

Biographies

Dr Cathy Gibbons (Expert facilitator)

Cathy's career path as a paramedic, science teacher, health-lecturer and education researcher has seen her work all over the world, in fields, laboratories, warships, beaches, factories, and nightclubs, as well as lecture theatres and boardrooms. Cathy has a first degree in Applied Biology and Master's and PhD degrees in Human Relations. She is a Senior Fellow of the Higher Education Academy and is an NLPTA Coach Practitioner. Her decades as a Researcher Developer and contrasting academic research have given her a broad insight into many academic disciplines. She is especially skilled at working with mixed disciplinary groups, or cross-disciplinary themes such as communication, planning, leadership, personal effectiveness, and supervision. She has worked with Vitae for more than a decade, delivering workshops and webinars to researchers based in UK, across mainland Europe and Scandinavia, Ghana and Malawi, and for researchers at every level and career stage.

Cathy draws on this experience and academic knowledge to facilitate course participants in the ownership and progression of their skills and knowledge. In her spare time Cathy enjoys triathlon and travelling with her camper van. She is also a voluntary peer-supporter and ambassador for the charity, Cleft Lip and Palate Association.

Dr Julia Tischer (Vitae Host)

Julia is the Researcher Development Manager in the Learning & Development Team at Vitae. She manages and delivers a range of projects and programmes that support professional development of researchers and researcher developers working in UK and internationally. Julia is a research scientist by training with over 10 years' experience both in Germany and the UK. Before joining Vitae in 2023, she was a Postdoctoral Research Associate at Cancer Research UK Cambridge Institute. Her experience as a research scientist and passion to support others to develop their full potential drives her interest in providing professional development opportunities for researchers. Julia holds a PhD in Natural Science from the University of Konstanz, Germany.