



The Open
University

Supporting researchers in public engagement: Is engagement good for your career?

Professor Richard Holliman

<http://www.open.ac.uk/people/rmh47>

Holliman, R. (2016). 'Supporting researchers in public engagement: Is engagement good for your career?' Pre-conference event: Workshops for early-career researchers and practitioners, 14th International Public Communication of Science and Technology Conference: 'Science communication in a digital age'; Istanbul, Turkey, 25 April.

An Open Research University

- Weds 27th April
- 1.15-2.30
- Room 10

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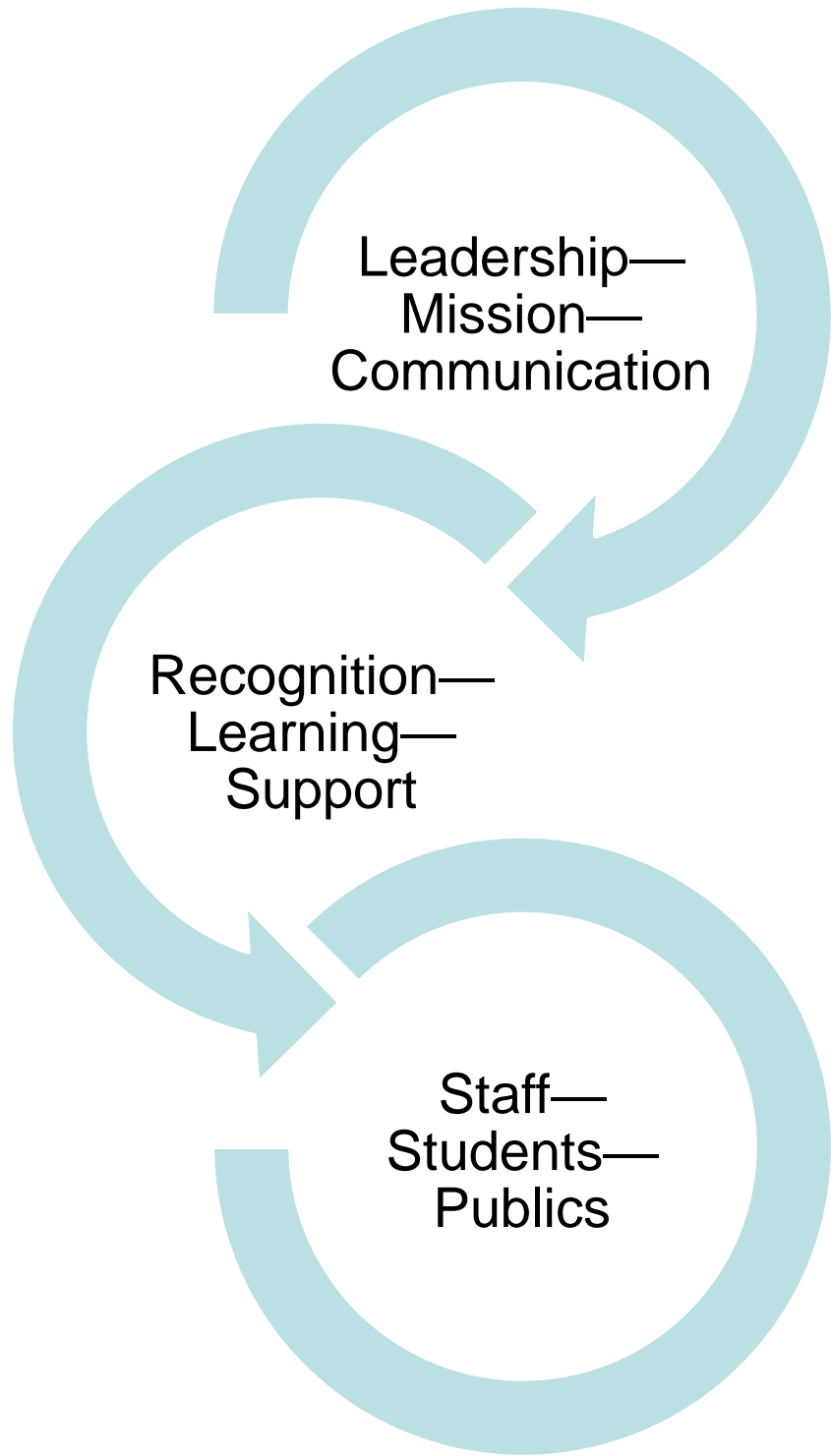




