

## Letter to SRHE Newer Researchers' network

The Newer Researchers' (NR) network is a core activity of the SRHE and essential for the development of researchers in higher education. In the NR Network we welcome everyone engaged in research into higher education in the broadest sense and irrespective of disciplinary background. So you may be new to research or a more experienced researcher moving over to research into higher education from another discipline.

The NR Network is open to all and you do not need to be a member of the Society to be part of it. Our aim is to reach out to all newer and early career researchers. Membership is there for you to take advantage of, if the benefits suit your requirements. WE hope that you will find that they do!

As we are now formally launching a series of new initiatives for newer researchers we are writing to invite you to join with us and become an active participant in a range of new opportunities.

### Please read on to find out about our:

- International Online Webinar Series and how to participate and present
- Mid-year Online Symposium
- Newer Researchers' LinkedIn Group and how to join
- Face-to-Face Seminars
- Network Champion role and how to apply
- Selection process for the webinar

### International Online Webinar Series:

With such great research happening around the world, we are keen to give you opportunities to share your work with like-minded individuals and for everyone to be able to take part and experience this. Therefore, we will be hosting a free online webinar series. Each webinar will consist of two 20-minute presentations and a 20-minute Q&A session aligned to a core research issue/theme. Every session will be recorded and made freely available to all members. The dates for 2016 webinar series are:

23 <sup>rd</sup>	March 2016	13:00-14:00 GMT
18 <sup>th</sup>	May 2016	13:00-14:00 GMT
28 <sup>th</sup>	September 2016	13:00-14:00 GMT

Would you like to be one of presenters for 2016? We are currently looking for six presenters to take part and share their work. All presenters will be trained in how to deliver effective online presentations so, as well as a brilliant way to share your research; it will also be a great personal development opportunity. If you would like to present in the 2016 series, [please go to page 7](#) to see how to submit an abstract.

### Mid-year Online Symposium:

At last year's conference there were great presentations and posters, many with more data and research to follow. We thought it would be great to have a mid-year online symposium whereby we catch-up with the presenters and see how their research has developed. Furthermore, the symposium will offer a great opportunity to reflect on research achievements over the past 6 months and share these with like-minded individuals. The symposium is free and will be on the 13th July 2016. Every session will be recorded and made freely available to all members.

The programme is currently being developed but will comprise two keynote presentations from the winners of the poster competition and then presentations from other Newer Researchers' colleagues who presented at the conference. Would you like to share a research update? As with the webinar series, all presenters will be trained in how to deliver effective online presentations. If you would like to present your research, please follow go to page [please go to page 8](#) to find out more and to submit an abstract. Please note, only those who presented either an oral or poster presentation can apply to talk at the online symposium but everyone is welcome to attend.

### Newer Researchers' LinkedIn Group:

LinkedIn is great for sharing research, developing global and productive networks and fostering research links. Furthermore, it provides a fantastic opportunity to engage in discussion and debate about the pressing research issues facing us today. To support the network we have created a SRHE Newer Researchers' LinkedIn group. This is a members-only group, where we can talk, share and foster research links. It will also be a supportive space offering opportunities for peer engagement and Q&A. Running a successful online network is not easy, and so we are going to need some more people to join the team.

We are looking for two members of the Newer Researchers' network to join us as Network Champions. The role of a champion is to promote the network, support its growth, support members who are newer to online networking and stimulate research discussion and debate. You will need to be digitally savvy and enjoy online discussion. As a thank you, the network champions receive a free place at the 2016 Newer Researchers' conference and free society membership for 2017. If you would like to know more about the role, and apply to join us, [please go to page 6](#).

A great way to be part of this programme is to join the Newer Researchers' LinkedIn group and we hope that you will want to do this. The link is:

<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/SRHE-NR-8466958/about>

### SRHE LinkedIn Disclaimer:

*In joining the SRHE NR LinkedIn Group please note and understand that in addition to being bound by the terms and conditions of the LinkedIn User agreement which applies to all individual LinkedIn users **you will also be bound** by additional terms relating to membership of a LinkedIn Group. This requires SRHE, as a Data Controller, to warrant that we have the right to provide LinkedIn with the names and email addresses of all our Group members.*

*In joining this SRHE NR Network Group you are giving your permission for SRHE to share this data with LinkedIn. This is solely in order to satisfy this requirement and enable SRHE to establish the Group.*

## Face-to-Face Seminars:

As well as our development programme, we have two face-to-face seminars planned for 2016 and more information will follow shortly. The first of these will be in April and the second in October.

