



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH

LERU Doctoral Summer School

Building Research Capacity and a Collaborative Global Community

15 – 19 July 2019

THEME

The proposed LERU Doctoral Summer School at the University of Edinburgh will focus on international collaboration, giving participants the dual benefits of an enhanced understanding of the nature and importance of collaboration, whilst simultaneously creating a multi-disciplinary, global network for their future careers.

Research has always been a collaborative endeavour, but there is increasing drive from funders and institutions to stimulate partnerships between researchers with diverse skills, and knowledge, working in different contexts. Effective collaboration in the future will demand more than disciplinary excellence. Researchers will need to understand the motivations, strengths and contributions of their partners whilst communicating their own goals and expectations. Researchers who understand how to work effectively with others will be better equipped to generate long-term impact across boundaries between subjects, countries and sectors.

Following the UK's decision to leave the European Union in June 2016, there has been a renewed emphasis on the significance of high-quality knowledge exchange and collaboration between the UK and its European neighbours. Regardless of the outcome of Brexit negotiations, the need to collaborate will always remain and although it may prove to be more challenging than before, and more international in its scope, the skill set involved in establishing, participating and fully utilising an international collaborative research community will become increasingly invaluable as Europe continues to deliver impactful research to the rest of the world.

An innovative outcome of this Summer School will be that participants will put partnership into practice by co-authoring a guide to international collaboration targeted at doctoral researchers and based on pre-course work, advice from expert speakers and their own experiences. During the course they will work with an experienced author of research skills guides and a designer so that the guide can be completed within the workshop. It will then be published under a Creative Commons and available to all young researchers as a resource for wider use.

OBJECTIVE

To introduce early career researchers to the principles and practice of effective interdisciplinary collaboration on a global stage and allow them to apply learning on a substantial collaborative activity during the week.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- ❖ Awareness of collaborative models (interdisciplinary, intersectoral and international)
- ❖ Tools to maximise success and minimise challenges of collaborative research
- ❖ Development of an international network of peers
- ❖ Appreciation of cultural differences and strategies to work effectively across cultures
- ❖ Authorship of a novel guide to international collaboration for PhD students



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PARTICIPANT REQUIREMENTS

Applicants for the Summer School will be nominated by their home LERU institution. They should be well advanced in their doctoral project and keenly motivated to work intensively and contribute to the production of a Collaboration Guide over the course of the week in Edinburgh. Candidates must be available for the entire duration of the Summer School, and must be prepared to participate in all activities. All sessions will be conducted in English, and therefore fluency in both spoken and written English is essential.

Pre-course work will be set and will include the following:

1. Prepare a single powerpoint slide to introduce yourself to the group – template will be provided;
2. Use this as basis for A3 poster with space for networking connections – template will be provided;
3. Conduct an interview with an established, successful researcher in your discipline on the role of collaboration in their career (interview template will be provided, but creativity welcomed)

CORE ORGANISING TEAM

The team in Edinburgh Global will lead on the coordination of the Doctoral Summer School. Edinburgh Global is resourced and experienced in delivering high-quality, successful external events. In the summer of 2017 Edinburgh Global coordinated both the annual Coimbra Group Conference and the Universitas 21 Undergraduate Conference.

Delivery of the academic programme will be led by colleagues within the University of Edinburgh's Institute for Academic Development (IAD). IAD have a key role in supporting teaching, learning and researcher development across the University and they will be responsible for driving the content and facilitating the sessions to ensure that the Collaboration Guide is written within the one week timeframe.

The core organising team will comprise of:

- Professor Antony Maciocia a.maciocia@ed.ac.uk
Senior Lecturer, School of Mathematics

Institute of Academic Development:

- Dr Sara Shinton sara.shinton@ed.ac.uk
Head of Researcher Development
- Dr Emily Woollen e.woollen@ed.ac.uk
Academic Developer

Edinburgh Global:

- Helen McMillan helen.mcmillan@ed.ac.uk
Regional Director, Europe
- Jennifer Riley jennifer.riley@ed.ac.uk
Senior Administrator



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PARTICIPATION COST

The University of Edinburgh intends to charge participants €500 to attend the 2019 LERU Doctoral Summer School and will either seek to secure external sponsorship or set aside funding to maintain participant costs at this amount. This cost includes course materials, University accommodation for five nights from Sunday 14 – Friday 19 July, meals and participation in the exciting social programme.

Additional costs:

Travel to and from Edinburgh is not included in the Summer School cost. Participants will also be expected to cover the cost of any social activities undertaken outwith the programme.

Budget:

The budget includes places for 46 students from LERU institutions, and seven discretionary places for students from CE7 universities.