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| **Research Management Part II – The Wider Research Environment**  This exercise is designed to make you focus on the wider research environment where your PhD project is situated, and how you can contribute to, or even influence this environment through specific activities.  Depending on your level of experience and/or confidence you can choose between two different tasks. Complete **1** of the following activities:   1. Produce an abstract of up to 250 words to meet a call for papers for an important research conference in your field of study. Consider the following 5 aspects:  * Is the topic of your proposed paper clear? * Is your research question clear? * Have you carefully read the conference blurb and positioned your paper accordingly? * Have you carefully read any panel descriptions and incorporated key words/concepts into your abstract? * What specifically are you adding to the existing knowledge in your area of study?  1. Design your own research conference – come up with about 250 words to  * describe the remit of your conference on a relevant topic in your field of study * describe how this conference fits into the profile of your department (to ensure support from established academics and administration) * identify 3 keynote speakers (networking opportunity) * identify key websites and email lists to advertise your conference (communication), and * identify a publisher who could publish an edited volume of papers resulting from your conference (publication, communication). |

See overleaf for self-assessment and guidance.

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| Self-assessment Research Management Part II  You can award yourself 2 points for each of the 5 aspects covered you were able to complete in the respective exercise. |

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| **Research Management Part I Next Steps**  **4 Points or Less**  If you have completed activity 1 and you have awarded yourself 4 points or less consider taking some time to work through your research proposal, discussing this with your supervisor, other colleagues in the department or your peers. Try to identify a friendly opportunity in which to present some of your work and to receive feedback.  If you have completed activity 2, your proposed conference needs more work!  Take the opportunity to learn from the experience of others or seek information from literature or online sources.  **5-8 Points**  If you have assigned yourself between 4 and 8 points you need to work out the specific requirements in the management of your research project: e.g. is it to do with identifying the relevant topics of your research and how to communicate them, or is it a question of identifying the target audiences of your research?  If you have completed activity 1, take a look at abstracts published on conference websites for your research area. How can you improve yours?  If you have completed activity 2, take a look at conference websites in your research area to get an idea of how conferences and programmes are conceived.  You can get further information from the training resources from Vitae under <http://www.vitae.ac.uk/researchers/1235/Raising-your-profile.html>  **9-10 Points**  You clearly have strong skills in this area. Have you considered sharing your expertise with other students, for example by leading an peer study session on ‘Communicating your Research’ or ‘Organising a Conference’? |