offers research staff the opportunity to focus on career planning,

professional development and employability skills. Members who complete the appropriate units gain a development award recognised by the Institute for Leadership and Management (ILM). The PRF is a great way to gain a range of skills and knowledge, and hear from expert workshop facilitators about various development areas such as career planning, CV writing and job interviews. Full details of the 2015/16 programme, and timetable of events/workshops are found on the [PRF webpage](#). This photo above shows left to right: **Dr Rob Schick** (Research Fellow, School of Mathematics and Statistics), **Dr Damien Williams** (Lecturer, School of Medicine) and **Dr Syed Asad Hussain** (Research Fellow, School of Physics and Astronomy) with **Michelle Paterson** and **Jos Finan** of CAPOD.

Damien Williams was also congratulated on his award by The Master, Professor Garry Taylor which can be seen in the video below. This was played at the Vitae Researcher Development International Conference in September 2015 where Damien supported CAPOD in delivering a session on the Passport programme. Delegates were given an overview of the structured programme and its' benefits for researchers. The Wellcome Trust were particularly interested in our approach and visited St Andrews to discuss the Passport in more detail. They have now developed their own programme for postdocs and PI's called '*The International Funders Award*' where participants can access a core list of modules. Natasha Gordon, Project Manager for the Wellcome Trust said, "*A programme such as the PRF is crucial in developing researchers' management skills and starting to show funders and employers that researchers can*

*not only be great scientists, but also productive and confident managers and leaders of the future. We are sure that the quality and the subjects covered in this programme will complement 'The International Funders' Award' founded by the Wellcome Trust."*



Video of Professor Garry Taylor congratulating Damien on his award

Michelle Paterson

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