

Sharing postgraduate training opportunities on a regional basis

What?

We developed a **working model** for **sharing training opportunities** for Postgraduate Researchers (PGRs) amongst the 5 universities in the North East of England.

The aim is to **widen the range of training opportunities** for Postgraduate Researchers (PGRs) (especially part-time and distance PGRs), thus giving them more training opportunities. This work fits into the broader context of the EPICS-2 project addressing the **personalised learning agenda**.

This agenda is pertinent for PGRs, since their learning is often largely self-directed. Making a **wider range of learning opportunities** available to PGRs aims to make it easier for them to choose learning that meets their specific needs at a particular point in their research, as **determined by their own requirements** or training needs analyses.

The model built on a **broad consultation process** involving the training providers and PGRs across the region.

For others considering similar work

1. Where possible, build on existing collaboration between institutions
2. Find solutions that work with existing systems, and which don't require significant change to those existing systems
3. Use established standards and technologies
4. Listen to the stakeholders and respond to their suggestions

Further details...

Full details of this work are available at:

<http://www.epics.ac.uk/report/?pid=182>

The "proof of concept" regional information hub is at:

<http://www.dur.ac.uk/regional.events/>

Full details of the EPICS-2 project are available at:

<http://www.epics.ac.uk>

Outcomes

Outcomes of this work include:

- a **"proof of concept"** regional information hub which integrates feeds of information from multiple training providers, presenting them to PGRs as a single navigable, searchable menu of events from across the region
- two **event feeds which have been added to existing Training Course Booking Systems** (at Durham University, and at Newcastle University Faculty Of Medical Sciences); these feeds are used by the regional information hub described above
- a **specification for an event feed**, based on the **XCRI-CAP** format; this specification was used to specify the feed format for the regional information hub, and in the design of the two event feeds described above
- a specification for a mechanism (based on Web Services) to **allow training records to be exported** from a training provider and imported into an ePortfolio or other system; this specification has been prototyped, with test records being moved from a system at Durham University into a system at Newcastle University

