Towards a Vibrant Research Community

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Overview

Introduction & Session Context

World Café

Final Discussion
Learning Outcomes of this Good Practice Exchange

- Awareness of **good practice and key challenges** faced when supporting increased research intensity.

- An understanding of how the Research Excellence Team at Cranfield has facilitated the journey to achieve **cultural change** with a focus on supporting a vibrant research environment.

- **Indicators of success** in supporting a vibrant research community.
Introduction & Session Context
Welcome to Cranfield

We are creating leaders in technology and management

We unlock the potential of people and organisations by partnering with business and governments to deliver transformational research, postgraduate education and professional development.

We are an exclusively postgraduate university located at the heart of the UK.
Transformational research
meeting the needs of business, government and wider society

Top 4 for commercial research, consultancy and professional development
with Universities of Oxford, Imperial and Cambridge

81% of our research is world-leading or internationally excellent
Context: Cranfield’s Research & Innovation Office

First office of its kind at Cranfield - Office created as part of a University re-organisation in 2015.

Brings together support for direct industry, knowledge exchange and research (low TRL) funding.

Our services are targeted in the following areas:

• Research Funding
• Industrial Research Relationship Development
• Knowledge Exchange Funding
• Research Excellence Framework
• Researcher Development
• Research Governance
• Research Student Experience
Figuring out: How can we create a vibrant research community?

Starting with a blank canvas...

- Discussions with academics
- Discussions with other PSUs
- Visits to other Universities
- Engaging in networks
Supporting a Vibrant Research Community

Programmes & Support

Communications

Customer Service

Leadership
Some of the things we have set up...

- Fellowship dev. programme
- Guidance documents with example text
- Researcher development strategy and programme
- Meeting with new staff

- Responsive to requests
- Providing a value added service
  - Visibility
- Encouraging word of mouth

- Support postcard
- Drop in sessions
- Transparency
- Funding Bulletins
- Research focus newsletter

- Clear corporate goals
- PVC-R&I willing to muck in
- Attendance at departmental SMT meetings
World Café Guidelines

- Have Fun!
- Play, Draw, Doodle
- Listen together for patterns, insights, and deeper connections
- Link and Connect Ideas
- Slow Down so you have time to think and reflect
- Focus on what matters
- Listen to understand and link
- Contribute your thinking
- Facilitate yourself and others
- Speak with your mind and heart
World Café Activity

• For those of you who are aware of what world café is, we will be running a variation of the model, we are calling a fluid world café.

• There are a number of tables, each with a series of questions on key topics related to the successes and challenges for supporting a vibrant research community. There will also be myself, Deryn and Andy circulating and facilitating the discussion.

• Feel free to circulate freely amongst the tables, discuss with others at the table, and draw, write, doodle… your thoughts on each table.

• Chatham House rules – information disclosed during this meeting may be reported by those present, but the source of that information may not be explicitly or implicitly identified.

• When writing down ideas, please try and place them close to other related ideas.
Supporting a Vibrant Research Community

- Programmes & Support
- Communications
- Customer Service
- Leadership

Measuring the ‘vibrancy’
Reporting and Final Discussions
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• An understanding of how the Research Excellence Team at Cranfield has **facilitated the journey** to achieve cultural change with a focus on supporting a vibrant research environment.

• Indicators of **success** in supporting a vibrant research community.
Thank You!