

Heriot-Watt Crucible

A highly successful leadership and development programme run by the Centre for Academic Leadership & Development.



Collaboration

Participants have the opportunity to propose new interdisciplinary projects to explore the potential for more sustainable and innovative projects in the future. We now have multiple successful projects which have grown into large research projects with high potential impact for both the university and wider society.



Crucible as a springboard

Heriot-Watt Crucible has been developed from the success of the Scottish Crucible which was set up by the Centre in 2009. Both programmes have produced Crucible alumni who are taking part in other related activities, including a delegation which took part in the [ESOF conference](#) in 2014. Heriot-Watt Crucible has enabled inter-institutional collaborations for researchers with other organisations in the Edinburgh area including the University of Edinburgh, Moredun Research Institute, Selex ES and British Geological Survey.

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Participants

Each Crucible programme provides 30 high-achieving academics with a multi-disciplinary environment in which to explore new collaborative opportunities and learn more about themselves. A cohort of participants is carefully selected to ensure a balanced representation of discipline, gender and institution. The group of 30 work with experienced facilitators and invited experts on a series of development workshops called 'Labs' over a period of 3-4 months.



Benefits

Heriot-Watt Crucible ensures researchers are challenged in every area relevant to research leadership in today's interdisciplinary environment. The main themes are:

Looking outwards – working with the media, policy makers and other non-academic communities

Interdisciplinary research and networks – working with researchers from other disciplines

Innovation skills – working with business and enterprise

Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers

The following areas of the Concordat are represented in the Heriot-Watt Crucible programme.

Principle 2: Clause 6 – “Researchers need to be offered opportunities to develop their own careers”

Principle 3: Clause 3 – “Researchers need support to develop the communication and other skills that they will need to be both effective researchers and highly skilled professionals in whatever field they choose to enter”

Principle 5: Clause 2 – “Researchers should develop their ability to transfer and exploit knowledge where appropriate and facilitate its use in policy making and the commercialisation of research for the benefit of their employing organisation, as well as the wider society and economy as a whole.”