

Postdoctoral Development Centre: activity report 2022-23

The aim of this report is to communicate the main initiatives and projects provided by the Postdoctoral Development Centre to postdocs and research staff at Queen's over the academic year 2022-23. It also includes programmes run by other departments when they are highly relevant to this cohort and are advertised as core research staff provision on the PDC website. For transparency, we are including satisfaction elements such as attendance data, ratings and representative feedback when available.

The PDC's objectives for each year are for the most part aligned to Queen's institutional '[Researcher Development Concordat](#)' action plan. This plan was developed in consultation with research staff and revealed in October 2021.

Contents

Key projects.....	2
Local initiatives in Schools and Centres.....	6
Postdoc Society	7
Workshops and courses	9
Career events.....	14
Information events.....	17
Personal support.....	18
National Postdoc Appreciation Week (NPAW).....	21

Key projects

Below are the main projects the PDC focused on for the academic year 2022-23. These include actions from our institutional [Researcher Development Concordat Action Plan](#), and priorities identified by research staff surveys or feedback. The PDC Representatives' Network ([list of current representatives](#)) was actively involved in shaping and delivering them.

Reviewing and improving the PDR process for postdocs

The Sep 2022 Research Staff survey showed poor engagement and limited benefits of the Personal Development Review (PDR) process. This project aimed at designing resources to enable better career and development conversations to take place between research staff and their line managers.



Members of the PDC Representatives' Network organised consultation with postdocs and academics within their schools to identify the main issues with the current process, and suggestions for improvement. Based on this feedback and consultation with People & Culture, a more tailored form was created to focus conversations on development and career, notably by including planning and reporting on the use of research staff's 10 career development days allocation. Short videos and detailed written guidance documents were also designed both for research staff and for their managers, to support them through the process. A trial of these resources is taking place over summer 2023 with ~40 pairs of researcher/manager from across the institution. Feedback from pilot participants will be collected to inform resources to be rolled out widely for the summer 2024 PDR.

Helping research staff navigate their environment

The Sep 2022 Research Staff survey suggested postdocs needed help to better understand and navigate their direct (Queen's) and wider (UK Research and Innovation sector) environment. The 'Postdoc Life' series of short (1 h max) online information sessions was organised in the second semester, with topics covering internal funding schemes, personal development and recognition in higher education teaching, Open Access publication, and narrative CVs. The sessions were well attended 'live' by 122

overall participants, and were well-received, as indicated by ratings from 4.5/5 to 5/5 (see details in the

'Stellar day. I don't think I've learnt so much from a single day. The panellists were expertly chosen, each given useful, practical advice, direction, and inspiration. Also really appreciated how realistic the day was - it felt like the best of academia in being collegiate, supportive, not brushing the issues under the carpet. Sometimes future-oriented advice falls flat because it ignores the lay of the land, this day did not do that. Thanks again for organising, chairing etc. Excellent day.

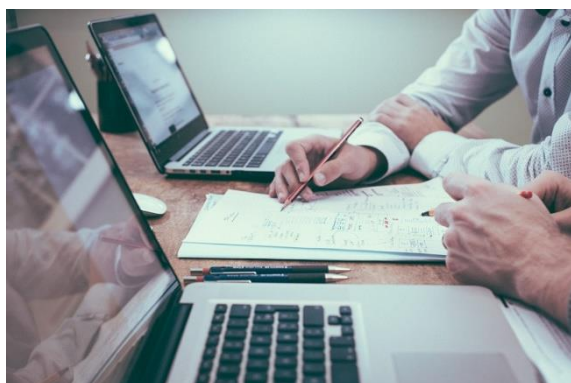
Attendee, 'ECRday 2023'

Information events' section). Video recordings are available on the [Information sessions and related content page](#).

Such sessions add to the information provided through other initiatives, such as the highly rated PDC New Postdoc Inductions (see details in the PDC workshops' section).

Enhancing support for fellowship applicants

This priority aimed at complementing existing one-to-one support for fellowship proposals' development by introducing additional training and mentoring from Fellowship Academy members (current fellows at Queen's).



