

Project brief:

That's Me! Speed networking event

Overview

This project aims to conceptualise and co-design an inclusive, impactful, and replicable speed networking event that connects doctoral researchers from global majority backgrounds with regional employers. The initiative will culminate in a tested blueprint that outlines best practices, logistical guidelines, and inclusive engagement strategies, enabling wider implementation across universities and employer networks.

Aims/stages

1. Stakeholder engagement

Liaise with BCU Action Research teams to gain insights from their fieldwork to identify barriers and opportunities for doctoral researchers from global majority backgrounds in building professional networks with regional employers.

Collaborate with stakeholders to develop the structure, content, and delivery method of the networking event.

2. Blueprint development

Consider stakeholder engagement and literature to produce a best practice blueprint for running inclusive speed networking events in higher education and employment settings.

Produce a comprehensive budget for the event.

3. Event organisation and delivery

Plan and deliver a speed networking event connecting doctoral researchers from global majority backgrounds with regional employers, ensuring inclusive facilitation, accessible materials, and a welcoming environment for all participants.

4. Evaluation

Collect and analyse participant feedback, observational data, and facilitator reflections to assess the effectiveness, inclusivity, and impact of the event, informing the development of the final blueprint.

Key deliverables

1. Event report

Summary report including:

- Summary of needs assessment and co-design insights.
- Key activities
- Participant demographics
- Feedback highlights
- Outcomes
- Lessons learned
- Plan for sustainability (i.e., continuation of future events)
- Reporting against relevant targets.

2. Best practice blueprint

A comprehensive guide including:

- Pre-event planning checklist
- Inclusive facilitation guidance
- Suggested conversation formats
- Feedback tools
- Case studies and testimonials
- Scalability and adaptability tips

3. Employer engagement list

Compile a list of regional employers who demonstrate interest in engaging with doctoral researchers, including:

- Contact details
- Sector information
- Previous involvement
- Potential opportunities for collaboration

Project timeline

May - June	July - August	September
• Stakeholder engagement and literature scan • Event planning and participant recruitment	• Event delivery, data collection, evaluation	• Completion of deliverables