

7 TRAINING AND CAREER PREPARATION

7.1 Individual development plans

Individual development plans (e.g. personal development plans) are established for each research student. They are jointly developed and agreed by the research student and his/her supervisor(s) soon after induction. The process for establishing the development plan facilitates full ownership by the student of the plan. Each plan is revised as necessary during the duration of the programme.

7.2 Skills training

Fit for purpose training in research, generic and discipline-specific skills is provided for research students to equip them to advance their research projects and for future employment including:

- specific sessions and sources of information for research students on plagiarism, citation standards and other related areas
- courses and activities to suit the discipline area(s) of the research project and those which relate more directly to the graduate attributes are available with appropriate frequency to facilitate take-up at relevant stages
- clear information on training opportunities is available to students and supervisors
- robust quality assurance measures in respect of training provided
- formal arrangements for cooperation among institutions/providers to share and/or facilitate access to training resources

7.3 Research mobility, conferences and networking

Procedures for facilitating research mobility and networking:

- maximise opportunities for research students to experience different research environments, that are beneficial for accessing relevant information or acquiring specific skills
- include opportunities for research students to report on work in progress and to present findings, both internally and externally, for example, by means of oral and poster presentations at seminars, workshops and conferences and in journal articles
- facilitate students making contacts and ‘networking’, as appropriate, with others, nationally and internationally, who are active in similar fields of research
- facilitate work placement/experience as tutors/demonstrators/internships where applicable

7.4 Career preparation

The provider, its careers service and individual supervisors seek to make research students aware of further educational opportunities, realistic career options and long-term career development. Options with respect to future careers are relevant topics for discussion during induction, the planning of each student’s individual development plan and, as appropriate, during monitoring and assessment sessions.