

Writing a narrative CV: a few tips

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The narrative CV aims to...

- Help researchers and academics to share their varied contributions to research in a consistent way
- And across a wide range of career paths and personal circumstances
- Reduce reliance on a narrow set of performance indicators (eg grants and publications)
- Make it easier to assess, reward and nurture a fuller range of contributions that researchers and academics make to their field or discipline

This new CV format

- Will at first seem very unfamiliar to you – give yourself time to get comfortable with it - look at examples of narrative CVs
- Asks you to explain not WHAT you have done or achieved
- But rather HOW your work and activities have contributed to your field or discipline, to research teams and the development of others, and to wider research and innovation

This new CV format

- You cannot answer a question that starts with HOW with a list! You will need to write explanations instead
- And support them with examples drawn from a much wider range of research outputs and activities
- It can be tricky to work out which examples should go where! This is where the UofG narrative CV project can also help

Whistle stop tour of the different sections

What should go where?

Section 1: Personal details

- Use this section to provide personal details such as your education, key qualifications, relevant positions, funding obtained, and awards received.
- **START WITH AN INTRODUCTION:** tell the assessor what you most want them to know about you in the opening 2-3 sentences
- Tell them your name, current position (and where), your area of research, professional qualifications and - if you feel passionate about what you do - it's fine to communicate that here too!

Section 1: Personal details

- Then build a picture of your career to this point
- Start with an overview of your qualifications in chronological order (degrees obtained, when and from where; awards received and when; qualifications and key relevant skills acquired, in or out of academia)
- Select key funding you have been successfully awarded – if it's still a long list, select the most relevant awards for each application (eg by highlighting funding awarded in collaboration or for an industrial partnership)
- Bear in mind the 4 page limit!

Section 2: How have you contributed to the generation and flow of new ideas, hypotheses, tools or knowledge

Here, you need to choose a small selection of key outputs, such as data sets, software, conference organisation and hosting, research and policy publications, and open research outputs.

- And use them to describe HOW they have contributed to knowledge, ideas and tools in your field
- You can also describe here the skills you have acquired from previous research, innovation or technical projects
- But remember, this is a HOW question so just listing your publications and other outputs here won't work here

Section 2: Relevant examples include

- select publications (papers & books) that contribute to knowledge, hypotheses or tools in your field
- policies your research has informed
- conferences, summits or webinar series you have organised
- tools, code, software or datasets you have shared
- community standards your work has contributed to
- patents, industrial partnerships & research outputs used by industry

Section 3: How have you contributed to research teams & the development of others?

Another HOW question (so simply listing the number of students or teams you have supervised, or the number of lectures you have given won't work here)

Section 3: Use a few well chosen examples to explain...

- HOW your teaching/supervision of students contributed to their development (specifically, what did your teaching/supervision/mentoring role consist of, what did you do?)
- And include success stories of those you've managed or mentored
- How your involvement in EDI, research culture, or Athena SWAN activities and committees has helped to support others
- How your activities as a team member influenced/shaped the team's work

Section 3: Use a few well chosen examples to explain...

- How your role as a team leader shaped the team's direction, organisation and strategy
- How your role as a team leader shaped an organisation's work, direction and strategy
- How you have been involved in setting up research teams, such as collaborations and networks within or beyond your institute/organisation

Section 4: How have you contributed to the wider research and innovation community

Include here examples of all the key activities that you undertake that contribute to your community and innovation

For example:

- Reviewing papers and grants, being a journal editor
- Membership of society committees, or of boards or panels, and appointments to other positions of responsibility (including corporate roles)
- Organising or presenting at conferences, webinars, summits
- Contributions to improving research and innovation culture

Section 5: How have you exploited your research

Include here examples of knowledge exchange, engagement with industry, private/public sectors, clients, policy makers, researchers in different fields/disciplines or the broader public

Section 5: How have you exploited your research

Examples can include

- Public outreach/engagement & work with patient advocacy groups
- Translation of your research into policy (governmental, non-governmental, industrial)
- Translation of your research into industrial or bio-medical applications
- Involvement in industrial partnerships
- Launching spin out companies and/or patenting research findings
- Setting up international collaborations to share knowledge/expertise

So to summarise

- Think about capturing all of your research outputs and activities in this new CV format
- Work out which section to include your different supporting examples – avoid repeating examples in different sections
- Focus on explaining HOW and not WHAT
- Practice writing your new narrative CV
- Use the materials that the narrative CV project will be providing during the course of this year to help you