Standing out from the crowd

What might contribute to establishing a successful academic career?

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Institute of Advanced Study
What is an academic career?

Generate new Knowledge (Research)

Disseminate Knowledge (Teaching)

Funding

Networking

Management

Publication

Administration

Impact and Engagement
“19% of UK PhD holders were in higher education research roles 3.5yrs after receiving their doctorate”

Vitae Survey 2010
Standing Out From The Crowd
A Good Investment

- Research Outputs
- Pro-active and self motivated

Someone who has a track record of:

- Getting things done
- Is not short of ideas
- Awareness of wider research environment
- Knows what they want to do next
- Has a clear plan of how they are going to do it

Need evidence of proactivity & a plan
How To Talk About Your Track Record

• Take my research in a new direction by....
• Engage with scholars specialising in ..... 
• I recently collaborated with...leading to...
• Article/event will be useful to.....
• I have organised...
• I established, set-up, contributed to.....
• Invite leading scholars including...
• Develop profile by...
• Disseminated work through website which has xxxx hits

Statements all evidenced based and help convey credibility, plan, vision and proactivity.
What Counts?

• Publications, monographs, book contracts - active researcher
• Invited talks at workshops, seminars conferences - recognised researcher
• Set up or join a research network – engaged/proactive researcher
• Run an event - raise your profile
• Get on an editorial board - peer to peer learning
• Join a Committee or Research body/society - expand your contacts
• Generate Impact – Funders like Impact; Understand what it is and get involved in delivering it
• Get funding for your ideas – independent thought and the ability to persuade others of it’s worth
Funding available to Early Career Researchers

• Fellowships - *Individual awards aimed at establishing academic careers*
• Research Grants – *More focussed on project. Eligible?*
• Travel bursaries – *Conference attendance, research trips. Small, but important start point*
• Prizes & Medals - *Esteem indicators, very important*

More information – Talk to RIS, Funder websites, training events, Research Fortnight
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Institute of Advanced Study

• Founded 2007

• Supports academic research with focus on:
  – Interdisciplinary, Innovative, International Collaboration
  – Visiting Fellowships, networks, speculative meetings, support for grant development, public engagement, outreach etc.

• Offers support for Warwick postdoctoral community
  – 190 fellows supported to date
  – Annual cohort of 35-40 fellows, typically representing more than 20 different departments
  – Early Career Fellowship scheme running since 2008
ECFs: The Scheme

• Designed to support Warwick doctoral candidates in the transition phase between their doctoral and postdoctoral careers
• Part-time (max. 50%), 6-10 month Fellowships
• Tax-free bursary to attend training workshops
• ECF candidates MUST have a thesis submitted for examination by start of fellowship (OK if viva takes place during the Fellowship)

2 cohorts each year: typically 20 fellowships awarded per year:

**Cohort 1:** deadline early June 2016
Thesis submitted between 1 May 2016 – 30 September 2016
Take up fellowships October 2016

**Cohort 2:** deadline January 2017
Thesis submitted between 1 October 2016 – 30 April 2017
Take up fellowships April 2016
Early Career Fellowship Programme

Provides time to:
• Develop independent research profile
• Explore research / career opportunities
• Widen perspective
• Practical development
  CV - fill in gaps and selling yourself!
  Presenting with clarity, Interview training
  Media, public engagement & Outreach
  Teaching, REF, Publications
  Organise a workshop
ACE: Academic Careers and Employment Programme

• **Research presentation:** conveying your work clearly to different audiences
• **Interview training:** make your mistakes when it doesn’t count!
• **Academic careers:** what you need to know
  - What is REF?
  - Media and Public Engagement
  - How to do Fellowship and Grant applications
  - Where to publish? What is CV pollution?
Establishing an academic career

- Generate new Knowledge (Research)
- Disseminate Knowledge (Teaching)
- Funding
- Networking
- Management
- Administration
- Publication
- Impact and Engagement
In Summary

- Understand the role and what it involves
- Identify the gaps in your track record
- Put a plan in place to address these (long term)
- Be resilient – success rates are low, rejection is common
- Develop a personal vision for your future career - **what is your distinct niche?**
- What is the bigger picture? (REF, TEF, Nurse report, RUK)
- Get training and support from others
- Know your prospective employer/funder
- You have to make it happen, but there is plenty of support and experience available