



Welcome to the PFDC

Newsletter

January 2018 - Happy New Year!

For more information about the Postdoc and Fellows Development Centre (PFDC) please visit our [website](#), follow us on [Twitter @ImperialPFDC](#) or [contact us](#) with any queries. Note that information about grants and fellowships is posted on our Twitter feed.

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New Year's Resolutions

A New Year means New Year's Resolutions – it's the perfect time to reflect on 2017 and set yourself goals and challenges for 2018 – whether they are personal or professional.

Remember the PFDC are here to support all postdocs and fellows here at Imperial.

- Sign up to a PFDC Pop Ups or Courses
- Become a mock interview panellist or have a mock interview
- Become a PFDC Rep for your department
- Book in for a 1:1

We all look forward to working with you in 2018 – The PFDC team

PFDC in Focus

The Assistant Supervisor role

Update from Laura Lane – Head of Strategy and Operations

The world class research supervision task and finish group for the student supervisor partnership has submitted its interim report to the Postgraduate Research Quality Committee and the Senate.

In order to recognise the valuable contribution that postdocs make to the student supervisor partnership, and more broadly to the supervision of research degree students, the task and finish group has developed several new documents. A new roles and responsibilities document for Assistant Supervisors has been created together with a new Assistant Supervisor Continuing Professional Development Framework. Additionally, a new process has been agreed with HR which will enable Departments to make requests for the College to formally recognise postdocs as Assistant Supervisors and in exceptional cases as Co-Supervisors.

This is a fantastic development for the College's postdoc community and will be helpful in terms of supporting individuals' career development.

The following documents and procedures are available to take forward now:

- The roles and responsibilities document is available to download from the Registry's [good practice website](#)
- [Assistant Supervisor Continuing Professional Development Framework](#)
- [Process for recognising Postdocs as Assistant Supervisors](#)

If you have any questions please contact Laura at l.lane@imperial.ac.uk

1. EPSRC visit - Wednesday 10th January 2018

We are pleased to announce that Professor Phil Nelson and his team from EPSRC will be visiting Imperial College London on Wednesday 10 January 2018. The agenda for this visit is being finalized, however we'd like to take this opportunity to announce three key sessions that will be hosted, for your interest.

1. **Early Career Researchers session - Time: 13:30 to 14:20pm**

This session is intended for EPSRC-funded PhDs, RAs, First Grant Holders, CAFs, Postdoc Fellows and will be an opportunity to have a small group discussion with Professor Nelson and others on the challenges and opportunities of being an ECR.

2. **EPSRC Grant Holders session – Time: 14:20 to 15:10pm**

This session is intended for EPSRC-funded Fellows, Programme and Platform Grant Holders and will be an opportunity to have a small group discussion with Professor Nelson and others on challenges and opportunities.

3. **EPSRC presentation and Q&A – Time: 11:30am to 13:00pm**

EPSRC will present updates on relevant topics and developments. It is expected that this will include the upcoming CDT call.

If you are interested in attending the sessions above please contact the Research Office at researchoffice.fundingstrategy@imperial.ac.uk .

2. Christmas Ceilidh

On Tuesday 5th December 2017 the PFDC hosted the third PFDC Christmas Ceilidh.

Over 150 people attended, and as the photos show, there was a lot of dancing as well as a chance to network and meet new people from across the College. It was a very enjoyable evening.



Thank you to all those who attended, it was so lovely to see so many of you.

