

STEP FORWARD RESEARCHER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

What is it?

The Step Forward Researcher Development Programme is aimed at supporting college staff to develop the skills required to undertake research projects that will enhance their own practice and improve outcomes for their college and its learners. The programme is open to both teaching and support staff and will consist of a series of workshops and researcher meet-ups, as well as ongoing support for researchers to develop their own college-focussed research projects.

Workshops will be spread throughout the year and participants will be encouraged to apply the techniques taught to their daily work and ongoing projects. Workshops will be delivered by a range of experts and will include input on a variety of topics relevant to conducting college-focussed research.

There will also be opportunity for participants to share their research with others from across the college sector and to become part of a network of college focussed researchers from across Scotland.

Why sign up?

This programme will be a unique CPD opportunity for those interested in developing their capacity to conduct practice-focussed, college based research.

Sessions will be tailored to those working in the college sector and will have a clear focus on translating research into impact and the enhancement of practice.

A key aim of the project is to foster the creation of an active community of college focussed researchers in colleges across Scotland. Participants on the programme will therefore become part of the wider Step Forward Research Community, which will provide opportunities to meet and share research experience and collaborate with other researchers.

CDN will provide support to participants to connect with others in the sector who share an interest in their area of research and provide advice and guidance for participants to develop their research further.

Schedule

Date	Workshop	Outline
07/09/2023	How to write an effective research proposal	This session will increase confidence and skill in distilling research ideas and themes into an effective research proposal.
05/10/2023	What is action research?	This session will develop greater awareness and confidence in applying action research as vehicle to enhance practice within the college setting.
02/11/2023	Research ethics	This session will focus on building greater understanding of the ways in which ethical considerations are identified and then subsequently addressed within research projects.
07/12/2023	Conducting interviews and surveys	This session will develop participants understanding of (and confidence in employing) surveys and interviews as effective data collection tools within research.
11/01/2024	Researchers meet-up 1	This session will be an opportunity for researchers on the programme to meet and share progress on their own research projects.
01/02/2024	Effective Qualitative research design	This session is aimed at those with existing confidence and skills in interviewing as part of qualitative research design and will focus on building familiarisation with a more extensive range of qualitative approaches to data collection.
07/03/2024	Effective quantitative research design	This session is aimed at those with existing confidence and skills in conducting surveys as part of quantitative research design and will focus on building familiarisation with a more extensive range of quantitative approaches to data collection.
04/04/2024	Analysing data and thinking critically	This session will develop a greater understanding of how to work effectively with data and build skills in approaching data analysis within research projects.
02/05/2024	Writing for publication	This session will develop confidence and skills in preparing research outputs for peer review and publication.
06/06/2024	Demonstrating research impact	This session will develop greater confidence in showcasing the impact of research through embedding enhancement activities and sharing best practice.
20/06/2024	Researchers meet up 2	This session will be an opportunity for researchers on the programme to meet and share progress on their own research projects.

Programme cost

The programme is **free** for those who work in a Scottish college.

How to sign up

The series is made up of 11 workshops and is designed to offer choice and flexibility. We encourage participants to sign up for the whole series or select any number of workshops they believe will best support their own development.

To find out more please email research@cdn.ac.uk