GEN 03: Safety in Research Groups

Course Overview

Safety in Research Groups is a full-day training course designed to help academic members of staff including Principal Investigators and Postdoctoral Researchers understand the health and safety responsibilities that fall upon them as senior members of a research group. Although intended as an entry level course for those with little experience of health and safety it can also fulfil requirements for ongoing refresher training for more experienced staff members helping them to stay up to date with current requirements.

Combining best practice from the Health and Safety executive (HSE) and University Safety and Health Association (USHA) the course materials cover the legal framework of health and safety in the UK introducing relevant legislation and how it is enforced along with practical advice on how the legislative requirements can be met (and the consequences of not doing so). Once we've covered the potential consequences of not planning for health and safety we move on to discuss how academic staff members can fulfil their responsibilities ensuring a safe workplace and building a positive, open health and safety culture in their research group. We then touch on risk assessment, training and competence, effective communication and how to effectively delegate tasks and responsibilities to other members of the research group. The course finishes with a short discussion of some more specialist subjects including field work, overnight experiments, lone working and managing the safety of vulnerable individuals and finally a short discussion of the accident reporting and investigation procedure which is lead by the Safety and Environmental Protection Service (SEPS).

Throughout the courses we will support the key concepts with discussions, cases studies and exercises to help relate the concepts to real working practices within the University and where possible we try to illustrate the concepts with local cases studies.

Learning Outcomes

- Understand why health and safety is important in the research environment
- Identify the relevant health and safety legislation and how it applies to academia
- Identify appropriate responsibilities for different members of a research group
- Consider common laboratory hazards and how they can be controlled
- Plan research activities safely
- Produce high quality risk assessments and other associated safety documentation
- Understand the importance of competence and training
- Develop the habits associated with safe research groups
- Be aware of the University accident reporting and investigation process.

Who Should Attend?

This course is intended for principal investigators and early career researchers who have responsibility for managing a research group within the University (or are planning to do so in the future). It is intended to help academic staff members to develop an understanding of their legal responsibilities with respect to health and safety and how they can develop a positive, proactive health and safety culture in the workplace.

To book your place, please send an e-mail to safety@glasgow.ac.uk including your name, school / department and staff number. If the upcoming dates aren't suitable you can ask to be put on the waiting list for future courses.