

Routemap for new researchers

Access Vitae tools, information and online advice as you start your doctorate

Welcome to research, Welcome to Vitae!

Your institution is a Vitae member and we're working with them to provide the best resources and opportunities to support your professional development – now and over the long-term.

Whether you're starting a doctorate straight from a first degree or you have many years of work experience behind you, we are confident that you'll find lots of helpful advice and information on our website. Find us at www.vitae.ac.uk.

Treat your doctorate as a professional development opportunity

Approach your doctorate as a professional development opportunity as well as a research project. Make the most of all that's on offer to you as a doctoral candidate.

- Vitae has created the **Researcher Development Framework** or RDF (www.vitae.ac.uk/rdf) to articulate the skills, knowledge and behaviours of successful researchers. Your institution might encourage you to use the RDF as a tool for reviewing your professional development needs or they might subscribe to our online app, the **RDF Planner**: www.vitae.ac.uk/rdfplanner
- If the whole framework seems overwhelming, take a look at our **getting started in research lens** on the RDF: www.vitae.ac.uk/gettingstartedlens. The areas of skill or knowledge you will want to develop will depend on your previous experience and career preferences but the lens can help you to consider your development needs to ensure success when you're starting out in research
- Work through our online course on professional development planning: www.vitae.ac.uk/PDPROC
- Only have a little time? Try our booklets for researchers, all of which include quick exercises. Why not start with 'The balanced researcher'? It's also available as a podcast for those who prefer to listen. www.vitae.ac.uk/researcherbooklets

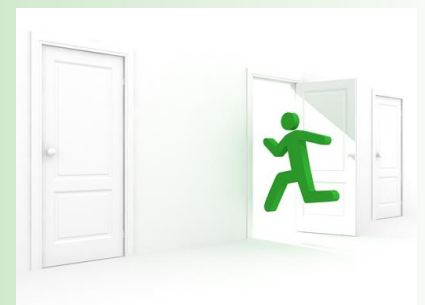
Get started

- A good place to start browsing is our **Focus on...starting your PhD** page: www.vitae.ac.uk/focusonstarting
- For general advice such as writing a research proposal, establishing a good relationship with your supervisors, or where to look for support, try our section for new starters in **doing a doctorate**: www.vitae.ac.uk/doingadoctorate
- Plan from the outset to make the most of your doctorate. Find tips in **schedule for success**: www.vitae.ac.uk/scheduleforsuccess
- Use the site's search facility to find more advice and resources in areas of interest to you. Titles in our **quick tips series** are bitesize articles aimed at researchers and include topics such as planning your research project and information handling.



Opportunities don't just happen, you create them.

*Chris Grosser,
entrepreneur*



Tips from other researchers

- Watch our online hangout: **Make a successful start**: www.vitae.ac.uk/successfulstart. Our panel talk about the things they wish they'd known at the start of their doctorate
- If you're starting a doctorate on a part-time basis, you might also be interested in our films of **part-time researchers** giving their top tips for success: www.vitae.ac.uk/PTfilms
- If you have a disability, you might benefit from our **resources and support for disabled researchers**: www.vitae.ac.uk/disability.

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Find out what you like doing best and get someone to pay you for it.

*Katherine Whitehorn,
journalist*



When the grass looks greener on the other side of the fence, it may be that they take better care of it there.

Cecil Selig

And for the future...

- It's never too early to plan your career! Our **career management** section: www.vitae.ac.uk/careermanagement can help you to understand your values and motivations and inspire you to consider opportunities such as professional work placements outside academia
- **Developing as a researcher** gives an overview of Vitae web content for researchers at all stages: www.vitae.ac.uk/researchers.

Make the most of your Vitae membership

We are a UK-based non-profit programme, working internationally to promote active career development for researchers. For full access to our online resources, register.

Register on our website using your institutional email address. That way we can recognise you and you will have full access to Vitae online resources. www.vitae.ac.uk/membership/register

Sign up to receive our researcher bulletin when you register, or if you're already registered, mail us: enquiries@vitae.ac.uk.

Follow us on twitter ([@Vitae_News](https://twitter.com/Vitae_News)) and share anything you find useful with other researchers.

Create your profile on our website and publish it to our membership directory.

An overview of Vitae resources for those just starting out in research is also available as a short video or as an interactive presentation.

We wish you all the very best with your research and we hope to see you on our site soon!