Fellowship training: A [programme of 6 workshops and writing sessions](#) was piloted from November 2022 to May 2023 to guide a small group of participants with the development of a BBSRC Discovery Fellowship proposal so that they submit in May. Further fellowship-related training will be investigated for 2023-24.

Networking with successful fellows (event): 40 researchers attended a 'speed-networking' event with fellows from the Fellowship Academy in June 2023. Participants had the opportunity to meet several fellows in small groups and ask questions, as well as have more informal interactions over lunch (event rating 4.6/5, recommended by 100%).

In addition, and based on career stage, members of the Fellowship Academy were also invited to contribute to the internal peer review process (read and comment on draft

applications with the option of a follow up 1-2-1 discussion with applicants), and sitting on assessment panels to aid in some internal selection processes.

Mentoring PhD candidates

This is part of the Research & Innovation strategy's overall goal of embedding support and mentoring 'across the research continuum', with researchers at various stages of career helping each other, and provide opportunities for research staff to engage with students (beyond direct teaching and supervision).

The PDC and Graduate School collaborated to deliver a 'What do postdocs do?' workshop in Nov 2022 and Feb 2023, which included small group mentoring discussions with postdoc volunteers (including from the Postdoc Society) sharing their own experience. The feedback was very positive. In addition, postdoc volunteers shared their experience of preparing for their viva,



navigating the PhD, and other career events organised by the Graduate School. A sign-up form has been prepared to create a database of postdoc volunteers to enable a more coordinated approach allowing more postdocs to support the development of PhD candidates via Graduate School programmes (Expression of interest form is available on the [‘Teaching and supervision’ page of the PDC website](#)).

Reviewing & updating Learning and Development offering

The PDC Representatives' Network reviewed the list of workshops offered on a regular basis as well as engagement and feedback data to inform future offering and ensures it fulfils researchers' needs. The existing provision (including the new 2023 workshops 'Time management for productive work and a happy life' and 'Engaged research and impact: Why are they important?') received positive feedback, but gaps were identified around grant/proposal development, collaborating with partners (including companies), managing difficult conversations, and mentoring and coaching skills. The PDC and OD will investigate options to introduce such topics in next year's programme.

Follow up on 2021-22 actions

- Enabling and recognising the contributions of postdocs to the supervision of undergraduate and postgraduate taught students:

In 2021-22, consultation was carried out and recommendations were developed on that topic. Further consultation and committee approval (Postdoctoral and Research staff Oversight Group, Education Committee - Student Experience) was obtained in 2022-23. The recommendations and paper can be found on the [Supervision \(policy section\) page of the PDC website](#).

- **Work-life balance and maternity leave:**

Work-life balance guidance were developed in 2021-22. In 2022-23, consultation was finalised and they were added to the Policy section of the PDC website ([Work-life balance page](#)). This was complemented by the introduction of a new workshop, ‘Time management for productive work and a happy life’, designed to promote a good work-life balance and related workplace culture, as well as more tailored maternity leave information for individuals on externally-funded fixed-term contracts on the [People & Culture intranet](#) (new FAQ section for academic and research staff and new research staff case studies to illustrate the procedure).



“I really appreciated the emphasis on healthy work routines and the impact they have not only on yourself but also on your colleagues. You don't often hear these messages at work! But I think it's hugely important and beneficial to be reminded of this.”

*Participant, ‘Time management for productive work and a happy life’
2023*

Priorities described in more detail in other sections

- **Supporting Postdoc-led initiatives:**

This priority aimed at funding and supporting research staff interested in organising community-building events for their peers. ‘Postdoc-led’ activities provide networking opportunities amongst postdocs, ensure the provision is fresh and relevant to postdoc needs, and enable members of the society to develop their leadership and

management skills. Volunteers were brought together to establish a new 'Postdoc Society'. See more details, including events provided in the Postdoc Society section.

- **Fostering a positive local culture in Schools & Centres:**

This action was delivered by local representatives, who organise a range of initiatives to promote a supportive and enjoyable working environment for research staff. See examples of activities in the next section.

