

POSTDOC AND FELLOWS DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

Tailored support and development for postdocs, fellows and clinicians



Welcome to the PFDC newsletter

September 2018

Welcome to September's newsletter! We hope you have enjoyed the summer and are looking forward to the next academic year. With our courses going live this month we are sure we have something to tempt you with.

For more information about the Postdoc and Fellows Development Centre (PFDC) please:

- Visit our [website](#)
- Follow us on Twitter

Contact us with any queries



Note that information about grants and fellowships are posted on our twitter feed.

If you have any information, events or surveys that you would like to advertise which are relevant to postdocs, fellows and clinicians at Imperial, please [email](#) the PFDC team. We would like to hear from you!

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PFDC in Focus - The Year in Review



The 2017/18 academic year was a busy and fantastic year for the PFDC with more mock interviews, one to one meetings, courses, pop ups and events taking place than ever before. The centre welcomed new staff members and we even changed our name! Here are some of the highlights of the last academic year:

- 245 one to one meetings.
- 94 mock interviews.
- 43 pop ups, funder showcases and pathways events for 870 delegates.
- 53 courses for 637 attendees.
- 2 Springboard Women's Development Programme's attended by 69 women.
- The launch of the bespoke programme of support for fellows and clinicians.
- Termly Reps Network meetings and meetings with the Postdoc Champions.
- Three welcome Lunches.
- Q&A with the Provost.
- The PFDC Reps Awards.
- The Christmas Ceilidh.

The PFDC team are looking forward to the year ahead and working closely with Imperials' postdocs, fellows and clinicians. Don't forget that if you would like more information on the services that we will be providing in the 2018/19 academic year please visit our [website](#) or [contact us via email](#).

What you had to say

98% of people strongly agreed or agreed that their one-to-one meeting was useful and informative

96% of people agreed or strongly agreed that they were more prepared for their interview as a result of their mock interview

97% of people strongly agreed or agreed that they will continue to use the information and advice given to them by the PFDC

1. Welcome to our new PFDC Advisor

The PFDC team are thrilled to welcome our new advisor Ines Perpetuo!

Ines has a PhD in Biomedical Sciences in the field of Rheumatology. After completing her PhD in Portugal Ines moved to the UK for her postdoc before starting at Imperial.

Ines will be available two days a week to provide support and advice to postdocs and fellows on a range of topics including but not limited to:

- CVs
- Job searching
- Fellowship applications
- Lectureship positions
- Moving out of academia
- Issues related to working in your lab/team
- Development opportunities available to you
- Networking opportunities

Ines LinkedIn profile can be found [here](#).

2. Fellows and Clinicians Bespoke Programme of Support

Active Bystander and Persuasive Communication

- 26 Sept 2018 - Hammersmith (**Women Only Session**) - [register](#) by 12 Sept.
- 21 Nov 2018 - St Mary's - [register](#) by 7 Nov.
- 27 Feb 2019 – SK Campus - [register](#) by 13 Feb.

Active Bystander: 13:30-14:30 (lunch will be provided at 13:00)

The aim of this short session is to empower you to challenge poor behaviours and bring about change where poor behaviours have become normalised. You benefit by learning techniques to challenge unacceptable behaviours in the workplace.

Persuasive Communication: 14:45 – 16:45 (refreshments provided)

This session is designed to equip you with skills to:

- manage/prevent conflict
- communicate assertively
- hold difficult conversations
- negotiate constructively

It will cover:

- Verbal and non-verbal persuasion devices
- Reading others - and gaining commitment
- The language of influence and collaboration
- The language of positive negotiation
- Difficult conversations

Facilitator: Scott Solder

Scott is a former Editor and Executive Producer at BBC News & Current Affairs, The One Show, BBC Radio 5 Live and LBC. He is a communication expert, practising executive coach, highly experienced corporate trainer and NLP Master Practitioner. More information about Scott can be found [here](#).

Writing Retreat

15-16 October 2018

The PFDC would like to invite applications for an upcoming writing retreat, taking place on 15 - 16 October 2018. The aim is to provide early career researchers with dedicated time, space, expertise and mentoring to work on a piece of writing. **Priority will be given to those preparing to submit external fellowship applications to be held at Imperial.** Postdocs, fellows and clinicians wishing to pursue an academic career at Imperial post PhD are all welcome to apply. Further information and the application form is attached or accessible via [this link](#). Completed application forms should be submitted to pfdc-support@imperial.ac.uk by **16 September 2018**.