picture the
scene...

- What type of science communicator do you want to be?
- How can you use public engagement skills and competencies to shape your future career?

Holliman and Warren, under review



The Beacons for
Public Engagement



NCCPE 2012a

Learning: “Public engagement can bring great rewards

– both for the university and for the public its staff and students engage with. But this mutual benefit can’t be

taken for granted: it relies on **real skill and expertise.**

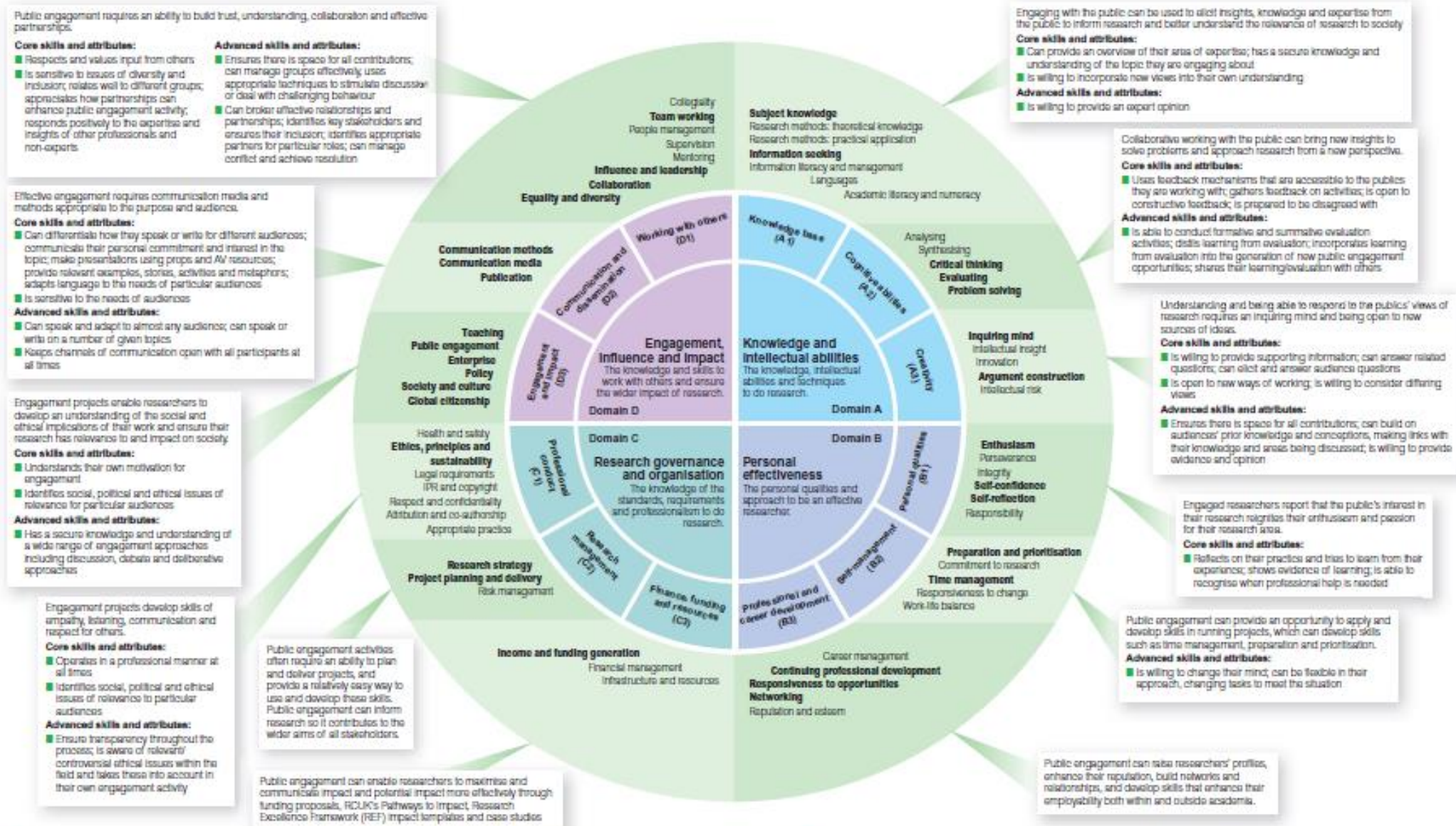
Many staff and students recognise that they need help to develop these skills and aptitudes, and an institution that wants to support them effectively needs to take account of this.”

