

Business Boost 2020: Bitesize Events – Get Involved!

The University of Surrey ESRC IAA is working closely with the SeNSS DTP and the ESRC IAAs at the Universities of Sussex and Essex on the BB2020 project. As part of the Surrey BB2020 programme, we have delivered a range of workshops including the Connecting and Engaging Researchers with Business programme delivered online by the Surrey Innovation and Digital Enterprise Academy (SurreyIDEA) team. In addition, Surrey has created a programme of shorter “bite-sized” training sessions with online workshops open to PGRs and ECRs working in the social sciences from across the DTP.

During the first phase of the BB2020 project, these sessions were resourced from within Surrey, but now that we have the 6-month extension for the project confirmed, we are keen to widen the scope of this programme in particular.

We would like to offer the opportunity to both academics and professional services teams from other DTP institutions to deliver a “bite-sized” session within this programme so that we can showcase a wider range of experience and expertise, and provide an opportunity for institutions without ESRC IAAs to highlight their strengths and knowledge and connect with PGRs and ECRs!

The format of the Bitesize sessions so far has been as follows:

- usually one hour in length,
- delivered online (usually through Zoom or Teams),
- free to attend with registration through an Eventbrite page,
- a feedback survey (to meet ESRC reporting requirements) at the end of the session, and
- open to all PGRs and ECRs working in the social sciences across the SeNSS DTP.

In terms of time frame, we are looking for sessions that could be delivered between March and August 2021, but otherwise there is flexibility around which date/time you might want the session to be scheduled. We are looking specifically for topics that add to the ‘tool kit’ for this cohort around engagement with business, industry and other ‘for profit’ partners, or other topics that fit the remit of the Business Boost 2020 project and the ESRC.

So far, our programme has covered the following topic areas:

- **‘Knowledge Exchange – Importance of Industry Engagement’**
- **“Writing with Impact for Professional Audiences”**
- **“Experiences of Working with Businesses & Stakeholders”**
- **“Moving from Academia to Business”**
- **“Student and Business Engagement”**
- **‘How to win with Innovate UK’.**

If you would like any further information on how to get involved please feel free to contact either Abigail Shirley at the SeNSS DTP (a.shirley@essex.ac.uk), or at Surrey, Donna Shanks, Business Boost coordinator (d.shanks@surrey.ac.uk), or Dr Tamsin Woodward-Smith, ESRC IAA Manager (t.woodward-smith@surrey.ac.uk).