



The
University
Of
Sheffield.

A programme that encourages PhD candidates to think about their life after study – and helped 2,500 junior scholars in the 2012-13 academic year – has taken the plaudits in this highly competitive category.

In the first 10 months of the University of Sheffield's Think Ahead scheme, 200 group events were held. These included workshops, seminars, conferences and courses, as well as one-to-one meetings.

The events helped doctoral students and early career researchers to think about their individual career ambitions inside and outside the academy.

Activities included mentoring partnerships, grant-writing support groups and mock interview panels as part of a programme designed with interdisciplinarity in mind (thus reflecting the current research environment).

Experts from within the university as well as alumni, employers, external pundits and other institutions contributed to the programme.

The events were designed to bring together early career researchers from different parts of the university and to encourage the attendance of those who might never have ventured outside their departments.

The judges singled out for particular praise the 750 one-to-one career mentoring and coaching sessions organized as part of the programme.

Janet Metcalfe, head of Vitae and one of our judges, said "We were impressed by the depth and breadth of professional development provision for early career researchers, supporting research careers and fostering interdisciplinarity through the Think Ahead programme."