



Press release

September 2009

AEA to boost links between research and schools through £1.2m RCUK 'Researchers in Residence' programme

AEA has been awarded the management of a major educational programme called 'Researchers in Residence' which places young post-graduate researchers into UK schools to work alongside teachers and students in the classroom. Set to last for three years, the aim of the programme is to raise awareness of the value of modern-day research across all disciplines and to encourage young people to consider research as a career.

AEA, which has a strong track record in knowledge exchange, will run the £1.2 million programme, from the 1 August 2009. The programme is funded by Research Councils UK (RCUK)ⁱ with support from the Wellcome Trust.

'Researchers in Residence', which originated in 1994, lies at the heart of information and knowledge sharing between schools and researchers who are investigating the full range of topics from global warming and developments in stem cell science, to the social impacts of an ageing population, to the role of art in the contemporary world. At the same time, the researchers benefit from communication training and support to develop transferable skills that enhance their ability to excite others about research in general.

Gwen Ventris, AEA's Chief Operating Officer, Europe, said; "This is an exciting programme for AEA that combines our innovative marketing, engagement, technology and management skills to create and enhance direct links between a wide range of schools and universities in the UK."

AEA is constructing a new interactive website containing details about the programme and how researchers and schools can apply to take part in the scheme. The site will be accessible from the beginning of August at www.researchersinresidence.ac.uk , and is expected to become fully functional from the end of September.

Dr Kerry Leslie, Head of RCUK Public Engagement with Research, said: “RCUK believes in the importance of securing, sustaining and supporting a supply of excellent researchers for the UK. RCUK’s Researchers in Residence programme is an innovative scheme which takes our first-class researchers directly into the classroom, providing young people with positive role models and inspiring the next generation of researchers across all the disciplines. In return, our researchers develop a wide range of transferable skills, such as communication, creativity, management and team work.

“We look forward to working with AEA over the next three years and building on the successful work the company has already done in the area of science and education.”

The AEA team will work with highly regarded sector specialists including the Association for Science Education (ASE), science communication organisations Science Made Simple/The Training Company, Katalytik and the leading evaluation company, Shared Practice as well as established networks such as the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Network, (STEMNET) and the graduate careers organisation, CRAC. The programme will increase the quality and quantity of connections formed between schools and researchers to encourage the next generation of researchers in all academic disciplines.

AEA has extensive experience in managing large-scale programme management and behaviour change initiatives. Programmes include:-

Knowledge Transfer Partnerships for the Technology Strategy Board;
Sciencewise, a public dialogue programme for the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS – now the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills);
The New Outlook In Science and Engineering (NOISE) programme for the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC);

School Sports Partnerships for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCFS);
and Key Skills Policy Promotion for the former Department for Education and Skills (DfES).

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Notes to Editor

AEA is a leading consultancy, with operations in the UK, Europe and the US. We provide advisory services to the UK Government and work extensively with the EU and major private sector organisations around the world. Our multi-disciplinary team of over 1,000 technical and scientific consultants, project management experts, information technology professionals, and legal and regulatory specialists enables us to deliver fully integrated and business-oriented solutions for our customers.

For more information please visit www.aeat.co.uk

About Research Councils UK

Research Councils UK (RCUK) is the strategic partnership of the UK's seven Research Councils; they invest annually around £3 billion in research, covering the full spectrum of academic disciplines from the medical and biological sciences to astronomy, physics, chemistry and engineering, social sciences, economics, and the arts and humanities.

The seven UK Research Councils are:

- Arts & Humanities Research Council (AHRC);
- Biotechnology & Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC);
- Economic & Social Research Council (ESRC);

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- Engineering & Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC);
 - Medical Research Council (MRC);
 - Natural Environment Research Council (NERC);
 - Science & Technology Facilities Council (STFC).

For further information please visit www.rcuk.ac.uk/sis

About The Wellcome Trust

[The Wellcome Trust](#) is the largest charity in the UK. It funds innovative biomedical research, in the UK and internationally, spending over £600 million each year to support the brightest scientists with the best ideas. The Wellcome Trust supports public debate about biomedical research and its impact on health and wellbeing.

The Wellcome Trust's former headquarters, the Wellcome Building on London's Euston Road, has been redesigned by Hopkins Architects to become a new £30 million public venue. Free to all, [Wellcome Collection](#) explores the connections between medicine, life and art in the past, present and future. The building comprises three galleries, a public events space, the Wellcome Library, a café, a bookshop, conference facilities and a members' club.

For further information please visit www.wellcome.ac.uk