Connect research within and without the University, enabling collaboration

How do we connect all the research that is carried out in Edinburgh?

In an increasingly complex society, interdisciplinarity and collaboration becomes essential. Therefore, creating more opportunities for early career researchers to network with others with similar research interests can help foster a culture of collaboration within and without the University

University of Edinburgh Digital Education Hack

Join our DigiEdHack Hack at the University of Edinburgh to connect with other people interested in digital education, innovation, and entrepreneurship to tackle the challenges facing education today, including interconnectivity, interdisciplinarity and sharing of knowledge. Participate in the challenges, meet new and exciting people, and turn your vision into reality! You will have the opportunity to showcase your solutions on a European and global scale, and the best teams can win €5,000 in a global award contest!

How to prepare for the challenge?

Anyone can participate in this challenge! Designing and building a way to connect early career researches throughout the University of Edinburgh requires interdisciplinary knowledge and, above all, creativity.

Why is it important to find a solution to this challenge?

The University of Edinburgh has over 40,000 students, with over 5,000 alone being enrolled in postgraduate research programs. All of these students are scattered among the many schools and colleges within the University, even when their research interests are similar to each other. This creates a culture of isolation in which early career researchers lack the knowledge and opportunities to network with colleagues who might have interesting insights into their own research or opportunities of collaboration. In an increasingly complex society, interdisciplinarity and collaboration in the resolution of problems becomes essential. Therefore, creating more opportunities for early career researchers to network with others who might have similar research interests can help foster a culture of collaboration within the University. Not only will PhD students and early career researchers benefit from such a solution, but anyone who is interested in tapping into the knowledge being generated by the university will benefit by having access to these connections.

What is the possible impact of a good solution?

Creating a way for early career researchers to network with each other and find other people with similar interests would be the first step in building a community based on collaboration. As this culture and networks expand, organisations outside of the University will also be able to tap into the wealth of knowledge being created every day, allowing for more opportunities of growth and innovation, and bridging the gap between academic work and entrepreneurial opportunities.

What is the expected outcome of this challenge?

Through this challenge, we hope to create a space in which early career researchers can network with each other and find people with similar research interests. This could be a website, an app, a physical space, an event agenda, or a combination of all that will help create connections between people.