Induction and cohort building afternoon for new fellows and clinicians 30 Oct 2018, 12:00 to 17:00, South Kensington campus

All new independent fellows and postdoctoral clinicians wishing to pursue an academic career at Imperial will receive an invitation to attend this comprehensive induction and cohort building afternoon. Participants will also have an opportunity to meet key stakeholders (e.g. Deans) at the College as well as those a few steps ahead (e.g. Lecturers, Senior Clinical Lecturers).

Fellows and Clinicians Forum

14 Nov 2018: Hammersmith Campus

The **purpose** of the forum is to provide fellows* and clinicians** with a regular platform to interact, share expertise and build cross-discipline contacts across the College with an aim to enhance their careers. The **format** will continuously evolve along with changing needs and priorities.

*Independent Research Fellows

A member of research staff that has successfully applied for funding to include their salary (e.g. ICRFs, BBSRC Future Leaders, Sir Henry Dale, MRC NIRGs)

**Clinicians wishing to pursue clinical academic careers at Imperial post PhD

- Postdoctoral clinical lecturers
- Postdoctoral clinicians who are back in clinical training but wish to pursue a clinical academic career at Imperial. For example doctors (e.g. Registrar, Speciality Registrar) and non-medical healthcare professionals (i.e. Pharmacists, Nurses, Physiotherapists, Dieticians)
- Intermediate fellows or clinician scientists (postdoctoral)

- Postdoctoral clinicians in any other clinical academic schemes (e.g. Imperial Clinician Researcher Fellows/IPPRF) wishing to pursue a clinical academic career.

3. Pop Ups

Funder Showcase: National Institute for Health Research (NIHR)

Tuesday 4 September 2018

See below for times and locations

NIHR Fellowships will support individuals with the potential and on a trajectory to become future leaders in NIHR research. The Fellowships have been designed to support people at various points of their development to become leading researchers.

Colleagues from NIHR will highlight the funding opportunities that are available from the NIHR.

Come along to the session to find out more – sign up using the links below:

- South Kensington campus - 14.00-15.00 - SALC 6 – Sign up via [Qualtrics Link](#)
- Hammersmith campus - 16.00-17.00 – Seminar Room 1 Wolfson Centre - Sign up via [Qualtrics Link](#)

Pop Up: Academic CV and Cover Letter

Wednesday 12 September 2018

10:00-12:30, SALC 7, South Kensington Campus

a) Academic CVs

Maximise your chance of making the shortlist by ensuring your CV is professional, targeted and well written. This session will address academic CVs. It will cover do's and don'ts to consider when crafting your CV. **Please bring your CV with you to this workshop.**

b) Cover Letters: Making a Good Impression

Don't know where to start when it comes to writing a cover letter? Not sure that your cover letter is highlighting your notable/relevant achievements? Unsure of where you can show your knowledge of the job and organisation that you are applying to?

In this interactive session we will concentrate on the layout, format and content of an effective cover letter, including hints and tips on how to structure your letter. This session will also cover how you can highlight your relevant skills and communicate your enthusiasm for the role and organisation that you are applying to.

Please sign up for the event via this [Qualtrics Link](#)

Pop-Up: Starting to think about a Fellowship Application

Thursday 4 October 2018

10:00-12:00, SALC 6, South Kensington Campus

This Pop-up introduces postdocs to the process of making a fellowship application. During the session you will learn where to look for appropriate fellowship funding, how to apply and how to prepare a written application.

Please sign up for the event via this [Qualtrics link](#)

Pop Up: Fellowship Interviews

Thursday 4 October 2018

14:00-16:00, SALC 6, South Kensington Campus

Most fellowships require you to have an interview to show how you can carry out the proposed research and why they should give you the funding.

During this workshop you will look at examples of 'invitation to interview' letters from a variety of funders. Importantly you will look at interview questions and prepare answers – developing answers that showcase your achievements.

You will also receive hints and tips on how to shine at the interview from entering the room to what to wear.

Please sign up for the event via this [Qualtrics link](#)

4. Upcoming Courses

Enrolments for the PFDC courses listed below are now open! **Please note that enrolments for all other courses will be available from 11 September.** Please check back on our website at this time for a full list of 2018/19 course dates.



Please book onto training with [ICIS](#): Sign in and click 'My Training' – Search for the course – Click: Enrol.

