Making the Most of Conferences

Short Session Descriptor

Conferences are an essential and fascinating part of academic development. They provide the opportunity to engage with like-minded researchers and shape new developments across fields. In this session, we'll look at purposeful planning, preparing for your presentation and new ways to network.

Longer Session Description

COURSE AIMS

This session aims to make the conference a rich and rewarding experience, and allow the participants to make a considered contribution. We aim to consider the purpose of the conference, our audience and the best approach we might take in making the conference memorable and meaningful.

INTENDED AUDIENCE

This course is recommended for Year 2 postgraduate researchers, or those about to embark on a conference.

COURSE CONTENT

This interactive workshop will provide comprehensive advice and guidance on how to approach a conference with confidence. We will look at:

- How to prepare and plan for the conference
- How to manage your audience
- How to prepare for your presentation
- How you can fully engage with your audience
- How you can control your nerves
- How to network more effectively and enjoyably

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of this course you will be able to:

- Understand your main objectives in attending academic conferences
- Manage your time at the conference to get the most out of what’s on offer
- Prepare an excellent presentation and feel confident in delivering it
- Enjoy networking sessions and take control of conversations
- Make a meaningful contribution to the conference

UNIVERSITY OF EXETER DOCTORAL COLLEGE TRAINING THEMES:
Our PGR and ECR training activities are currently mapped to the national, RCUK-endorsed, Vitae Researcher Development Framework and will continue to be so to address national agendas. However, in response to PGR, ECR and academic feedback, and, consequently, to demonstrate clear links between provision and needs, our training activities are also informed by and mapped to six, non-discrete, main themes. The themes are: ‘Planning Research’ – eg: identifying and securing research partners (including, for example, collaboration and networking skills), writing proposals and applying for funding; ‘Doing Research’ – ie disciplinary, inter-disciplinary and more generic research methods, methodology, and related training; ‘Disseminating Research’ – ie writing journal articles, books, and reports, and presentation skills; ‘Teaching’; ‘Employability’; and ‘Wellbeing’

The main theme for this course is: ‘Disseminating Research’

It also has links to: ‘Doing Research’

RESEARCHER DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK (RDF) https://www.vitae.ac.uk/researchers-professional-development/about-the-vitae-researcher-development-framework/developing-the-vitae-researcher-development-framework

The RDF is a tool for planning, promoting and supporting the personal, professional and career development of researchers. It articulates the knowledge, behaviours and attitudes of researchers and encourages them to aspire to excellence through achieving higher levels of development.

This course links most explicitly to RDF sub-domain D2

It also contains information that links it to sub-domain(s) B1

PRESENTER INFORMATION

This session is delivered by Dr. Chris Russell, an independent research consultant.

WHAT OTHERS HAVE SAID ABOUT THIS COURSE:

‘The most useful part of the session was the focus on different stages, especially preparation.’ Post-graduate Researcher

BOOKING INFORMATION

Please Note – You need to register for this course in advance. Registration for courses that require advance online booking opens on 1st September or 3 months before the course start date, whichever is earlier.