Local initiatives in Schools and Centres

Postdoc and academic representatives from the PDC Representatives' Network ([see membership](#)), and/or other volunteers such as Equality, Diversity and Inclusion representatives, have been involved in organising a range of activities locally, such as research symposia or seminars with postdocs presenting their work, informal gatherings (e.g. coffee mornings), career events, welcoming/buddy schemes for new postdocs, surveys or other feedback mechanisms to reflect local experience, provision of updates at local committees etc. Here are some examples (not an exhaustive list; other schools may also have similar initiatives that are not listed here):

- Wider committee / group of postdocs and potentially PhD candidates to oversee activities (e.g. SoNBE, SoEEECS, WWIEM, SoPharm)
- Regular consultation meetings or townhall meetings to gather research staff opinion (e.g. SoPsy, SoMP, WWIEM, SoSSESW)
- Welcoming scheme or events (e.g. SoNBE, CPH)
- Regular coffee mornings (e.g. SoPsy, SoMP, CPH, SoBS, SoNM, soSSESW)
- Social events, including movie nights, game nights, football, bake-offs, food festival, pizza networking (e.g. SoMP, WWIEM, SoBS, SoNM, SoPharm)
- Seminar series or research symposia with opportunities for research staff to present (e.g. SoPsy, WWIEM, PGJCCR)
- Seminar series with invited speakers, including high profile (e.g. SoMP, WWIEM, PGJCCR, SoPsy)
- Career events, workshops and away days for postdocs and potentially PhDs (e.g. SoNBE, SoMP, WWIEM, PGJCCR, SoNM, including ECRday2023 from SoAEL)
- Initiatives to improve research staff local experience (e.g. SoPsy: including research staff in the School's Research Incentivisation Scheme for grant applications previously only available to academics; SoSSESW: enhanced mentoring support for research staff is being developed)

Postdoc Society

The Postdoc Society was established at the end of 2022 and involves ~20 postdoc volunteers from across Faculties. The group receives funding, advice and administrative support from the PDC, but functions in autonomy in setting up and delivering a programme of activities related to promoting networking and social interactions between research staff across the institution, promoting and celebrating the importance of postdocs in the University and to the public, as well as engaging in outreach activities involving students at Queen's.

More information can be found on the [Postdoc Society website](#), and it can be contacted at PostdocSociety@qub.ac.uk and followed on Twitter ([@QUBPostdocSoc](#)).

The Postdoc Society provided a range of successful activities in 2023, including a pizza networking event, a wellbeing event, a writing retreat and a family-friendly summer social.

The group is also organising the Postdoc Showcase in September 2023 (see National Postdoc Appreciation Week section).





Event	Attendees	Rating	Recommended by
Postdoc networking and pizza event (January 2023)	60	4.8/5 (18 respondents)	NA
Pub quiz (March 2023)	NA	NA	NA
The MYND movement (wellbeing event) (May 2023)	8	5/5 (7 respondents)	100%
Writing retreat for postdocs and research staff (May 2023)	16	5/5 (7 respondents)	100%
Postdoc Society summer social 2023 (July 2023)	62	4.3/5 (11 respondents)	NA

“A good balance of practical & theoretical discussion. I enjoyed how open and relaxed it felt”

Participant, ‘The MYND movement’ 2023

“Please, please, please organise these writing retreats more regularly, I find them so helpful for overcoming many of the barriers to progressing my writing. Helps to allocate that protected time in my diary and stick to it, and I am so much more productive than when writing alone.”

Participant, ‘Writing retreat for postdocs and research staff’, 2023

Workshops and courses

The data below corresponds to 'core' workshops, organised at least once a year. Other 'ad hoc' workshops are provided by a range of university departments but are not featured here. Two new core workshops were introduced this year: 'Time management for productive work and a happy life' and 'Engaged research & Impact – Why are they important?'. While some workshops are provided specifically to research staff by the PDC, most of the [core workshops](#) are organised by Organisational Development (OD).