## Summary of dates:

- |   |                             |
|---|-----------------------------|
| • Launch of the Newer Researchers' LinkedIn group:            | February 2016               |
| • Online Webinar one:   | 23 <sup>rd</sup> March 2016 |
| • Face-to-face event ' <i>Research in the digital world</i> ' | tbc April 2016              |
| • Online Webinar two:   | 18th May 2016               |
| • Mid-year online symposium                                   | 13th July 2016              |
| • Online Webinar three:                                       | 28th September 2016         |
| • Face-to-face event ' <i>TBC</i> '                           | tbc October 2016            |
| • SRHE NR Annual Conference                                   | 6 December 2016             |

We hope that you find this news of interest and will want to be part of this exciting programme in 2016. All feedback is welcome. Do please join the Linked in Group, put forward an abstracts for the online webinars and mid-year Symposium and think about becoming a Network Champion. The details in how to do all these things follow below.

With best wishes,

The SRHE Newer Researchers' Convenors:

Dr Mark Kerrigan, Anglia Ruskin University  
Dr Anna Mountford-Zimdars, King's Learning Institute

The NR Network is fully supported in all its activities by the Society and in particular has the input of the Society Director, Helen Perkins, Rob Gresham. Operations and Finance Manager and the Society Conference and Events Manager, Francois Smit in the design, development and delivery of all elements of this programme.

## Network Champion role descriptor

The role of the network champion is to promote the network and they will achieve this by working online and closely with the SRHE and NR Convenors.

**Title:** Newer Researcher Network Champion  
**Term** NA – Short-term position (12 months initially)  
**Work base:** Online  
**Responsible to:** SRHE  
**Relationships:** SRHE, Newer Researchers, NR convenors. HE/FE sector.  
**Purpose:** The role of a champion is to promote the network, support its growth, support members who are newer to online networking and stimulate research discussion and debate.

### Principal accountabilities:

- 1 Undertake activities to promote the SRHE NR LinkedIn Network;
- 2 Support members of the NR network who are newer to online networking;
- 3 Promote discussion through LinkedIn by posting ‘talk pieces (~100 words each);
- 4 Post a monthly LinkedIn update to share with all NR network members.
- 5 Attend to other duties commensurate with the role, as may reasonably be required.

ESSENTIAL	DESIRABLE
<b>EDUCATION/QUALIFICATIONS:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First degree</li> <li>• Undertaking a research qualification;</li> </ul>	
<b>EXPERIENCE:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Experience of using LinkedIn and other online networking tools;</li> <li>• Knowledge of issues in Further and Higher Education .</li> <li>• Accessibility of digital materials;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Experience of working online and e-learning and/or e-moderation.</li> </ul>
<b>KNOWLEDGE/SKILLS:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strong communication and interpersonal skills;</li> <li>• Ability to prioritise workload to meet defined objectives.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Awareness of copyright and Intellectual Property Rights issues.</li> </ul>
<b>PERSONAL QUALITIES:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Self-motivated and flexible in approach;</li> <li>• Enjoys working with people from different disciplines and backgrounds.</li> </ul>	

## Recruitment of NR Network Champions

The process of recruitment needs to be robust, align to the needs of the role whilst at the same time not be over burdensome. To this end a recruitment questionnaire will be posted online and candidates shortlisted from this. Following shortlisting, candidates will be asked to submit a 5-minute YouTube video talking about themselves (professional context only) and their research. From this process the network champions will be selected.

### Questions for the questionnaire:

1. What is your name?
2. Which research institute do you study at?
3. What is the title of your research project?
4. Please provide a link to your LinkedIn account.
5. In 100 words, please describe the benefits of developing an online community for newer researchers.
6. In 100 words, please detail why you want this role and why you are suitable.

### Shortlisting criteria (questionnaire):

All applications will be scored using the grid below based on questions 4-6. Those with the highest scores will be shortlisted.

