





### What is the purpose of the Planner?

A research degree in the UK is accepted to be a training programme and that training, as well as being focussed on your specific research, should include training in generic, transferable and career-related skills for your personal and professional development. This should equip you better for your research and enhance your employment and career prospects after leaving Brookes, whether you choose to sat within academia / research or move into any other type of career. This Planner is provided as a tool to help you and your supervisors plan and record a programme of activities so that you can develop that portfolio of personal and professional skills. It will encourage you to identify your strengths and prioritise your professional development. It allows you to consider the skills and experiences that will enhance your career prospects and articulate your knowledge, behaviours and attributes to potential employers.

### What do I need to do?

You should complete the Planner with the help of your supervisor(s). To do this, at the beginning of your research degree programme, your supervisor(s) should help you undertake a Training Needs Analysis (see page 7) where you assess what skills and competencies you already feel confident that you can demonstrate, and which ones you need to work on and develop over the course of your degree. The externally recognised Vitae Researcher Development Framework (see page 4) is a useful tool to support this analysis. There will be some activities – such as University and Faculty induction events – which are mandatory. Some activities – such as attendance at seminars or group meetings within your Department - may also be expected of you. And there will be other, project-specific or wider skills and training you may want, or need, to work on. You don’t need to do everything at once! Think about what you should focus on at different points in your programme as your skills and interests develop. Every research student is different, and the Planner is designed to accommodate the design of a training programme that is bespoke and tailored to you alone.

You should repeat the training needs analysis at the beginning of every year and, with the help of your supervisor(s) plan approximately 70 hours of activities every year. Your proposed programme should be approved by your Director of Studies. As you undertake your development and training activities, you should record and sign them off in your Planner. At the end of every year, that year’s training and your plans for the coming year will be reviewed as part of annual progress monitoring. At the end of your research degree, you retain the Planner as a record of your training.

### What sort of things can I, and should I, include?

Each Faculty organises its own researcher training and you should receive details of this.

The [Graduate College training programme](https://www.brookes.ac.uk/students/research-degrees-team/current-students/graduate-college/training) is published annually on the website.

There are additional events for researchers organised by the [University Careers Service](http://www.brookes.ac.uk/students/careers/researchers/).

Preparation for teaching is mandatory if you intend to undertake any teaching whilst at Brookes, the [General Teaching Associates Course](https://www.brookes.ac.uk/students/research-degrees-team/current-students/graduate-college/teaching-development-opportunities) is a three-day course for PhD students and others embarking on teaching and associated duties (e.g. leading seminar groups, taking laboratory sessions, delivering occasional lectures, and marking).

Attendance at lab meetings, journal clubs, research group meetings, reading groups etc can be included; attendance at seminars and conferences can be included.

Self-directed or web-based learning can be included, as can training undertaken outside Brookes.

You are advised to engage with the [Graduate College Induction Training available on Moodle](https://moodle.brookes.ac.uk/mod/folder/view.php?id=2480362) which includes a presentation entitled “Your Personal, Professional & Career Development Planner, and development opportunities available to you”.

### The Researcher Development Framework (RDF)

The [Researcher Development Framework](https://vitae.ac.uk/vitae-researcher-development-framework/) represents the knowledge, behaviour and attributes of successful researchers – at all levels from undergraduate to senior research professor. It is a useful tool to enable self-assessment of strengths and competencies and identifying areas for further development and can be used to guide you and your supervisor(s) in planning your training.



**Induction**

You will have been issued (electronically) with an ‘enrolment pack’ by the Graduate College when you enrolled. This contains direction to a wealth of key information about your research degree.

Both your Faculty and the Graduate College also run induction events for all new research students and you are expected to attend these events.

In addition, your supervisor(s) should ensure that you receive appropriate induction into your working environment and that you receive appropriate support and facilities. The Graduate College Student Entitlement document <https://www.brookes.ac.uk/students/research-degrees-team/current-students/regulations/> clearly sets out the University’s minimum standard of basic entitlement for all areas of provision.

A checklist is provided below to support this process.

You should complete it and get it signed off by your supervisor within two weeks of your enrolment

**Facilities aware of location / access**

 **(tick to confirm)**

Desk space or equivalent

Swipecard for access to office and other relevant University spaces

Shelf / cupboard space

Lab or workshop space (if appropriate)

Computer

Project-specific software (if appropriate)

Access to printing & photocopying through Brookes managed print system

Access to printing & photocopying through Brookes managed print system

Access to stationery and supplies

Conference funding

Other (specify)

**Key staff** **introduced to / made aware of**

Director of studies

Second supervisor(s)

Postgraduate Research Tutor(s)

Research Administrator(s)

Head of Department

**General: introduced to… completed**

Career development planner, RDF & training opportunities

Appropriate research seminar series

Appropriate lab / group meetings, reading groups or equivalent

Research Degrees homepage and resources

Code of practice for academic integrity (training as part of Graduate College induction / narrated powerpoint available on demand through [Graduate College training](https://www.brookes.ac.uk/students/research-degrees-team/current-students/graduate-college/training) page)

Good practice for storing your research records and making a data management plan (training as part of Graduate College induction / narrated powerpoint available on demand through Graduate College training page\*)

Library and information resources

Computer services and support

General University facilities eg sports centre, etc

Discussed and agreed frequency of supervisory meetings

Supervisor signature ………………………………………………………………………………

Print name ………………………………………………………………………………………….

Date …………………………………..

Student signature ………………………………………………………………………………….

Print name …………………………………………………………………………………………

Date …………………………………..Year 1 training needs analysis & training proposal

Student name…………………………….

