

CV enhancement activities

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(contributions from discussions with colleagues
and PDRAs)

2024 PDRAs & Research Fellows Half-Away Day,
10/9/2024



CV Enhancing Activities

Whether you are applying for another job, a fellowship or a lectureship, a strong CV is an important element of your application to get short-listed.

Content from your CV is also what you highlight in a covering letter of an application or a track record of a fellowship application to illustrate your suitability for the role.

You will, of course, give details of:

- Your qualifications (PhD, first degree)
- Your employment history
- Your research expertise and achievements
- Your publications
- Your collaboration with universities, research institutes and industry

But what else can be included to make you stand out from other applicants?



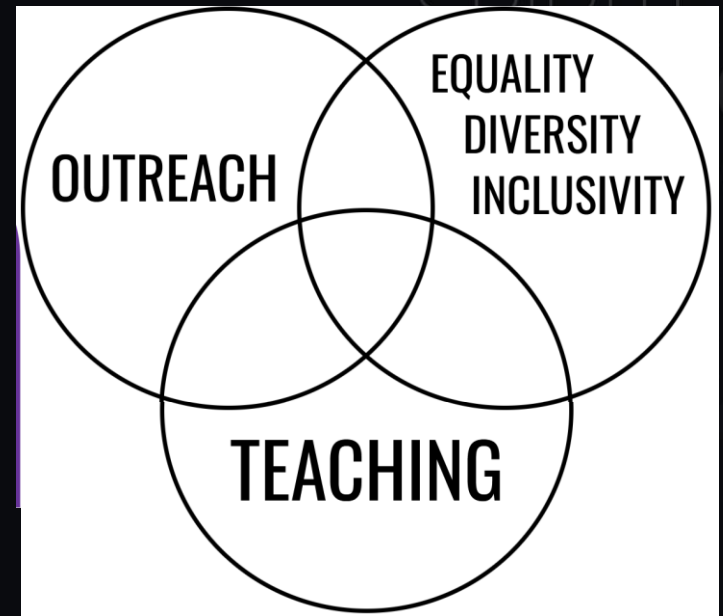
CV Enhancing Activities

Additional activities divide into three broad categories:

- Outreach
- Equality, diversity and inclusivity
- Teaching

But they are not completely distinct from each other

All these are increasingly valued and give you an advantage in a field full of excellent researchers.



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Motivations for broader activities

Outreach, Equality Diversity and Inclusivity (EDI) and Teaching are all great additions to your CV

They help to develop skills that can be used in research and other activities (communication, organisation...)

They all achieve enhancement of the environment and your/our discipline/subject

They are all enjoyable and highly rewarding!

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Outreach/public engagement

Promotion of your own research – news articles, press releases, write for the Conversation or similar on research-related topics

Become a STEM ambassador:

<https://www.stem.org.uk/stem-ambassadors>

Work on schools outreach with our departmental Outreach teams:

<https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/physics/outreach/contact/>

<https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/chemistry/outreach/>

<https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/mathematical-sciences/outreach/outreach-team/contact/>

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<https://theconversation.com/profiles/jon-major-134947>

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THE CONVERSATION



Jon Major

Research Fellow, Stephenson Institute for Renewable Energy, University of Liverpool



January 13, 2021

Solar panels capture more sunlight with capsaicin - the chemical that makes chili peppers spicy

Jon Major, University of Liverpool

Chemicals found in food and solar cell technology have an interesting history – as my own research shows.

Chemicals found in food and solar cell technology have an interesting history – as



April 24, 2017

Deep sea mining could help develop mass solar energy – is it worth the risk?

Jon Major, University of Liverpool

Scientists investigating an underwater mountain have found lots of tellurium, a mineral used in some solar panels.



September 10, 2014

Japan turns to floating solar islands as it seeks to end reliance on nuclear power

Jon Major, University of Liverpool

Two companies in Japan recently announced they are to begin building two huge solar power islands that will float on reservoirs. This follows Kagoshima solar power plant, the country's largest, which opened...

