Research Methods

- **Research methods in the social sciences**

This course begins with an examination of different approaches to knowledge in the context of social science research. It will guide participants through the different processes of their research, including: framing a research question; planning and designing your research; data collection and analysis.
Related RRDP courses: Managing data and research material; Quality assurance in research; All 'research methods courses' including: Research in the social sciences: traditions and paradigms; Research questions and styles of research; Principles of research design; What is knowledge? Approaches to theory and practice in social science research

- **Research methods in the arts and humanities**

This course aims to develop your awareness of the practical and conceptual skills that support effective independent scholarly research in the arts and humanities. The goal is to help you understand the issues involved in making an informed choice about the research methodology and approach most suitable for your own specific project.
Related RRDP courses: Managing data and research material; Quality assurance in research; Research questions and styles of research; Principles of research design; Archives and special collections

- **Research methods in the sciences**

This course begins by looking at what scientific research entails, and the different types of research different scientists undertake. The course will guide participants through the different processes of their research, from identifying and refining a research question to designing and planning your research. It will finish by offering some thoughts and advice on publishing the results of your research.
Related RRDP courses: Managing data and research material; Quality assurance in research; Basic statistics refresher; Quality data for good research; Writing up your data analysis

- **Research methods in literature review**

You may have undertaken a literature review in your previous academic work. However, if you are commencing a PhD or research at a higher level, you now need to ensure that your review uses the systematic approach required of all postgraduate researchers. In this course, we will take you step by step through the process of using a systematic and comprehensive approach to carry out a literature review.
Related RRDP courses: Sourcing information for a literature review; How to write and literature review

Transferable skills

- **Intellectual property in the research context**

Intellectual property (IP) is a legal concept that enables the intangible creations of one's mind – inventions, designs, music, software, etc. – to be treated as 'property', giving the owner rights to protect, develop or trade in it. This course is a short introduction to intellectual property rights. The course will explore: why knowledge of IP is increasingly important for university researchers; attitudes to IP in the research context; the main different intellectual property rights (IPRs), and the areas of invention, innovation and creativity to which they relate; how the rights operate; the importance of confidentiality; ownership in the research context; how you can be better prepared to seek further advice from IP experts when you need it.
Related RRDP courses: Intellectual Property Rights and copyright – what you need to know as a researcher; Copyright – what you need to know as a researcher

- **Managing your research project**

This course is designed to help you organise your approach to undertaking, leading or helping to lead a research project. The approach of this course is to demonstrate how you can use established 'project management' techniques to help you successfully carry out your research. You will be introduced to a broad range of considerations relevant to academic research, and a variety of planning and problem-solving techniques to help you work out the best approach for your particular project.
Related RRDP course: Managing your research project; Exploring skills in influence and leadership

- **Getting published in the arts and humanities**

The aim of this course is to give guidance and support to arts and humanities students who are keen to share their research with the academic community (and beyond). The course will begin by exploring the reasons why researchers might want to publish their results, and the different types of publication available. It will then guide participants through the processes involved in getting a journal article or academic book published, including: choosing a subject and targeting a journal or book publisher; structuring and writing an academic paper; submitting a paper or book proposal; the peer review process.
Related RRDP courses: How to write a paper; How to get published; Understanding peer review

- **Getting published in the sciences**

This course is aimed at encouraging postgraduate researchers in the sciences to publish the hard-won results of their research, and advising them how this may best be accomplished. It may also be helpful for researchers in the social sciences using experimental research methods. The course begins by exploring why researchers in the sciences should publish their results. It will then guide participants through the processes involved in getting an article or paper published in an academic journal.
Related RRDP courses: How to write a paper; How to get published; Understanding peer review

- **Career planning in the sciences**

This course aims to encourage postgraduate scientists to start thinking about their future career options as early as possible, and offers practical techniques and suggestions to help you identify and manage suitable career paths as successfully as possible. The techniques suggested in the course will be valuable whether you are planning a career in academia or exploring a variety of alternative career options. During the course you will see how important it is to assess and continually re-evaluate your skills and interests and recognise that personal factors such as location and family circumstances can influence and affect career planning.