PDC workshops

Workshop	Attendees	Rating	Recommended by
PDC New postdoc induction (5 sessions: September & November 2022, January, March & June 2023)	56	5/5 (17 respondents)	100%
Supervising Skills for Assistant Supervisors and Postdocs (December 2022)	39	4.6/5 (11 respondents)	100%
Lectureships: Ready, Set, Go! (March 2023)	17	4.5/5 (13 respondents)	100%
Time management for productive work and a happy life (March 2023)	8	5/5 (4 respondents)	100%
Engaged research & Impact – Why are they important? (April 2023)	9	4.8/5 (5 respondents)	100%
Postdoctoral Leadership Programme (May 2023)	20	4.8/5 (8 respondents)	100%



“This course was amazing and Louise was a fantastic facilitator. I learned so much about leadership, myself and about colleagues across the university. It was also a fantastic networking opportunity.”

Participant, ‘Postdoctoral Leadership Programme’ 2023

“A very worthwhile course and time well spent. Karen was an excellent facilitator and I gained lots of extremely useful information. I feel more confident now to proceed with a Lecturer application.”

Participant, ‘Lectureships: Ready, Set, Go!’ 2023

“I think this was a fantastic course and it was really good that it was specifically tailored for postdocs and the (many) types of roles and responsibilities we have. I liked the section with the tools for managing time and the real life examples. I also liked the self reflection parts as they made me reflect on what I actually do and how this can impact not only myself and my work but other people around me.”

*Participant, ‘Time management for productive work and a happy life’
2023*



Organisational Development (OD, P&C) workshops

Workshop	Attendees	Rating	Recommended by
The strategic researcher (November 2022)	23	NA	NA
Writing for publication (x 2) (September 2022 and March 2023)	35	5/5 (3 respondents)	100%
Networking and profile building for researchers (6 parts; x 2) (October 2022 and June 2023; multi- institutions programme with limited places for QUB)	8 (average over 6 parts)	NA	NA
Project management in a research environment (2 parts) (November 2022)	13 (average over 2 parts)	5/5 (1 respondent)	100%
Developing resilience in a research environment (October 2022)	5	NA (2 respondents)	100%
Developing your research career (3 parts x 2) (November 2022 and May 2023)	20 (average over 3 parts)	5/5 (3 respondents)	100%
Effective use of voice (x 2) (November 2022 and May 2022)	6	5/5 (5 respondents)	100%
Defining your Research Career - alternative pathways (2 parts) (December 2022)	7 (average over 2 parts)	5/5 (2 respondents)	100%
Researcher writing retreat (x 2) (January 2023, June 2023)	34	5/5 (2 respondents)	100%
Communicating the impact of your research (March 2023)	26	4.6/5 (8 respondents)	100%



“I have already adapted my CV based on what I learned on the course, and I plan to use some of the networking tips suggested in future as well.”

Developing your research career programme Participant, 2022

I liked learning about breathing and altering the pitch of my voice. Also there were techniques to lower anxiety. I present to students and meet the general public so this is an important element of my work. I would like to sound more professional. It was a very informative session with lots of tips and reference to other learning resources. There were a variety of activities and the presenter was very engaging.

Participant, ‘Effective use of voice’ 2022

Learning techniques on how to write effectively. Learning how to arrange sentences in paragraphs to make coherent powerful statements. I also liked learning about the use of specialised software for copy/editing and techniques to help maximise production in writing. Particularly helpful for non-native English speakers.

Participant, ‘Writing for publication’ 2023

Additional workshops and programmes

Innovation programmes (Innovation Programmes team, R&E)

This year the [Innovation Programmes team](#) organised a wide-ranging portfolio of multi-disciplinary and discipline-specific innovation programmes to focus attention on the commercialisation of university research. Innovation Programmes are designed to capture wide-ranging research with a number which are generic and leading for the UK such as ICURe (which is led by QUB) and others which are based on emergent needs and funded by a range of sponsors including corporate partners (Kainos) and charity (Cancer Research UK). The team delivered 6 cohorts of programmes especially relevant to research staff (with 11 Queen's teams led by research staff), including Cancer Research Horizons- Lean Launch Programme (2 Cohorts), Kainos- One Health Programme, EIT Food Seedbed Incubator, BBSRC Lean Launch Programme, ICURe, Future Leaders Fellowships.

