



SPARK

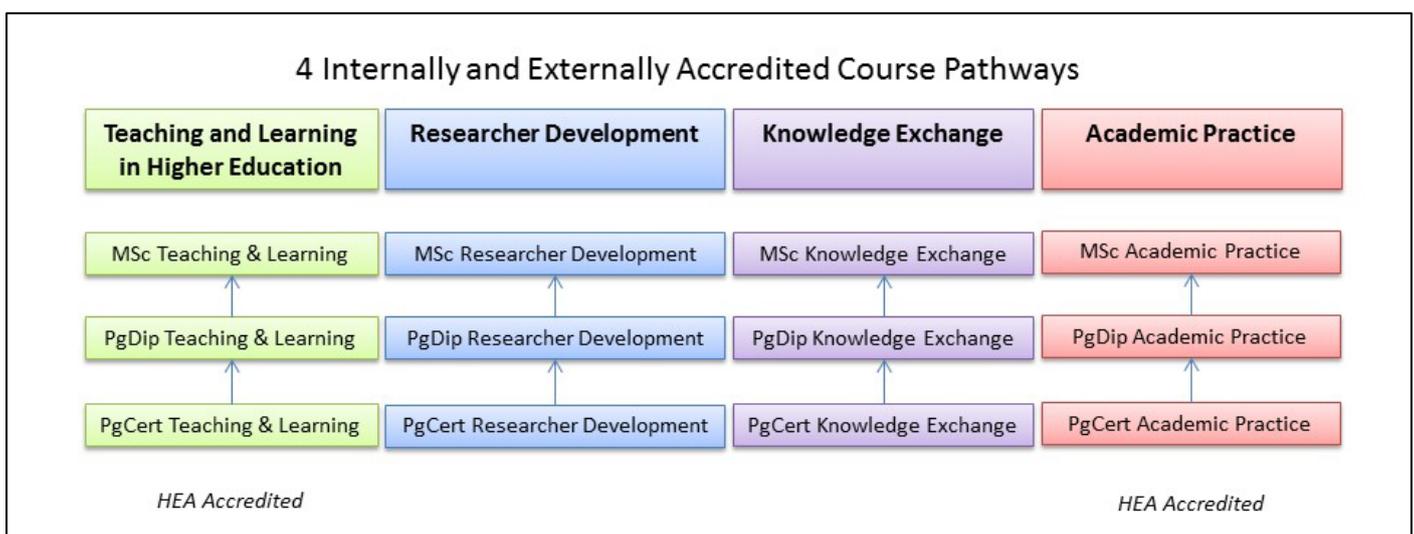
Strathclyde Programme for Academic Practice,
Researcher Development & Knowledge



The Strathclyde Programme for Academic practice, Researcher development and Knowledge exchange, or SPARK, is a unique programme for early career staff from all academic job families at the University of Strathclyde. It is a flexible, heavily supported programme accredited internally and externally by the Higher Education Academy, and leading to **Postgraduate Certificate, Diploma, and Masters level awards** in one of four areas:

- Researcher Development
- Knowledge Exchange
- Learning and Teaching in Higher Education
- Academic Practice

SPARK grew out of the long-standing Advanced Academic Studies Programme (AAS) which allowed participants to attain a Postgraduate Certificate in Advanced Academic Studies via one of two pathways: Researcher Development or Teaching and Learning in Higher Education. In this first iteration, it was the first developmental programme to provide a HEA-accredited researcher development award in the UK. In January 2015, the AAS programme was reconfigured as SPARK and expanded to the current four awards.



The Programme

SPARK is designed to provide flexible, individualised, and progressive routes for personal and professional development. As every staff member's career is unique, the programme is designed to provide individualised options and personal support to allow everyone to achieve their own career aims. Outside of the core modules, pathways are open and offer participants the flexibility to take classes from other paths. Staff may also choose to complete more than one degree to broaden their experience.

Participants undertake credit-bearing modules that involve both classroom-based, workshop-style activities, independent work, and assessed assignments relevant to the subject area. Assignments are generally reflective in nature and are designed to allow participants to consider their own development in depth.



The Researcher Development Pathway

From an initial cohort of 16 researchers, the Research Development pathway has grown and now sees an annual average of more than 50 participants. The most popular modules are the core, 'Building A Successful Research Career', and 'Supervising Postgraduate Research', closely followed by 'Research Bidding & Design'. Participants in the researcher development path are typically postdoctoral and newly independent researchers. The courses are designed to be highly practical and support researchers in the skills they need to achieve success in academic careers as well as developing skills that are essential to any career.

Many of the classes are based around the Researcher Development Framework (RDF). In particular, within the core module, participants make extensive use of Vitae's RDF planner to assess their own development needs and design a development plan for the next five years.

	Learning and Teaching in Higher Education	Researcher Development	Knowledge Exchange	Academic Practice
CORE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teaching, Learning and Assessment within the Disciplines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Building A Successful Research Career 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understanding and Exploring Knowledge Exchange <u>OR</u> Knowledge Exchange and Innovation Training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teaching, Learning and Assessment within the Disciplines Building A Successful Research Career Exploring and Understanding Knowledge Exchange <u>OR</u> Knowledge Exchange and Innovation Training <p><i>Note: For the Academic Practice course pathway, all three modules above are core, reflecting the dynamic roles of academics in UK Higher Education. All other modules are optional.</i></p>
RECOMMENDED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Course (re)Design Developing An Inclusive Curriculum Academic Writing Teaching and Learning Online Supervising Postgraduate Research Leadership in Higher Education Independent Enquiry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supervising Postgraduate Research Research Bidding & Design Public Engagement for Research Leadership in Higher Education Academic Writing Independent Enquiry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understanding External Organisations Engaging Different Audiences Enterprise, Commercialisation, and Intellectual Property Establishing and Managing Relationships The Knowledge Exchange Challenge Independent Enquiry 	
OPTIONAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Building A Successful Research Career Research Bidding & Design Public Engagement for Research Understanding and Exploring Knowledge Exchange <u>OR</u> Knowledge Exchange and Innovation Training Understanding External Organisations Engaging Different Audiences Enterprise, Commercialisation, and Intellectual Property Establishing and Managing Relationships The Knowledge Exchange Challenge 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teaching, Learning and Assessment within the Disciplines Course (re)Design Developing An Inclusive Curriculum Teaching and Learning Online Understanding and Exploring Knowledge Exchange <u>OR</u> Knowledge Exchange and Innovation Training Understanding External Organisations Engaging Different Audiences Enterprise, Commercialisation, and Intellectual Property Establishing and Managing Relationships The Knowledge Exchange Challenge 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teaching, Learning and Assessment within the Disciplines Course (re)Design Developing An Inclusive Curriculum Academic Writing Teaching and Learning Online Building A Successful Research Career Supervising Postgraduate Research Leadership in Higher Education Research Bidding & Design Public Engagement for Research 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supervising Postgraduate Research Research Bidding & Design Public Engagement for Research Leadership in Higher Education Understanding External Organisations Engaging Different Audiences Enterprise, Commercialisation, and Intellectual Property Establishing and Managing Relationships The Knowledge Exchange Challenge Course (re)Design Developing An Inclusive Curriculum Teaching and Learning Online Independent Enquiry