3. Postdoc Reps - Upcoming Events

Mathematics Postdocs and Fellows Day – Wednesday 17th January 2018

The Postdoc Reps at the Mathematics Department are organising the first Mathematics Postdocs and Fellows Day, on Wednesday 17th January 2018. There will be an Interviews Workshop organised in collaboration with the PFDC with interview tips by recent Fellows and Lecturers, research talks by postdocs and fellows, and a careers panel with Mathematics staff members and former postdocs working in industry. Please see the link for further details:

<https://www.imperial.ac.uk/mathematics/for-staff/post-docs/>

4. Pop-ups and workshops

Pop-up: Writing a lay summary – Wednesday 10th January 2018, 10:00-12:00, SALC6, South Kensington Campus

Turning your carefully thought-out research programme into simple, concise English in order to be accountable to the general public – it's become a standard part of funding and fellowship applications, and it's something many researchers dread. But the lay summary matters. It demonstrates neatly how clear your ideas are; the funders need it to evidence which projects they have invested in; and on a practical level, your lay summary may be the only part of your application which is read by the entire panel.

This bite-sized, interactive session will look at what goes in a lay summary, which bits to leave out, and how to pitch your language.

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

Pop-up: Pathways into the bioscience industry – Thursday 18th January 2018, 9:30-11:00, SALC2, South Kensington Campus

This session is part of the PFDC's 'pathways' series, looking at career options for postdocs beyond academia.

This short briefing will provide an overview of the bioscience industry and key factors to keep in mind when evaluating where you might find your place in the sector. The briefing will also include top tips on how to search for companies and vacancies, and how to present yourself effectively to bioscience recruiters. The idea of the briefing is to give you a starting point for further investigation.

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

Pop-up: Research Impact, REF & TEF - what are they and why should you care about them? – Thursday 18th January 2018, 12:00-13:30, SALC 2, South Kensington Campus

**Presented by [Professor Stephen Curry](#)
Assistant Provost (Equality, Diversity and Inclusion)**

Publicly funded research and researchers are subject to assessment as never before. Increasingly the processes of evaluation are metricised, but is that good thing?

The 'impact agenda' is also on the rise. Funding applicants are commonly asked to formulate impact plans, while every university department in the country has to provide retrospective evidence of impact in the Research Excellence Framework (REF) – what are the impacts on early career researchers of these forms of evaluation.

To the mix has now been added the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) - where did this come from and where is it taking universities and their staff?

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

Pop-up: Rules of the Game – from B to C – Wednesday 24th January 2018, 14:00-16:00, SALC 1, South Kensington Campus

Would you like to know more about the re-grading review process?

Are you interested in finding out what criteria is used when considering whether a post should be re-graded?

Find out more about the application and review process for the re-grading of posts from Level B to Level C in the Academic and Research job family. This pop-up will clarify the differences between a promotion and a re-grading, and also address any misconceptions.

A panel made up of HR professionals that are involved in the application and the review process will be there to answer any questions you may have.

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

Funders Showcase: Wellcome Trust – Tuesday 30th January 2018, 14:00-15:30, SALC 7, South Kensington Campus

Thinking about applying for a Wellcome Trust fellowship?

This event will highlight the opportunities available to postdocs from the Wellcome Trust, including details about the fellowships they offer and the application process.

Come along to find out more - **Please sign up for the event via this [link](#)**

5. Upcoming courses at the PFDC

Thursday 11th January 2018:

[Science Communication: Reaching a Wider Audience](#)

Monday 15th January 2018:

[Interviewing for Lectureships](#)

Thursday 25th & Friday 26th January 2018:

[Planning for Success Beyond Your Postdoc](#)

Wednesday 31st January 2018:

[Interviewing for an Academic Position](#)

Monday 12th February 2018:

[Interviewing for a Position outside Academia](#)

Friday 16th February 2018:

[Lectureship CVs: What You Need to be Working Towards Now to Succeed in 5 Years](#)

[Time Management for Postdocs](#)

Tuesday 27th February 2018:

[Innovation and Industry: Effective Project Implementation](#)

Wednesday 28th February 2018:

[Consultancy: How it Can Enhance Your Academic Career](#)

[How to Peer Review Research Papers](#)

[How Intellectual Property Rights \(IPR\) Can Impact your Research](#)

To book onto the training courses please sign in to ICIS and click 'My Training' - search for the course and click: Enrol.