Fellowship workshops (Research Development Team, R&E)

This year, the Research Development team delivered some highly specific in-depth programmes for specific fellowship calls, for small groups of applicants, involving several sessions including writing, feedback, peer-support and input from academics. This is in addition to sessions designed for wider groups (e.g. training on the new UKRI funding service, which attracted 75 researchers and academics).

Workshop	Attendees	Feedback
BBSRC proposal writing workshop (January – May 2023)	7	All positive 2 proposals submitted and the rest will be in the next call or another scheme
Wellcome Awards Writing Workshop (May – November 2023)	8	All positive (programme still ongoing)
Introduction to R&E funding opportunities (x 3) (March, May, August 2023)	10	Positive (5 followed up for bid support)
UKRI information session on FLF (May 2023)	4	Positive, all submitted
RAEng Research Fellowship information session (x 2) (June, August 2023)	40	Positive (included follow up for support and 4 intending to submit)

Recognition of teaching and supervision programmes

Over the academic year, the Centre for Educational Development has provided 5 Queen's Merit Award (QMA) application writing support programmes for individuals applying for Associate Fellowship (AF) or Fellowship (F) of the Higher Education Academy HEA). As a result, 14 research staff were successfully awarded AF-HEA, 6 F-HEA and 1 SF-HEA.

In 2022-23, the PDC also processed 26 Assistant Supervisor appointments, recognising significant contributions to the supervision of PhD students.

Career events

The PDC provided two interactive in-person networking events, focusing on careers in universities as research and innovation professionals, and on applying for fellowships, with mini-mentoring discussions with professional services staff and fellows respectively. In addition, 'Career Exploration Month' was organised



online in June, with weekly interviews or panels of former PhDs with a range of careers outside academia. Some members of the PDC Representatives' Network were involved in inviting guests and hosting discussions, and the events were open to all and attracted attendees from other institutions.



The events from 'Career Exploration Month' were recorded and edited by the PDC, and will lead to the addition of 6 episodes to its career podcast, '[The theory of the postdoc evolution](#)' (available on the PDC website, Apple podcasts, Spotify and Google podcasts).

Event	Attendees	Rating	Recommended by
Careers in Universities - R&I Professionals (December 2022)	13	4.5/5 (10 respondents)	100%
Applying for Fellowships: Networking with Successful Fellows (May 2023)	40	4.6/5 (12 respondents)	100%
Career Exploration Month: A chat with Dr Keziah Davison (June 2023)	98 (incl. 52 external)	4.5/5 (24 respondents)	96% (all respondents but 1)
Career Exploration Month: Careers in Social Sciences & Policy (June 2023)	77 (incl. 47 external)	4.5/5 (11 respondents)	91% (all respondents but 1)
Career Exploration Month: Research careers in the Life Sciences (June 2023)	62 (incl. 36 external)	4.4/5 (10 respondents)	100%
Career Exploration Month: Careers for Engineers (June 2023)	26 (incl. 18 external)	4.7/5 (3 respondents)	100%
Career Exploration Month: Careers for Arts and Humanities researchers (June 2023)	40 (incl. 27 external)	4.7/5 (3 respondents)	100%

ECRday 2023

This 1-day online event for AHSS research staff and students was organised by Dr Alison Garden (UKRI Future Leader Fellow and PDC Representative), with the support from the PDC and the Agility Fund. Alison’s programme included 16 speakers on topics related to careers in and out of academia as well as an engaged-research masterclass. It was free and open to all, and was attended by people from 24 different countries.



Recordings are now available on the [ECRday2023 page](#).

