



# Preparing for a successful future

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National Postdoc Conference

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#NPDC21



# Agenda



Introduction

Researchers' Professional Development

Group exercise

Summary: *How to prepare for a successful future*

Next steps

# Housekeeping

- Use the chat for questions, comments and concerns
- Remember to keep this an inclusive space
- Live/active transcription will be available
- If possible, switch on cameras (not mandatory)
- The session will be recorded

# Realising the potential of researchers

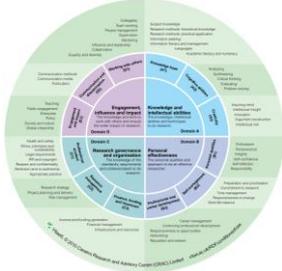


Vitae is the **global leader** in supporting the **professional development** of researchers, experienced in working with institutions as they strive for **research excellence, innovation and impact**

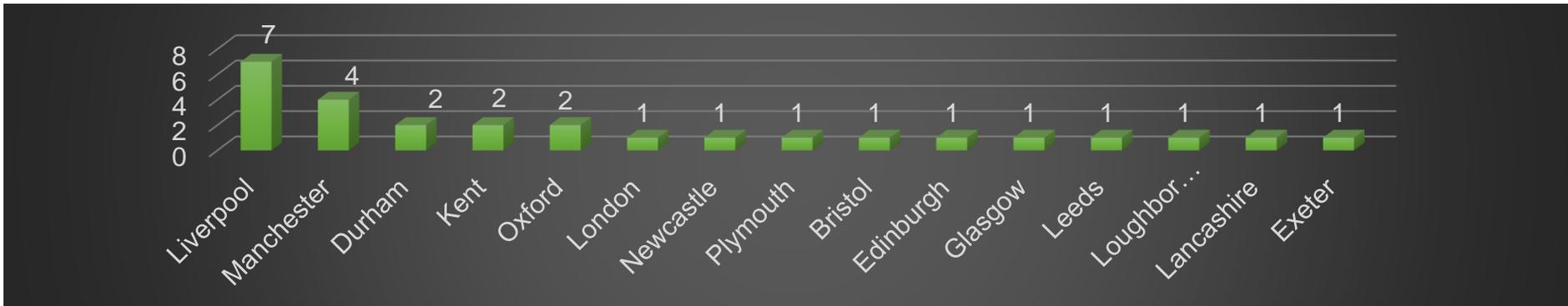
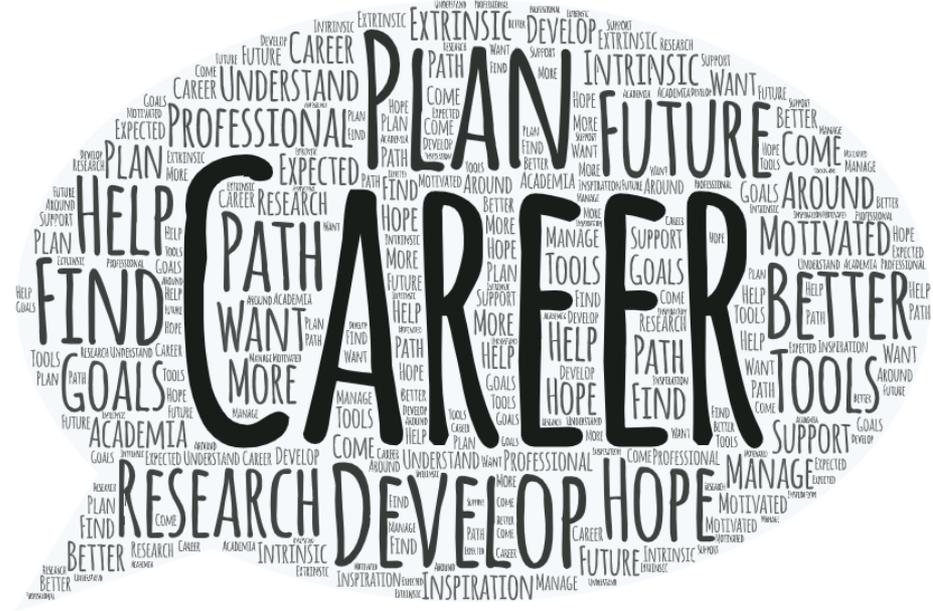
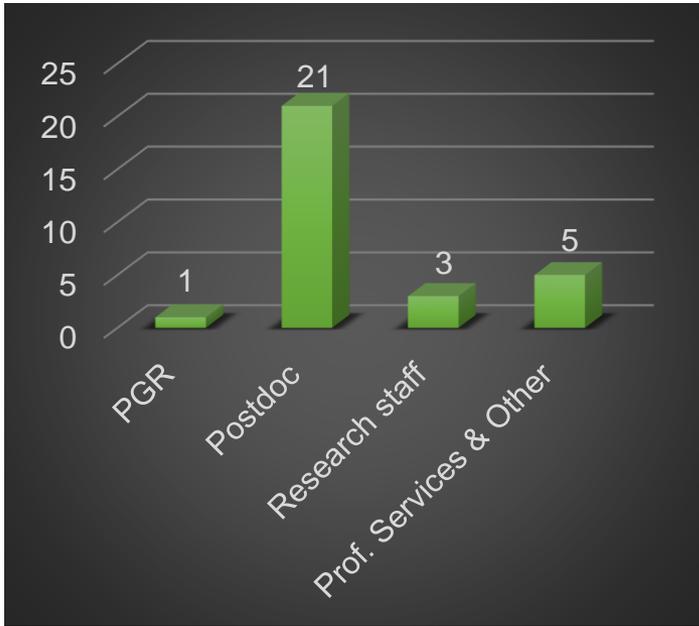
UK Research Staff Association