Question	Low	Medium	High
4	No or limited profile. Profile significantly incomplete and limited network	Profile is present and mostly complete. Evidence of an established network and some use of LinkedIn features	Highly organized LinkedIn account demonstrating a productive and growing network. Use of numerous features to enhance networking
5	Superficial commentary with no links to the NR network	Some understanding of network potential and how it could enhance the work the NR networked	Complex understanding of online networking and its use. Detailed explanation on the benefits for the NR network.
6	Limited and surface approach to why focusing solely on themselves. No mention of personal skills and how these align to the role.	Good description of why they want to the role but focusing on themselves only. Some details on how their skills relate to the role to ensure its success	Detailed rationale for wanting to work in the role focusing on themselves and others. Strong and detailed alignment of personal skills to the role description

**Shortlisting criteria (video):**

All applications will be scored using the grid below. The use of a video has been chosen as it demonstrates good digital capability and provides an insight into the individual and their research.

<b>Area</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>High</b>
Content	Limited or confusing content, showing no real order or fit to the brief. Confusing to watch and	Video content meets the brief and demonstrates good content regarding information and research.	Video content meets the brief fully. Content makes use of evidence to support the material.
Presentation	Difficult to watch and confusing. Shows little planning.	Interesting to watch and presented in a logical order. Evidence of pre-planning.	Highly engaging to watch. Use of interesting edits or activity to enhance the material.

**To apply to be an NR LinkedIn Network Champion**

Please forward the following information to [fsmit@srhe.ac.uk](mailto:fsmit@srhe.ac.uk):

1. Your name?
2. Which research institute do you study at?
3. What is the title of your research project?
4. Please provide a link to your LinkedIn account.
5. In 100 words, please describe the benefits of developing an online community for newer researchers.
6. In 100 words, please detail why you want this role and why you are suitable.
7. Applications are due: 22<sup>nd</sup> February.

## Selection process for the webinar

Applications for the webinar will be sourced by the submission of a simple 5-slide presentation. This presentation will permit us to see the content and the presentation style of the person. This is essential to engage an online audience. Specially:

1. Title slide
2. Introduction slide
3. Background of your research
4. Research methodologies being used
5. Details of some findings to date

Based on these slides we will be able to select presenters for the webinar series. We will also be able to offer feedback for enhancements before the actual event. Scoring grid:

Slide	Low	Medium	High
1	NA	NA	NA
2	Introduction missing or unclear. No aims or rationale of the research.	General overview of the research lacking full clarity and/or aims/hypothesis.	Clear introduction to the research with clear aims/hypothesis.
3	Missing or lacking depth to contextualize the research. Poorly referenced.	General summary of the research and partially referenced but does not give a clear context.	Referenced summary to the research to date and a clear context.
4	Missing or too generic to be able to understand any data presented.	Some detail of the methods to be used but lacking clear rationale or detail to permit the reader to engage fully with future data.	Clear explanation/rationale of/for the methods to be used, how data will be collected and analysed.
5	Missing or poorly presented and so the reader cannot understand what has been presented.	Some data presented but slightly difficult to engage with. No clear relationship between data and aims of the research.	Presentation of data in a clear and easy to follow manner with brief discussion of impact – relating to the aims of the research.

## To submit your webinar presentation

Please forward your 5 PowerPoint slides to [fsmit@srhe.ac.uk](mailto:fsmit@srhe.ac.uk) by

19 <sup>th</sup> February for 23 <sup>rd</sup> March 2016 webinar	13:00-14:00 GMT
18 <sup>th</sup> April for the 18 <sup>th</sup> May 2016 webinar	13:00-14:00 GMT
26 <sup>th</sup> August for the 28 <sup>th</sup> September 2016 webinar	13:00-14:00 GMT

## Selection process for the online symposium

Applications for the online symposium will be simple and link directly to the abstracts submitted for the conference. People will be asked to submit 200 words detailing how their research has moved on since the conference and what they will be focusing on for their presentation. Selection will be based on:

1. Reviewers' scores for the NR 2015 conference abstract
2. Quality of the 200-word research update.

Scoring grid:

