ACADEMIC WRITING: RETREAT 'BOOTCAMP'
07 NOVEMBER 2019
EVALUATION FEEDBACK WITH RESPONSES FROM ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
FACILITATOR: DAVINA WHITNALL

1. **What did you find useful and how will you implement your learning?**

   - I found having the protected time and space away from the office very conducive to making good progress on my paper. I went from a very sketchy outline to having figures made and organised, and most of the paper bullet-pointed, in one day. I used a plan to help me make progress which was great.
   - Very useful to have a 'sacred space' for my writing without constant distractions. Very productive environment to be in the room with other people doing the same thing as yourself.
   - I found having several hours of uninterrupted writing time tremendously helpful. I'm going to try to get back into the habit of writing every day.
   - It was useful in terms of getting a 3rd opinion or external opinion on my work and the comments were really useful to reshape my presentation.
   - I found having the dedicated time and space to focus on my writing and the supportive working environment of boot camp extremely useful and productive. The lunch was good for networking.

2. **What else do you feel should have been included?**
   - Nothing, it's a great environment for me and I find it really helpful.
   - Nothing, it was great.
   - It was perfect. Maybe more extension cables in the rooms for devises etc.
     Organisational Development's Response:
     Thank you for your comment, when organising future 'Bootcamp's we will bare this in mind.

3. **What other learning and developing opportunities / courses do you need?**

   - Some mid-career planning and roadmapping course(s) would be useful. I found there is quite a lot of provision for early career but now I'm a bit further along it would be useful to have a session like this – perhaps Associate Professor level only?
     Organisational Development's Response:
     Thank you for your comment so this can be considered for future RAS planning.
   - I think we already have a very good range of developing opportunities.
   - 1-1 sessions and more of these sessions focusing on grant application/conference submissions.
     Organisational Development's Response:
     OD run a variety of 1-1's including Academic Writing (which covers grant applications), Career Development and Coaching & Mentoring. Do visit the RAS 1-1 website for further information. Also please contact Research and Impact Service (R&IS) for support on

bid/grant applications. OD/RAS is happy to be involved in any collaborative training on bids/grants.

- More 'Bootcamp's. Also more on project management.
Organisational Development's Response:
As a result of demand/feedback this academic year OD/RAS have introduced an additional 2, one-day, 'Bootcamp's in the Autumn term.
Project Management is on the Open Programme. These used to be a Project Management course focussed for RAS but due to resources no longer runs. Request noted for future RAS provision planning.

4. Additional Comments

- Just one on the one-day aspect of this – I've been to lots of 2 day 'Bootcamp's, and actually I found this one day one very useful. I've sometimes run out of steam on the second day but this time I could get full use out of one day as I knew that's all I got! The two days ones are also great, but adding the one day sessions is a really good idea.
Organisational Development's Response:
Thank you for your comment. As this is the first one-day 'Bootcamp' OD has run your feedback is particularly helpful and we're pleased you found it useful.
- Thanks for organising it was an extremely productive day and it has helped me to go back to an old manuscript which hopefully will now be submitted in the next month!
- As they always are, this 'Bootcamp' was excellent. 'Bootcamp' enables me to work on writing projects in a way that I am not able to otherwise, and I have published 3 articles this year, all of which I could not have had the time to finish without 'Bootcamp'.
- Sandy is also a fantastic personal support and has given me confidence in my research and in managing my career. She will be sorely missed.
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