**** To enquire about enrolments for the Springboard programme please [email](#) the PFDC support team.

Courses:

September 2018

- [Springboard Women's Development Programme](#)
Friday 7th September 2018

November 2018

- [Managing Your First Research Group](#)
Thursday 1 to Friday 2 November 2018
- [Preparing Successful Fellowship Applications](#)
Monday 19 November 2018
- [Consultancy: How it Can Enhance Your Academic Career](#)
Wednesday 21 November 2018
- [How to Peer Review Research Papers](#)
Wednesday 21 November 2018
- [How Intellectual Property Rights Impact Your Research](#)
Wednesday 21 November 2018
- [Designing and Delivering Research Projects in Academia](#)
Monday 26 November 2018

5. PFDC Shadowing Scheme: Expression of Interest

The PFDC would like to set up a 'shadowing scheme'. The aim would be for postdocs to shadow members of staff within the college who have PhD's and are now working outside research but in 'related' jobs e.g. Research Officer, the consultants in the PFDC, senior administration. Before we put the scheme together we would like to find out if there is interest from the postdoc community in taking part in the scheme.

If you are interested in the shadowing scheme please register your interest [here](#) by 1 October.

6. Outside Insight



Outside Insight is a London Inter-institution work shadowing scheme that gives you the opportunity to engage with practical career and professional development in a way that allows you to have a wider appreciation, share and bring back knowledge, of work practices from other institutions. The scheme entails spending time with and observing the work of a member of staff in a department or role of interest in another institution in order to gain insight into work in that area. The duration of the visit can vary between half a day and two days. There are currently 12 universities participating in the scheme.

For more information including how to apply for the scheme please click [here](#) or contact Jenna on j.collinson@imperial.ac.uk. **The deadline for this round of applications is 31 October 2018.**

7. Naturejobs Career Expo



4 October 2018, [Business Design Centre](#) – Islington, London.

The annual [Nature jobs](#) Career Expo is returning to London to give talented researchers the opportunity to meet brilliant exhibitors, attend a career focused conference program and workshop sessions, have CVs checked at a one to one clinic, and network with fellow scientists. This career expo is entirely free for attendees.

At this year's event you can:

- Meet **over 50 national and international employers** face-to-face
- Attend **conference talks and engaging workshops** throughout the day
- **Network with leading institutions** and fellow scientists
- **Benefit** from our career development opportunities including one-to-one **CV checking**
- Learn how to **enhance your employability**
- **Maximise** your career prospects

For inquiries regarding registrations, please email London.careerexpo@nature.com

8. Researchers14 Blog: A response to Prof David Bogle Naturejob blog post

IMPROVING THE
SITUATION FOR
POSTDOCTORAL
RESEARCHERS:
RECOGNISING THEIR
VALUE

This Researchers14 blog post is a response to the recommendations for postdoc development put forth by Professor David Bogle on the Naturejobs blog. Please find the bog post below:

[Improving the situation for postdoctoral researchers: recognizing their value](#)

9. Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Centre

Stonewall Survey

The Stonewall survey is an independent way for staff to give their honest feedback on how they feel the College is doing in terms of LGBT equality and inclusion.

The survey is open to **all** staff at Imperial and we would like to encourage you to complete it. This is an anonymous survey that takes around 5 minutes to complete.



The following details are needed to complete the survey:

Institution Name: Imperial College London

Institution code: 1299

Please find the survey [here](#) .

Imperial as One meet and greet – Wednesday 5 September, 12:30 to 14:00.

The BAME staff network, Imperial as One, are hosting a meet and greet on Wednesday 5 September, 12.30 - 14.00. Come say hi, find out more about the network and meet the newly elected co-chairs.

You can find more details about the event [here](#) and sign up to the network via this [link](#).

Race Equality Charter Mark launch - The Importance of Diversity in STEM Thursday 11 October, 14:00-15:00, SAF Building (G16), South Kensington

[Register in advance here.](#)

Imperial College London has this year become a member of the Race Equality Charter and will be applying for a charter mark as part of our commitment to equality and diversity. As we begin this work we want to give greater prominence to the issues faced by black and minority ethnic students and staff at the university and we are delighted to host Chi Onwurah MP.

For more information please contact [Sally Parekh](#) .

To subscribe or unsubscribe from our mailing lists and newsletter please email us at pfdc-support@imperial.ac.uk . Click [here](#) for information on Imperial College's privacy notice for staff and click [here](#) for qualtrics privacy statement.