

Crucible

Welcome to '**Crucible in a Box**'. The resources available through this website provide you with guidance, support and materials to be able to run your own Crucible programme for researchers.

Background

In 2007, NESTA (the National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts) ran the first of a new style of collaboration-innovation programme for early/mid-career researchers: Crucible.

The Crucible Programme takes 30 junior academics and works with them through three, intensive, 2-3 day residential development workshops, called 'Labs'. The Labs combine skills enhancement, lectures, group exercises, self-examination and field trips. The Labs are all designed to introduce new ways of thinking and working to participants, in the hope of creating long-term changes in attitude and working practice. Overall, the Labs are about creating the environment for the development of individuals, their ideas and their innovation and collaborative practices. They are also about developing a network of peers within the research community to fuel potential interdisciplinary working, learn about different areas of research and encourage personal and career development.

Since 2007, 90 researchers have taken part in UK-wide Crucible programmes. A further 30 participated in the Carbon Crucible in 2008-9 focusing on researchers in the energy industries and sponsored by UKERC. A similar collaboration between the Scottish Universities and the Scottish Funding Council in 2009 provided an equivalent opportunity for an additional thirty researchers to participate in the Scottish Crucible.

NESTA has now completed its piloting of the programme and will cease to run a national programme. Through this resource and other activities NESTA hopes to encourage other institutions or groups of institutions to take up the model for their own researchers. The Scottish national programme will continue from 2010-2012 and a Welsh programme is being launched in the second half of 2010.

What's here?

The resources provided are to help and support your programme rather than be a prescriptive part of it. Whilst each Crucible programme has some core requirements, and the Labs must include specific topics and must be residential, there exists considerable flexibility to give your Crucible programme a local/regional/industry focus.

It is split into the core areas of:

- Overview and Objectives
- Administrator Menu
- Programme Leader Menu
- Overview of the Labs