WP 7: Training, career development

D 7.1: Recommendations for specific aspects of career development training

ESRs are encouraged to participate at workshops, courses and seminars (offered at all institutions of PLATYPUS) that provide key add-on-qualifications which are relevant for a later high-profile career inside or outside of academia. Importantly, all ESRs have to take a course on Good Scientific Practise. In addition, the following courses are the most recommended: scientific presentation and writing, grant writing, career planning, time- and stress management, organization of conferences. Importantly, at each institution, these courses are open to all members of PLATYPUS alike.

Most participating institution offers also specific coaching and training for career development for Postdocs (ERs) including soft skills and training programs in the development and management of scientific projects as well as training in relevant skills (team leader competence, law and business courses) that will foster successful applications at later career stages. We highly recommend to our non-tenured ERs to participate at these courses.

We encourage secondees to take appropriate language classes ahead of the secondment.

Secondees who work with laboratory animals must be sufficiently trained and qualified and must undergo continuing professional development (CPD). At the participating institutions, training courses on research involving animal experiments are provided on a regular basis. Secondees of PLATYPUS are entitled to participate at these courses.

The transfer of knowledge from basic research into non-academia is an important but often not well-established process at universities. This concerns the transfer into industry and non-profit organizations as well as transfer into political and social sciences. Secondees are offered to participate at relevant workshops.

Finally, secondees are encouraged to participate at research data management training modules. These modules cover collection, storage, editing and sustainable provision of research data, e.g. data formats, metadata and documentation standards, licensing, copyright law and data protection regulations, and solutions for storing, archiving and publishing data.

Quality control: all transferable-skills courses are evaluated on a regular basis. The course coordinators at the different participating institutions will provide the PLATYPUS coordinator with the results of the evaluation of these courses. If necessary, the program of future courses will be adapted appropriately.