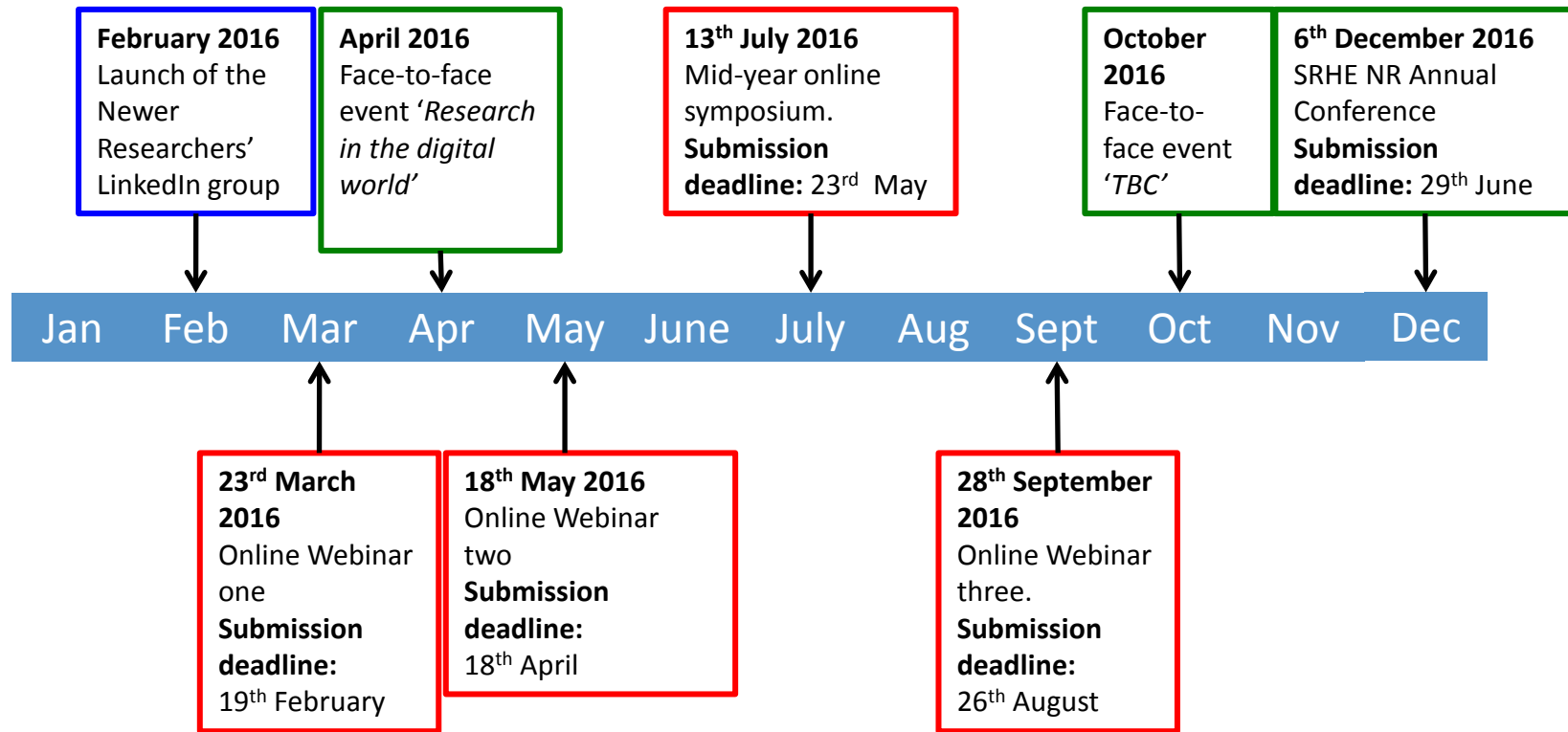
Area	Low	Medium	High
<b>Abstract score from the conference</b>	NA	NA	NA
<b>Depth of information on the update</b>	Missing or lacks detail to engage the reader or demonstrate how the work has moved forwards since the conference.	Present but needs additional work on clarity or presentation. Some reference to how the research has developed.	Clear and well-referenced text contextualizing the research and how it has developed since the conference.
<b>Critical reflection of data to be presented</b>	Missing or poorly conceptualized. Data provided without reflection and it is not clear what is going to be presented.	Data presented or discussed but lacks reflection and understanding of impact or links to the overall research project	Evidence of data to be presented and how these data relate to the aims/hypothesis. Impact of data evident and evidence of reflection regarding the data and/or its impact.
<b>Focus for presentation</b>	Missing or poorly presented. No clear aims of the session or what is expected from it.	Aims of the session presented but not completely clear or unrealistic.	Clearly presented aims of the session, with what will be achieved and the core 'take-always' delegates will be able to expect.

## To submit your abstract for the Online Symposium

Please forward the following to [fsmit@srhe.ac.uk](mailto:fsmit@srhe.ac.uk) including the following information

1. Your name
2. Your institution
3. Title of the paper you submitted to the Newer Researchers Conference in December 2015
4. Your 200-word abstract explaining how your research has progressed
5. Deadline for submission is the 23<sup>rd</sup> May





Activity

Face-to-face event

Online event