Two companies in Japan recently announced they are to begin building two huge solar power islands that will float on reservoirs. This follows Kagoshima solar



August 15, 2014

Revolutionary perovskite solar cells could be a game changer, but questions remain

Jon Major, University of Liverpool

Whenever I tell people I work with solar cells I am asked the same two questions: are they ever going to be really cheap? And can you get me some? While the answer to the second question is no, the answer...

Outreach/public engagement – some ideas

Join the Merseyside branch of the Institute of Physics and get involved in their public outreach in Merseyside and Cheshire (Royal Society of Chemistry and Maths societies too)

Help out with Nuclear Physics masterclasses, Particle Physics masterclasses, year 12 work experience week, year 12 Nuffield projects, Physics Society for undergraduates in our department.

Outreach in your collaboration or sub-field of research (e.g. join IoP Interest group)

Mentoring earlier career physicists, building departmental community - interactions with postgraduate society, run departmental post-grad/postdoc seminar series.

Get involved in Open Days.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity (EDI)

A diverse and inclusive workforce and research environment is beneficial in many ways including to achieving our best research

EDI values and contributions are rightly increasingly valued in applicants' track records

Our School of Physical Sciences holds an Athena Swan Silver award for its work towards gender equality as well as wider EDI activity – it has an Action Plan which is always being implemented and updated

This work needs input from PDRAs, for example, by being an active member of the School EDI committee



Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity (EDI)

Physics holds IoP Juno Practitioner status for its work towards gender equality

It implements and updates its Action Plan – feed into this work in the Physics EDI Champions group

We will now be working towards the IoP's new Physics Inclusion award which continues but goes beyond work on gender equality



Importantly, you do not have to be a member of an underrepresented group to make a difference in EDI - be an ally!

Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity (EDI)

There are lots of opportunities for EDI-related volunteering:

Write departmental, School of Physical Sciences, Faculty news items on EDI

Raise awareness of EDI topics, improve policies or implementation

Organising events, be a role model on the LivWISE website, a speaker at events.

Get involved with:

your Department's EDI Champions

Liverpool Women in Physics group

LivWISE (Liverpool Women in Science and Engineering)

University EDI-related networks

Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity (EDI)

CUWiP 2023

Conference for Undergraduate
Women in Physics

115 delegates from 40
universities in UK and Ireland

Only possible due to dedicated
team of volunteers including
PhD students and PDRAs



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EQUITY
RESPECT
GROWTH
LEADERSHIP
INTEGRITY
TRANSPARENCY
ACCOUNTABILITY
COLLABORATION
INNOVATION
ADAPTABILITY
RESILIENCE
COURAGE
DETERMINATION
PERSEVERANCE
EMPATHY
HUMILITY
GRATITUDE
POSITIVITY
CONFIDENCE
COURTESY
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COMMITMENT

Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity (EDI)

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WONDRS - Women and Non-binary Researchers in STEM conference 8 July 2024

Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity (EDI)

Liverpool LGBTQIA+ Staff
Network at the Pride March in
July 2024

Article written for the
Department of Physics
Bulletin for this week



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Teaching

Gaining teaching experience can have a variety of forms:

- Helping to supervise/mentor PhD students
- Co-supervising final-year undergraduate project or MSc students
- Teaching in undergraduate laboratories
- Teaching in problem classes
- Get some experience of lecturing (academic staff as module coordinators should do the majority of lecturing in a module)

Seek your line managers permission if planning to spend more than the odd hour on teaching – explain the benefits to you and them.

Departmental Heads of Teaching:

Physics: Prof Bradley Cheal

Chemistry: Dr James Gaynor

Mathematical Sciences: Prof Anna Pratoussevitch

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Teaching – get qualified!

Your teaching can be recognised if you work towards gaining:

Associate Fellowship of the Higher Education Academy (AFHEA)

The university runs a programme Foundations in Learning and Teaching in Higher Education (FLTHe) which leads to AFHEA and is outlined here:

<https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/eddev/supporting-student-learning/>

This scheme is particularly targeted at staff who do a small amount of teaching.



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Foundations in Learning and
Teaching in Higher Education