**TRAINING NEEDS ANALYSIS 2017 – 2018**

**Areas for Development in the Next Year**

A research degree is about much more than completing your research project and successfully writing and defending your thesis. It is also about training you to be a professional researcher whether in an academic or non-academic environment. As in other professions, you will need to develop a wide range of skills as well as the detailed subject knowledge to be an effective researcher and, as your career progresses you will need to continuously update your skills and knowledge base through your own programme of continuous professional development. **This Training Needs Analysis, which should be undertaken in consultation with your supervisory team, is designed to help you plan and record your professional and career development needs.**

**External Reference Points**

Vitae, which is the national organisation which champions the professional and career development of postgraduate researchers and research staff in Universities has produced the Researcher Development Framework (RDF) <https://www.vitae.ac.uk/researchers-professional-development/about-the-vitae-researcher-development-framework> ) to enable researchers to articulate their skills and take a proactive approach to their professional development. The RDS and RDF provide a very detailed view of the skills that successful researchers have developed at various stages of their career development, from research student to world-leading researcher. You should not view the RDS/RDF as providing a list of skills that all researchers should develop – you should use it more as a guide to the areas which you as an individual might need to develop and the levels that you might aspire too.

**Your subject/discipline**

What particular knowledge and skills will you need to develop over the next year? This is the general background knowledge appropriate to your research topic and includes the core research skills and knowledge specific to you academic discipline.

**Advanced research skills**

What particular advanced research skills specific to your project will you need to develop over the next year to successfully complete your research project? How are you going to develop these? The areas for development here will obviously be very closely linked to your individual research project. However, it is very important that you look ahead and plan the development of e.g. any specialist statistical analysis techniques that you will need to employ and to explore with your supervisory team how these development needs can be best supported.

**Generic research skills and professional development**

What generic research skills relating to your professional development more generally (e.g. project management, presentation skills, etc.) will you need to develop over the next year? *The Researcher Development Programme* <https://www.dur.ac.uk/carod/resstudev/> catalogues provision at Durham. However, workshops and online training provision can only help you so far in developing these skills – you really need to look for opportunities to refine these skills by putting them into practice.

**Your future career**

What are your current thoughts about your career after completion of your research degree? Are there any skills you might need to develop to make yourself the ideal candidate for that job? How will you go about developing these skills? The Careers, Employability and Enterprise Centre provides a range of workshops to support your career development (<https://www.dur.ac.uk/careers/students/>) and one-to-one consultations with a Careers Consultant who specialises in research careers.