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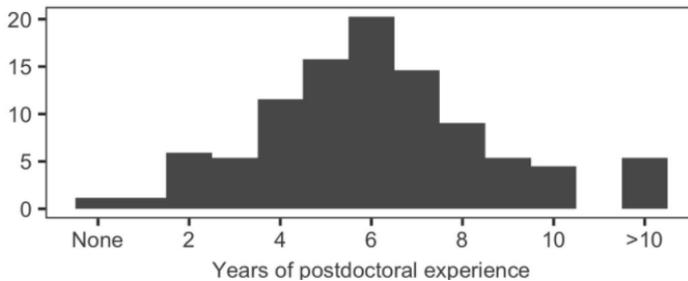
# Who are you and why are you here?



# Professional Development

## Why researchers do it

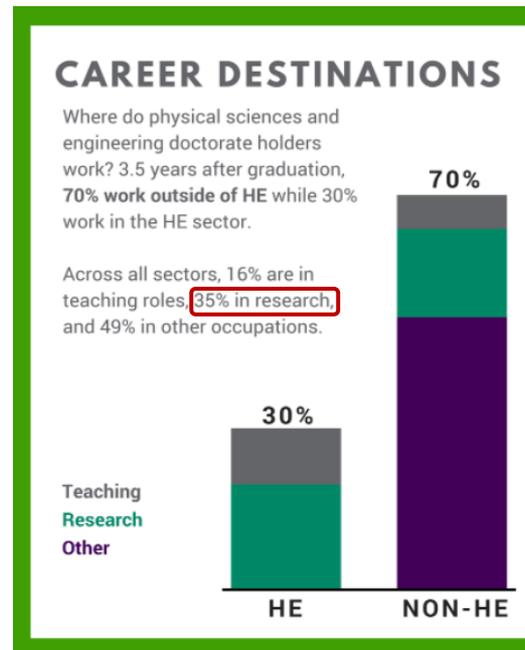
**E** How many years of postdoc experience did you have?



[Acton et al., 2019 \(eLife\)](#)



[Fernandes et al., 2020 \(eLife\)](#)



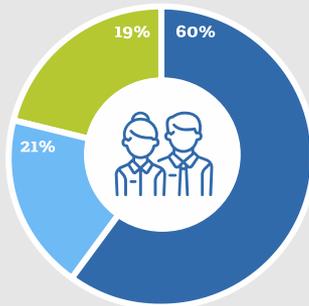
**The Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers**

Commonly known as the Researcher Development Concordat

# Professional Development

## Why researchers **don't** do it

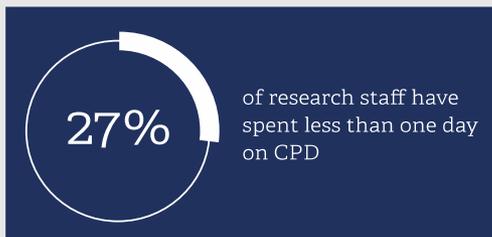
### Not enough time in a contract



Research staff:

- Fixed term contract
- Open-ended limited contract
- Open contract

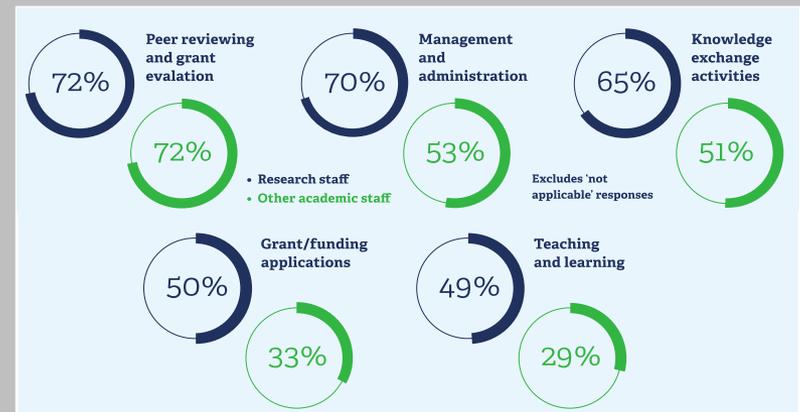
### Not enough time/opportunity to develop and plan



### Limited guidance from managers



### Poor recognition of 'other' activities



% of staff that feel activity is **not** recognised

## Group exercise

### Design a career development toolbox

Each group should try to identify:

1. Things that affect professional and career development **positively**
  - e.g., structures/organisations, people, initiatives
2. Things that affect professional and career development **negatively**
  - e.g., expectations, definitions of success
3. Suggested ideas, behaviours or actions that could help
  - Design a toolbox to help prepare for a successful future

❖ [Access the Toolbox on Miro](#)

# What one thing will you do next?

# Professional Development

## 5 easy ways to do it



**PRIORITISE YOURSELF**



**NURTURE NEW  
CONNECTIONS**



**LEARN TO FAIL**



**MAKE A PLAN**



**GET INSPIRED**

Which problems do you have in common?

Did you recognise any challenges you hadn't thought of already?

Which solutions seem realistic and which seem idealistic?

Are there things you could do personally?

# Thank you

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