



Postgraduate Certificate in Researcher Professional Development (PG Cert RPD) - External

Completion of the PG Cert RPD

To gain the postgraduate certificate, students must gain 60 credits which the equivalent of 600 learning hours of professional development activities. The assessment mode for this postgraduate certificate takes the form of 5 reflective assessment essays, one for each 'class' of the certificate.

To ensure academic quality, completion of the certificate is ratified through the University's annual exam board process. For this certificate, the exam board process is chaired by external examiner who is an expert in the field of researcher development.

Development Activities

Professional development activities recorded by the students must align with the learning outcomes of the PG Cert RPD.

Learning outcomes

RD901: Researcher Knowledge and Intellectual Abilities

1. **Enhanced knowledge base** in a research context, including: *subject knowledge; theoretical knowledge of research methods; practical application of research methods; information seeking; information literacy and management; languages; academic literacy and numeracy.*
2. **Enhanced cognitive abilities** in a research context, including: *analysing; synthesising; critical thinking; evaluation; problem solving.*
3. **Enhanced creativity** in a research context, including: *inquiring mind; intellectual insight; innovation; argument construction; intellectual risk.*

RD902: Researcher Personal Effectiveness

1. **Enhanced personal qualities** in a research context, including: *enthusiasm; perseverance; integrity; self-confidence; self-reflection; responsibility.*
2. **Enhanced self-management** in a research context, including: *preparation and prioritisation; commitment to research; time management; responsiveness to change; work-life balance.*
3. **Enhanced professional and career development** in a research context, including: *career management; continuing professional development; responsiveness to opportunities; networking; reputation and esteem.*

RD903: Research Governance and Organisation

1. **Enhanced professional conduct** in a research context, including: *health and safety; ethics, principles, and sustainability; legal requirements; IPR and copyright; respect and confidentiality; attribution and co-authorship; appropriate practice.*
2. **Enhanced understanding of research management** in a research context, including: *research strategy; project planning and delivery; risk management.*



3. **Enhanced understanding finance, funding and resources** in a research context, including: *income and funding generation; financial management; infrastructure and resources.*

RD904: Researcher Engagement, Influence and Impact

The learning outcomes for **RD904** are:

1. **Enhanced ability to work with others** in a research context, including: *collegiality; team working; people management; supervision; mentoring; influence and leadership; collaboration; equality and diversity.*
2. **Enhanced abilities to communicate and disseminate** in a research context, including: *communication methods; communication media; publication.*
3. **Enhanced engagement and impact** in a research context, including: *teaching; public engagement; enterprise, policy; society and culture; global citizenship.*

RD905: Researcher Professional Development Elective

And the learning outcomes for **RD905** are:

1. **Enhanced knowledge and intellectual abilities** needed to carry out excellent research.
2. **Enhance personal qualities, career and self-management skills** required to take ownership for and engage in professional development.
3. **Enhanced knowledge of the standards**, requirements and professional conduct that are needed for the effective management of research.
4. **Enhanced knowledge, understanding and skills** needed to engage with, influence and impact on the academic, social, cultural, economic and broader context.

Assessment Essays

Assessment essays are marked by independent markers at the University of Strathclyde, namely postdoctoral students. The assessment pass mark is 50% and markers must be satisfied that students have addressed the set marking criteria.

Marking criteria

1. describe the new skills and knowledge you acquired during each activity, or how you applied existing skills or knowledge to a new situation.
2. describe which RD901 learning outcomes your activities met, and what aspects of each activity contributed to the learning outcomes.
3. make reference to the supporting documents you have provided in your portfolio of evidence.
4. reflect on why you chose your activities to meet your development needs, and how you identified those needs.
5. reflect on how you think the new skills or knowledge acquired during the activities can contribute to your research, and your professional development beyond your research.
6. reflect on your expectations of the activity, and if those expectations were met.

Please note, the above information is relevant to the quality of the Post Postgraduate Certificate in Researcher Professional Development (PG Cert RPD) – External award and does not relate to the training provided to students.