

DEVELOPING A COMPREHENSIVE SKILLS' PROFILE

One-day-course: “Developing a Comprehensive Skills' Profile” | June 19 2014 | Lausanne

Dr. Pamela Alean-Kirkpatrick (course given in English)

For the increasingly competitive national and international job markets — both within and beyond academia — it is becoming more and more important to provide evidence of transferable skills to complement subject expertise in a specific research field. These include being able to apply project management, communicate to different audiences, show flexibility and innovative ideas, carry responsibility, and work effectively in a team. The university research environment offers many opportunities for developing such transferable skills both on-the-job and in designated courses.

Objectives

The main objective of this course is to increase awareness of the range of skills that can be, are being or should be developed while doing research as a PhD student.

By the end of the course, the participants are able to:

- assess their present level of a range of skills
- identify a number of learning opportunities for developing their skills
- communicate their particular strengths credibly, with concrete examples and evidence
- use the gaps in their skills' profile to develop a personal development plan
- create an academic portfolio to record and reflect on their skills' development

Methods

Short inputs by the trainer; individual exercises; discussions in the plenary and in small groups

Program

- Why skills and which skills?
- Self-assessment of skills: where do I stand today?
- Opportunity awareness: knowledge of opportunities and ability to find them
- Making skills credible: communicating and convincing others
- Decision making: personal development planning, filling gaps
- Academic skills' portfolio: monitoring, building and reflecting upon one's skills' development

Trainer

Dr. Pamela Alean-Kirkpatrick

Professional background:

Pamela Alean-Kirkpatrick studied chemistry at Durham University, UK, has a postgraduate certificate in education PGCE also from Durham, and a doctorate in chemistry from the University of Zurich. She has worked in tertiary education as a faculty developer in Centres for Teaching and Learning, and in Human Resources for over 20 years. She has her own “one-woman company” called alean-academics: personal development in a university context. Her work focuses primarily on fostering the development of young academics from a whole range of disciplines.

Current work

As a freelance trainer, she gives courses in transferable skills (e.g. project management for research, oral and poster presentations, career development, mentoring, university teaching and learning) for researchers at institutions of higher education throughout Switzerland and in neighbouring Germany.