

# Doctoral Research Training Assessments

Session for Doctoral Supervisors

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2020

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# Current DRDP

- ▶ Excellent feedback from sessions and workshops
- ▶ Recognised sector-wide as good practice
- ▶ But.....
- ▶ Attendance and engagement has been low - why?
  - ▶ Inflexible cohort based model?
  - ▶ How the DRDP has been presented?
  - ▶ How the DRDP is delivered (face-to-face only sessions)?
  - ▶ Supervisors not promoting the DRDP with their doctoral researchers?

# Reviewing the Current DRDP

- ▶ Should certain DRDP sessions be compulsory or a certain number of hours of training and development be expected?
- ▶ Should we keep the cohort/year based model?
- ▶ Should we open up all sessions to all doctoral researchers (and maybe even ECRs, LCRs)
- ▶ What would be the best way to present the programme/DRDP sessions?
- ▶ How can we ensure that the training sessions doctoral students want/need are made available to them (including those who cannot attend face-to-face due to part-time or DL study, or family/caring commitments, etc)?

# New DRDP

- ▶ Sessions / Workshops remain largely as they in terms of content but with more 'relevant' names (eg no longer UW1.1 but 'Starting out as a Researcher at Westminster')
- ▶ No compulsory/mandatory sessions or hours
- ▶ No longer cohort based, but 'flexible' open to all, but with 'suggestions' as to which sessions would be most relevant
- ▶ Sessions categorised into 'themes' - eg Doctoral Process, Personal Effectiveness, Engagement, Careers, Academic Skills, etc
- ▶ 'Festival' style programme of events where the doctoral researcher, alongside their supervisor, curates their own pathway/programme
- ▶ Ability to easily add additional sessions or workshops as the need arises
- ▶ Programme promoted via a new website (with links to book on the sessions directly in the VRE)
- ▶ Delivery mode of each session being reviewed (face-to-face, online live, online recorded, face-to-face and streamed live, blended)\*

\*all DRDP sessions will be online in the Autumn Term 2020.

# The Role of the Supervisor within Doctoral Researcher Professional Development

- ▶ Current re-structuring of DRDP - from 'off the peg' to 'bespoke' programme
- ▶ New structure will be more accessible and more flexible
- ▶ Programme for each student each year to be discussed and agreed by the student and DoS at a 'training assessment' meeting. It may work to do this at a 'full team' meeting.
- ▶ Aim is to construct a programme that meets the training needs of the individual student
- ▶ These needs could be met both within the DRDP or beyond it (GER funding)
- ▶ Student's programme to be uploaded to the VRE as an attachment to the relevant supervision log
- ▶ The programme will be reviewed at the next APR

# Doctoral Researcher Training Assessments

- ▶ Supervisors to be fully aware of the new DRDP (which will be much more accessible)
- ▶ At the first or second supervisory meeting of each academic year, Supervisor will work with the doctoral researcher to identify training and development needs for the coming year (based on DRDP sessions and other training opportunities). Training Assessment form completed and uploaded to VRE with notes from the supervisory meeting.
- ▶ Doctoral researcher books on to relevant DRDP (and other training) sessions via website/VRE (bookings recorded in VRE).
- ▶ Training Assessment form reviewed by Supervisor and doctoral researcher at the supervisory meeting prior to APR submission (or for part-time students the relevant point in the year). The form is updated with the training completed during the year and uploaded to the VRE.

# Next Steps

## DRDP:

Website to be developed (contingency will be a PDF)

Confirmation of initial dates/deliverers of sessions

All sessions to be made available for booking in the VRE Calendar functionality

Promotion/Awareness Raising

## Doctoral Researcher Training Assessments:

Confirm the form to be used

Promotion/Awareness Raising

'How to....' Guide to be developed