Feedback:

	Attendees	Rating	Recommended by
ECRday2022 (July 2023)	74-158 (depending on the session)	4.4/5 (23 respondents, main event)	96% (all but 1 respondent, main event)
		4.6/5 (11 respondents, engaged research masterclass)	100% (engaged research masterclass)

‘Stellar day. I don’t think I’ve learnt so much from a single day. The panellists were expertly chosen, each given useful, practical advice, direction, and inspiration. Also really appreciated how realistic the day was - it felt like the best of academia in being collegiate, supportive, not brushing the issues under the carpet. Sometimes future-oriented advice falls flat because it ignores the lay of the land, this day did not do that. Thanks again for organising, charring etc. Excellent day.

Attendee, ‘ECRday 2023’

Information events

Feedback from the 2021-22 research staff survey suggested postdocs needed more information to be able to better understand their environment, initiatives available to them and sector developments. The PDC thus introduced the 'Postdoc Life' lunchtime online seminars, with short online presentations and Q&A, and recordings later made available on the [PDC website \(information section\)](#).

Event	Attendees	Rating	Recommended by
Postdoc Life Series: Internal Funding Schemes (January 2023)	51	4.8/5 (15 respondents)	100%
Postdoc Life Series: Personal Development and Recognition in Higher Education Teaching (February 2023)	33	4.8/5 (5 respondents)	100%
Postdoc Life Series: Open Access (April 2023)	18	5/5 (3 respondents)	100%
Postdoc Life Series: Narrative CVs (June 2023)	20	4.5/5 (6 respondents)	100%

“Very informative event. We get so much information, so it was great to have a presentation that was tailored to our distinct needs as postdocs. Appreciate the slides as well, good to have them to reference.”

Attendee, Postdoc Life Series: Internal Funding Schemes 2023

Personal support

PDC 1:1 support

In 2022-23, the PDC spent approximately 78 hours personally supporting research staff, in more than 40 instances. These included feedback on CVs and job applications, interview preparation or other topics, and was provided via meetings, mock interview panels, or by email. For mock interview panels, postdocs outside the candidates also got the opportunity to learn about the recruitment process by volunteering as panellists.

Feedback shows that 100% of respondents having received interview preparation feel more prepared to attend their real interview, and 100% of respondents having received support with their CV or application feel it was improved as a result.

Support type	Beneficiaries*	Rating	Recommended by
Interview preparation	16	5/5 (7 respondents)	100%
Job application feedback	17	5/5 (13 respondents)	100%
Other topic/ support	8	5/5 (1 respondent only)	100%
Mock interview panellist	10	4.5/5 (6 respondents)	100%

*note: when the same individual has received support on separate occasions in the year (different kinds of support or for different positions), they are here counted several times

“It was great being able to chat with Alice about what to expect at the interview. She offered great, practical advice, was able to answer my queries. Really valued her advice and time.”

Interview preparation support beneficiary, 2023

“I and a mentor felt my CV was greatly improved at the time of submission because of the feedback received.”

Job application support beneficiary, 2023

“It was great to see the interview from the recruiter perspective and to share thoughts with others on the mock panel. I hope this will help me prepare more effectively for my own interviews.”

Mock interview panellist, 2023

While we do not have outcome data for all the individuals we supported, we are delighted to report that at least 8 individuals we helped with application and/or interview were offered the job they applied for (including 6 lectureships).

Other 1:1 support

External career support (via OD programme)

The ‘Developing your research career’ programme of workshops, organised by the Organisational Development (OD) team, included a 1:1 career session with an external consultant for each participant. Over the academic year, 25 individuals benefited from these sessions.

Fellowship and funding support (Research Development team)

The Research Development team provided 97 one-to-ones for Fellowship and Early Career Award applications in 2022-23, from postdoctoral researchers and eligible early academics. This included feedback on draft proposals as well as 12 mock interviews, in addition to early-stage discussions to identify the appropriate course of action for prospective applicants. Out of the proposals submitted, 18 were funded, 42 declined, including 2 after interview. The rest are either awaiting an answer or have not yet been submitted.

Mentoring

The [Postdoc Group Mentoring Scheme](#), led by academic staff in all faculties, accommodated 7 groups this year, with 27 postdocs participating as mentees. Discussions within groups mainly focused on career planning and development, research funding, management and leadership development, and work life balance.

