

Changing research agendas: how are you going to work with your researchers?

Dr Liz Elvidge

POSTDOC AND FELLOWS DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

Support and development for postdocs and fellows

My background

- PhD in Glacial Geomorphology
- Postdoc – Magnetostratigraphy
- Postdoc- Educational development
- Worked at: University of East Anglia, Heriot-Watt University, University of Cambridge, Imperial College London

Imperial College London

- Sector leading centre dedicated to postdocs and fellows
- Postdocs are staff on a fixed term contract ie not permanent
- A postdoc is not a career

What every postdoc needs to know

- Practical workbook
- Their career is their responsibility
- They need to plan their career
- In the UK <10% postdocs will get an academic job
- Majority of postdocs want an academic job

New developments

- ‘Scientific, technical, societal and political...’
- Brexit
- Research structures- research requirements, training
- Funding, evaluation and monitoring of research

What do researchers want?

- A permanent academic job
- Stability, owning a home, starting a family
- They do not know about: funding, new developments (unless it impacts on them), management of research

Skills development

- Resistance to skills development- they already have the skills to do the job they want
- Interdisciplinary research is important but....
“What’s in it for me?”
- How are you going to convince the postdocs?
- Faculty of Engineering.....

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