

RESEARCHER CONNECT

Professional development for researchers

Researcher Connect promotes the development of excellent communication skills for international, multicultural academic contexts. The aim is to enhance the productivity of individual researchers and, in turn, provide client universities and research institutions with a competitive advantage in the fast moving international research environment.

Why researchers' communication skills matter

In an increasingly competitive and globalised market, researchers and the institutions they represent need to communicate their work effectively to an international audience.

Researchers with strong communication skills are more likely to:

- publish in international journals
- successfully promote their research and represent their institutions at conferences
- gain funding from international bodies
- effectively communicate with the wider public and policy makers
- build international collaborations to further their research.

In recognition of this need, and building on our vision for prosperity through internationalised education, the British Council has developed the Researcher Connect professional development course.

What is Researcher Connect?

Researcher Connect provides participants with the insights, understanding and tools to communicate effectively, whatever the situation or context. The course has been delivered across the globe and participant feedback has consistently shown that the workshop enhances researchers' communication skills, knowledge and ability.

Researcher Connect is offered as a series of modules, delivered through a face-to-face workshop format by experienced and quality-assured trainers. The standard duration of a course is three days, and the number of participants is usually 20. It is designed specifically for early and mid-career researchers, although certain aspects would also be of benefit to more experienced members of the research community.

Module selection

Each workshop begins with the introductory Know Your Audience module that builds awareness essential to all subsequent modules. In the remaining time, clients also select from seven optional modules designed to address the development needs of the participant researchers. A certificate of completion will be given to participants to demonstrate their attendance at the course.

Each of the seven optional modules speaks to an important aspect of the modern international research environment, and has flexible content that allows our experienced trainers to adapt the course to the needs and experience of participants.

Researcher Connect Modules

Abstracts | Half day

Enables learners to become critical readers and writers of abstracts through review and practice, using techniques and styles introduced throughout the course.

Academic Collaboration | Half or full day

Assists researchers with approaching potential collaborators, and builds their understanding of when and where collaboration may be most beneficial.

Academic Writing | Full day

Participants examine the essentials of academic writing, developing their own writing style through the acquisition of tactics, tools and relevant language techniques

Digital Researcher | Half or full day

Empowers researchers to strategize and use social media to make their research more accessible, more highly cited and to achieve greater impact

Effective Emails | Half day

The most common way in which researchers form networks is through the exchange of emails. This module enables participants to understand how their emails are being read, and builds a toolkit for clear, accurate and successful communication.

Persuasive Proposals | Full day

Participants consider the use of audience-focused language and style, and the creation of logically connected inputs, outputs, goals and outcomes.

Presenting With Impact | Full day

Learners build critical awareness and reflective skills, and practice techniques for the use of voice, body language and presentation structure through creating and delivering their own oral presentations.

Hosting a workshop

To make the course accessible to the greatest number of countries and researchers, we have a flexible delivery system that considers different market scenarios.

Please contact your local British Council office for further details about Researcher Connect, to discuss module combinations, and for help developing a delivery model for your organisation.