Mentees rated the programme 4/5 and 83% of respondents recommend it (all but 2 respondents). All respondents stated that the programme encouraged them to engage in personal and career development, with 83% taking the time to review their career development plan as part of the process.

Funding

The recent extension of internal funding schemes' eligibility to research staff enabled 51 postdocs to receive some financial support to present at conferences, add value to a funding proposal, develop external partnerships etc. as well as enabled 6 postdocs to remain employed between two contracts through bridge funding. [See internal funding schemes for details on the programmes on offer](#) (a recording of the Postdoc Life session on that theme is also available on the [PDC website](#)).

Funding	All applications	Funded applications
Research & Innovation conference fund	46	32*
Engaged Research Seed Fund	4	2*
Agility Fund strand i		
Development of external research funding applications	6	6
Agility Fund strand ii		
Pump-priming, research engagement, partnership development, networking	6	6
Agility Fund strand iii		
Non-academic research posts (bridging fund applied for by PIs on behalf of their postdocs)	9	6*
Agility Fund strand iv		
Training and development related to research	4	4
Agility Fund strand v		
Initiatives which can enhance the wider 'research culture'	1	1

*The unsuccessful applications didn't get funded because they didn't meet the eligibility criteria or didn't align with the fund (in which case they were usually referred to another appropriate scheme)

National Postdoc Appreciation Week (NPAW)

As [National Postdoc Appreciation Week](#) takes place in September, we here provide some information on the September 2022 iteration (part of the academic year), but also indication of the 2023 iteration, since most of the planning and organisation has taken place in the academic year 2022-23. Post-event information will be included in the 2022-23 report.

Postdoc Showcase 2022



A one-day postdoc showcase was organised by a group of postdocs from the PDC Representatives' Network, with support from the PDC. They invited guest speakers on the theme 'Resilience and Innovation' and organised lightening talks and posters by postdocs carrying out research across Queen's five strategic research

areas. There were prizes for participants and plenty of opportunities to network, including during an happy hour at the end of the day.

	Attendees	Rating	Recommended by
Postdoc Showcase 2022 (Sep 2022)	~80 (variable during the course of the day)	4.5/5 (29 respondents)	100%

“Excellent event and really well planned! It was great to hear from external speakers and have the opportunity to engage with other researchers outside of my own research area”

Attendee, 'Postdoc Showcase 2022'

Postdoc Awards 2022

Similarly to 2021, Postdoc Awards are to be awarded during NPAW 2022, and were presented in person at the Postdoc Showcase. A total of 88 nominations were received (59 in MHLS, 16 in EPS, 13 in AHSS), including some of them submitted on behalf of multiple individuals.



Additional NPAW initiatives

Profiles were created for ~60 research staff and were shared on social media during NPAW, as well as displayed in the poster room during the Showcase, and saved on the PDC website ([‘Our postdocs’ section](#)).

The PDC also supported part of the organisation of a [collaborative national online event](#): ‘The postdoc toolbox’.

Plans for NPAW 2023

- Postdoc Showcase 2023: ‘Creating impact through collaboration’

Organised by the Postdoc Society, the 2023 postdoc showcase will involve guests speakers discussing how interdisciplinary collaboration can drive meaningful outcomes and create impact across various domains, a research display/poster exhibition, short accessible presentations by selected postdocs, and a range of networking opportunities. It is taking place just after National Postdoc Appreciation Week to enable hosting it in a venue on campus.

- PDC Postdoc Awards

As usual, the PDC Postdoc Awards will be presented at the Postdoc Showcase. A total of 59 nominations were received (32 in MHLS, 18 in EPS, 9 in AHSS), including some of them submitted on behalf of multiple individuals.

- National online event

The PDC is again supporting an online event organised collaboratively by postdocs from several institutions, 'Creating connections and rediscovering joy'.

- Professional pictures photoshoot

The PDC will offer the opportunity to some postdocs to get a professional profile picture taken by a photographer.

- Postdoc profiles

Profiles of postdocs will be created and shared on social media, PDC website and during the Postdoc Showcase.