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Have developments in engagement and impact outpaced provision for ‘an engaged PhD journey’?

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NCCPE Engage Online: Changing Practices
6 December 2023
Our provocation is that provision for ‘an engaged PhD journey’ is patchy

- Recruitment & Selection
- Assessment
- Training
- Employability
Instructions

➢ Three topics to explore: recruitment; assessment; employability
➢ Three polls, one for each topic
➢ Three breakout groups, one for each topic
➢ Nominate one chair per breakout group
➢ Discuss the questions; add info to the chat
➢ Highlight one key suggestion for your topic
Recruitment & Selection

UK environmental sciences not as diverse as they could & should be

UKRI/NERC should be doing more to enable equity, diversity & inclusion

Leading Routes

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The Open University
Recruitment & Selection

➢ What do PhD applicants need to demonstrate to show that they’re ready to embark on an engaged PhD journey?

➢ What rules and regulations are in place across the UK sector to inform engaged PhD recruitment and selection?

➢ What does someone without a doctorate bring to doctoral supervision?
Assessment

➢ ca. 2000 “...high degree of variability in policies & procedures for doctoral examinations...” largely improved ca. 2021
➢ QAA Code of Practice (four editions - 1999 to 2018)—promoting good practice
➢ Examiners “…currently employed or recently retired & research active”
Assessment

➢ Does a PhD thesis alone offer an authentic representation of an engaged PhD; what are the alternatives?

➢ Who routinely assesses, and who else could assess, engaged PhD research?

➢ What would be the value of an examination team in assessing an engaged PhD?
ca. 3.5% PhDs will get ‘permanent’ academic posts

What measures can support PhD researchers to demonstrate evidence of skills and competencies gained from engagement?

What measures, other than a thesis, are, or could be, in place to support future job prospects of engaged PhDs?

How can PhD researchers build on existing approaches to evidence engaged skills and competencies in job applications?
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Follow-ups

- Liz will collate the information and produce a blog post; the slides will be available from the post

- EDEPI: https://www.ntu.ac.uk/c/equity-in-doctoral-education-through-partnership-and-innovation

- Leading Routes: https://leadingroutes.org

- Liz’s PG Research: https://www.open.ac.uk/people/ed6533