What skills and competencies are required to engage effectively?

Public engagement lens on the Vitae Researcher Development Framework



Researcher Development Framework



Bold text in outer circle – key RDF descriptors that relate to public engagement and vice versa
Bosred text – statements adapted from the NCCPE's Public Engagement Attributes Framework www.publicengagement.ac.uk/what/skills-and-attributes

Stage 1: Exploring your PE skills and competencies

- Preparing a job application
- Supporting career progression
- Improving your performance

- Start with Domain D
(If you have time look at the Domain C, then A and B)
- What core skills can you evidence?
- What advanced skills can you evidence?

Stage 2: map your PE skills to a person spec

- Read the person spec.
- Map the evidence from your RDF to the essential/desirable criteria
- Where are your strengths?
(Are they on your CV?)
- Are there obvious gaps?

Person Specification Vacancy Public Engagement		
Candidate Name:		
Essential Skills	Score (2 = full evidence, 1 = partial evidence, 0 = no evidence)	Notes
1. A first degree or equivalent		
2. Proven relevant experience, post-degree, in research or practice		
3. Experience of engaging members of the public with research		
4. Experience working as part of a collaborative or partnership project		
5. The ability to use information and communication technology in public engagement		
6. Excellent record-keeping and organisational skills		
7. Ability to work to deadlines and good time-management		
8. Ability to work collaboratively as part of a multidisciplinary research team but also to act on own initiative		
9. Excellent oral and written communication skills		
Desirable Skills		



‘GROW’ your PE profile

- Goal
- Reality
- Options
- Way forward

For a copy of the slides, see
[@science_engage](#)

Free Online Resources:

<http://www.open.ac.uk/blogs/per>

Attributes of digital engagement

<http://weblab.open.ac.uk/dper>



RESEARCH FOR ALL

- A new **open-access, peer-reviewed journal** about engaged research (free to authors and readers)
- Features contributions about the design, processes and outcomes of public engagement in any area of research
- Content is submitted by and written for anyone involved in engaged research – both academic and non-academic.
- Published twice a year by UCL IOE Press; first issue due November 2016.

For more information, visit:

www.ucl-ioe-press.com/research-for-all

References

- Holliman, R. and Warren, C. (under review) 'Supporting future scholars of engaged research', *Research for All: Universities and Society*.
- Holliman, R., et al. (2015). [*An Open Research University: Final Report*](#). The Open University: Milton Keynes.
- NCCPE (2012a). [*The Beacons for Public Engagement*](#). NCCPE: Bristol.
- NCCPE (2012b). [*How to support Public Engagement: Enhancing learning from your public engagement*](#). NCCPE: Bristol.
- Vitae/NCCPE (2013). [*Public engagement lens on the Vitae Researcher Development Framework*](#). Vitae: Cambridge.