



The
British
Academy

Early Career
Researcher
Network

A community built by Early Career Researchers, for Early Career Researchers

The Network provides a space for researchers to develop their skills, thrive, strengthen their competitiveness in the job market, and be part of and help build a supportive community.

Why become a member?

- Build and expand your professional network through new connections and collaborations.
- Access opportunities to apply for funding.
- Join an online community platform where members can connect, share ideas, and access network resources.
- Take part in a mentoring programme with Fellows of the British Academy.

ECRN funding opportunities

Members can apply for:

- Seed funding for research projects — up to £5,000.
- Event organising and hosting funds - up to £3,000.
- Professional development support — including conference fees, membership association fees, and travel to job interviews — up to £300.
- Travel grants to attend ECRN events and activities.

Who is the Network for?

- Early career researchers who completed a PhD within the last 10 years or have equivalent research experience.
- Researchers in SHAPE disciplines (humanities, social sciences, and associated performance/creative fields).
- UK-based researchers.
- Researchers previously or currently affiliated with a UK institution.

Join the ECRN



The Wolfson*
Foundation



Department for
Science, Innovation
& Technology





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Elevate Programme - Leadership Stream

The British Academy Elevate Programme is a CPD-accredited training initiative that supports early career researchers to build leadership skills, develop confidence, expand their professional networks, and create meaningful impact through their research.

Through the Elevate Programme you can access:

- Leadership skills training
- Line and team management training
- 1-to-1 coaching
- Pitching to non-academic and policy audiences
- Wellbeing training
- Policy engagement and impact training
- Commercialising research
- Interdisciplinary networking opportunities with researchers across the UK
- Recognised professional development record

All activities are free and delivered through a mix of online and in-person sessions, making opportunities accessible across career stages, disciplines and backgrounds.

Why take part?

The Elevate Programme offers a range of training opportunities designed to strengthen your leadership skills, build confidence, and connect you with a supportive peer network.

Strengthen your impact and take your research to the next level by applying to the British Academy Elevate Programme.

Find out more



Applications open
1 September - 28 October 2026

“Through this programme, I have established who I am, what kind of researcher I am and what kind of researcher I want to be.”

Dr. Xihui (Haviour) Chen

“The Elevate Programme is going to significantly change your approach to your research and it’s going to change the way you look at the world”

Dr. Doyinsola Agunbiade

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