Use this form in conjunction with the researcher development framework on page 4

| Skills domain & sub-domains(skills to be developed) | Outline appropriate action or training. Include specific reference to Faculty, Graduate College, University or other training, including self directed learning  | Approx no. hrs(the total for the year should be 70 hrs) | Which RDF ‘descriptors’ (listed in the outer circle of the RDF diagram) will the action or training specifically address? |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| A Knowledge & intellectual abilitiesA1 knowledge baseA2 cognitive abilitiesA3 creativity |  |  |  |
| B Personal effectivenessB1 personal qualitiesB2 self managementB3 professional & career development |  |  |  |
| C research governance & organisationC1 professional conductC2 research managementC3 finance funding & resources |  |  |  |
| D engagement, influence & impactD1 working with othersD2 communication & disseminationD3 engagement & impact |  |  |  |

Agreed by supervisor (signed) ………………………………………………..date

Record of Year 1 training completed (a copy should be submitted with your first year report for annual progress monitoring)

Student name…………………………….

Use this form in conjunction with the researcher development framework on page 4.

| Skills domain & sub-domains(skills to be developed) | Training undertaken / date | Hours(the total for the year should be 70 hrs) | Student signature |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| A Knowledge & intellectual abilitiesA1 knowledge baseA2 cognitive abilitiesA3 creativity |  |  |  |
| B Personal effectivenessB1 personal qualitiesB2 self managementB3 professional & career development |  |  |  |
| C research governance & organisationC1 professional conductC2 research managementC3 finance funding & resources |  |  |  |
| D engagement, influence & impactD1 working with othersD2 communication & disseminationD3 engagement & impact |  |  |  |

Approved by supervisor (signed) …………………………………………date

Approved by Postgraduate Research Tutor (signed) ……………………date

Year 2 training needs analysis & training proposal

Student name…………………………….

Use this form in conjunction with the researcher development framework on page 4.

| Skills domain & sub-domains(skills to be developed) | Outline appropriate action or training. Include specific reference to Faculty, Graduate College, University or other training, including self directed learning  | Approx no. hrs(the total for the year should be 70 hrs) | Which RDF ‘descriptors’ (listed in the outer circle of the RDF diagram) will the action or training specifically address? |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| A Knowledge & intellectual abilitiesA1 knowledge baseA2 cognitive abilitiesA3 creativity |  |  |  |
| B Personal effectivenessB1 personal qualitiesB2 self managementB3 professional & career development |  |  |  |
| C research governance & organisationC1 professional conductC2 research managementC3 finance funding & resources |  |  |  |
| D engagement, influence & impactD1 working with othersD2 communication & disseminationD3 engagement & impact |  |  |  |

Agreed by supervisor (signed) …………………………………………date

Record of Year 2 training completed (a copy should be submitted with your second year report for annual progress monitoring)

Student name…………………………….

Use this form in conjunction with the researcher development framework on page 4.

| Skills domain & sub-domains(skills to be developed) | Training undertaken / date | Hours(the total for the year should be 70 hrs) | Student signature |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| A Knowledge & intellectual abilitiesA1 knowledge baseA2 cognitive abilitiesA3 creativity |  |  |  |
| B Personal effectivenessB1 personal qualitiesB2 self managementB3 professional & career development |  |  |  |
| C research governance & organisationC1 professional conductC2 research managementC3 finance funding & resources |  |  |  |
| D engagement, influence & impactD1 working with othersD2 communication & disseminationD3 engagement & impact |  |  |  |

Approved by supervisor (signed) …………………………………………date

Approved by Postgraduate Research Tutor (signed) ……………………date

Year 3 training needs analysis & training proposal

Student name…………………………….

Use this form in conjunction with the researcher development framework on page 4.

| Skills domain & sub-domains(skills to be developed) | Outline appropriate action or training. Include specific reference to Faculty, Graduate College, University or other training, including self directed learning  | Approx no. hrs(the total for the year should be 70 hrs) | Which RDF ‘descriptors’ (listed in the outer circle of the RDF diagram) will the action or training specifically address? |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| A Knowledge & intellectual abilitiesA1 knowledge baseA2 cognitive abilitiesA3 creativity |  |  |  |
| B Personal effectivenessB1 personal qualitiesB2 self managementB3 professional & career development |  |  |  |
| C research governance & organisationC1 professional conductC2 research managementC3 finance funding & resources |  |  |  |
| D engagement, influence & impactD1 working with othersD2 communication & disseminationD3 engagement & impact |  |  |  |

Agreed by supervisor (signed) ………………………………………date

Record of Year 3 training completed (a copy should be submitted with your third year report for annual progress monitoring)

Student name…………………………….

Use this form in conjunction with the researcher development framework on page 4.

| Skills domain & sub-domains(skills to be developed) | Training undertaken / date | Hours(the total for the year should be 70 hrs) | Student signature |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| A Knowledge & intellectual abilitiesA1 knowledge baseA2 cognitive abilitiesA3 creativity |  |  |  |
| B PersonaleffectivenessB1 personal qualitiesB2 self managementB3 professional & career development |  |  |  |
| C research governance & organisationC1 professional conductC2 research managementC3 finance funding & resources |  |  |  |
| D engagement, influence & impactD1 working with othersD2 communication & disseminationD3 engagement & impact |  |  |  |

Approved by supervisor (signed) ………………………………………date

Approved by Postgraduate Research Tutor (signed) ……………………date

If your programme extends for more than three years, you can copy and add extra pages; if your programme is less than three years long, you can delete pages, as appropriate

Planner last updated May 2025

Susan Brooks, Director of researcher Development