Related RRDP courses: Working with industry; Engaging the public with research; Getting your first academic job; CV workshop; Interview skills; Making yourself employable – the entrepreneurial attitude; Achieving your ambitions; Applying for research grant funding; Understanding the UK HE context

- **Career planning in the arts, humanities and the social sciences**

This course aims to encourage postgraduate researchers to start thinking about their future career options as early as possible, and offers practical techniques and suggestions to help you identify and manage suitable career paths as successfully as possible. The techniques suggested in the course will be valuable whether you are planning a career in academia or exploring a variety of alternative career options. During the course you will see how important it is to assess and continually re-evaluate your skills and interests and recognise that personal factors such as location and family circumstances can influence and affect career planning.

Related RRDP courses: Engaging the public with research; Getting your first academic job; CV workshop; Interview skills; Making yourself employable – the entrepreneurial attitude; Achieving your ambitions; Applying for research grant funding; Understanding the UK HE context

- **Working with your research supervisor**

This course aims to encourage postgraduate researchers to reflect on their relationship with their research supervisor, and to take proactive steps to improve and maintain a positive, professional relationship with their supervisor for the duration of their research project. The course will encourage participants to think about their expectations of their supervisor, and vice versa. The course will provide practical advice on: different supervisory styles; getting the most out of meetings with your supervisor; getting effective feedback from your supervisor; dealing with common difficulties in the researcher-supervisor relationship; alternative sources of support outside the supervisory team; the additional requirements international researchers might have of their supervisor.

Related RRDP course: You and your supervisor

- **Selecting a conference, presenting and networking**

This course is aimed at encouraging postgraduate and postdoctoral researchers to attend conferences and improve their presenting and networking skills. Throughout the course, in-depth interviews with current doctoral researchers and experienced academics will

provide you with tips and advice on various aspects of attending, presenting at and organising seminars, symposia and conferences.
Related RRDP courses: Presentation skills; Organising conferences; Preparing posters – theory & practice; Finding funding to support your doctoral studies

Ethics

- **Ethics 1: good research practice**

This course covers standard practice and recent changes in universities' ethics relating to research that investigates people and their data. The course applies, for example, to the healthcare disciplines, to natural and social sciences, education and welfare services, humanities, law and media studies. Ethics standards apply very generally across many topics, methods and disciplines of research. This course uses several health research examples, because the ethics questions tend to stand out clearly in health research. Course participants working in other disciplines are invited to consider how the same questions apply to their own research.
Related RRDP courses: Ethics in research involving humans; Ethics in research; Ethical considerations in preclinical biomedical research

- **Ethics 2: working with human subjects**

This course is about ethics in research with human beings in the health and social sciences. This broad range of disciplines involves most of the research methods and the ethical questions that arise in any research with and about people, whether they are directly or indirectly involved, or when they donate tissue or other data for scientific research. Although the ethics standards introduced in this course apply to research involving humans in most disciplines, there may be some variance in how the standards are interpreted and applied in different disciplines.
Related RRDP courses: Ethics in research involving humans; Ethics in research

Entrepreneurship

- **Entrepreneurship 1 – Academic entrepreneurship: an introduction**

What does being an entrepreneur in the academic context involve? Are you suited to commercial entrepreneurial activity? These are the basic questions that this course attempts to answer.

- **Entrepreneurship 2 – Entrepreneurial opportunities: recognition and evaluation**

What are entrepreneurial opportunities? What options do you have if you've developed an innovation with commercial potential? Regardless of whether you are thinking about becoming an entrepreneur, or pursuing commercial activity, this course will help you think carefully about the nature of opportunities and the early stages of technology venturing.

- **Entrepreneurship 3: - Entrepreneurial resources: people, teams and finance**

This course is designed to help you think in a systematic, yet creative, manner about raising the resources you need to start a new venture.
Related RRDP courses: Enterprise: so you think you want to start your own business?;
Entrepreneurship & knowledge exchange; Exploring skills in influence and leadership; Working with
industry; Achieving your ambitions; Making a difference as a leader-developing your leadership
potential