

Public engagement lens on the Vitae Researcher Development Framework: consultation paper

1.0 Purpose of the public engagement lens

The public engagement lens¹ provides a bridge between the Vitae Researcher Development Framework and the National Co-ordinating Centre for Public Engagement (NCCPE) Public Engagement Attributes Framework highlighting how public engagement is part of the professional development of researchers. The lens provides an overview of the key knowledge, behaviours and attributes that can be acquired through, or used in, public engagement activities.

The public engagement lens has been developed by the National Co-ordinating Centre for Public Engagement (NCCPE), the Beacons for Public Engagement, Research Councils UK and Vitae, in consultation with individuals and organisations with an interest in public engagement.

2.0 Consultation

The Public Engagement Lens development group is now seeking feedback on the lens.

We particularly welcome feedback on the following areas:

- Do you have any comments on the content or format of the publication? For example, any areas of the framework you think should or should not be highlighted?
- Do you have any comments on how you would use the lens?
- Are there any supporting resources you would find useful?

To support the use of the lens the development group will create a package of resources for different stakeholder groups. Examples of resources mapped against the lens have been provided in section 5 of this document.

Please submit your responses to rdf@vitae.ac.uk by **Monday 7 January 2012**.

3.0 Public engagement context

Public engagement should be part of every researcher's portfolio of skills. There are many reasons for researchers to engage with the public.

Public engagement can:

- improve the quality and impact of research
- build trust, understanding and collaboration with the public
- challenge assumptions, sharpen thinking and inject energy
- develop skills that can aid researchers' employment and promotion prospects
- increase research's relevance to, and impact on, society
- provide additional sources of information, knowledge and expertise
- offer new perspectives on research
- raise the profile of researchers.

¹ www.vitae.ac.uk/rdfenses

4.0 Describing public engagement

Within this lens, public engagement is defined as a “myriad of ways in which the activity and benefits of higher education and research can be shared with the public. Engagement is by definition a two-way process, involving interaction and listening, with the goal of generating mutual benefit”. (NCCPE 2010)

5.0 Example of supporting resources for each sub-domain of the RDF

A1 Knowledge base

Resource:

- www.publicengagement.ac.uk/how/methods/upstream-engagement

Case studies:

- www.publicengagement.ac.uk/how/case-studies/sustainable-living-and-older-community

A2 Cognitive abilities

Resources:

- www.publicengagement.ac.uk/how/guides/introduction-evaluation
- www.rcuk.ac.uk/Publications/policy/Pages/Evaluation.aspx

Case studies

- www.publicengagement.ac.uk/how/case-studies/collaborating-social-justice

A3 Creativity

Resources:

- www.publicengagement.ac.uk/how/methods/panels-and-user-groups
- www.publicengagement.ac.uk/how/methods/co-inquiry

Case studies:

- www.publicengagement.ac.uk/how/case-studies/practical-piracy

B1 Personal qualities

Resource:

- www.publicengagement.ac.uk/how/guides/developing-your-skills

Case studies:

- www.publicengagement.ac.uk/how/case-studies/durham-food-network

B2 Self-management

Resources

- www.publicengagement.ac.uk/how/guides/project-management

Case studies:

- www.publicengagement.ac.uk/how/case-studies/biology-outreach

B3 Professional and career development

Resources:

- www.publicengagement.ac.uk/how/guides/developing-your-skills
- www.publicengagement.ac.uk/support/planning-change/learning/resources

Case studies:

- www.publicengagement.ac.uk/how/case-studies/bright-club-public-engagement-variety-night

C1 Professional conduct

Resource:

- www.publicengagement.ac.uk/how/guides/ethical-and-social-issues

Case study:

- www.publicengagement.ac.uk/how/case-studies/robotic-visions

C2 Research management

Resources:

- www.publicengagement.ac.uk/how/guides/project-management

C3 Finance, funding and resources

Resource:

- www.publicengagement.ac.uk/how/guides/pe-and-pathways-impact

D1 Working with others

Resource:

- www.publicengagement.ac.uk/how/methods/upstream-engagement

Case study

- www.publicengagement.ac.uk/how/case-studies/visualising-voices

D2 Communication and dissemination

Resources:

- www.publicengagement.ac.uk/how/methods/writing-non-specialist-audiences
- www.publicengagement.ac.uk/how/methods/developing-posters
- www.publicengagement.ac.uk/how/guides/marketing

Case study:

- www.publicengagement.ac.uk/how/case-studies/corrosion-summer-ball

D3 Engagement and impact

Resources:

- www.publicengagement.ac.uk/how/guides/planning-engagement-activity
- www.publicengagement.ac.uk/how/guides/working-partnership

Case study:

- www.publicengagement.ac.uk/how/case-studies/intergenerational-remembrance-project

Additional resources:

- Public engagement web section highlighting public engagement resources, useful links and podcasts: www.vitae.ac.uk/publicengagement
- The engaging researcher booklet offers practical tips on how public engagement can benefit you, your research and the public with whom you engage: www.vitae.ac.uk/researcherbooklets
- Public engagement blog for researchers to post articles and provide comments: www.vitae.ac.uk/peblog

Resources for postgraduate researchers

- Information on public engagement specifically for postgraduate researchers: www.vitae.ac.uk/pgrpublicengagement
- PGR tips on engaging the public with your research, number 24: www.vitae.ac.uk/pgrtips
- Information on presenting your research, including posters and oral presentations: www.vitae.ac.uk/pgrpresentingyourresearch

Resources for research staff

- Information on public engagement for research staff: www.vitae.ac.uk/rspublicengagement
- Information on presenting your research, including seminars, conferences and poster presentations www.vitae.ac.uk/presentingresearch