# Example of PI/MoR cohort update email

Note that old hyperlinks have been removed and replaced with “[link]”

**Subject line [delete from here before sending]:** Prosper Cohort 2 PI Newsletter

Dear [name],

As we enter the final quarter of Prosper’s career development pilot, we wanted to give you an update about what your postdoc may have experienced so far and what’s coming up.

**Prosper’s Career Development Pilot – Brief Overview**

The Prosper pilot consists of three broad steps of career development:

1. Postdocs Reflect on their careers, skills, values and interests.
2. Postdocs Explore their options, based on their reflections.
3. Postdocs are given the skills to Act upon what they’ve learned and pursue their short- and long-term career goals.

What those goals are is up to the postdoc. Prosper’s resources help postdocs become aware of their options and gain the knowledge and skills to achieve their career goals, regardless of whether those goals are within or beyond academia. The resources are provided both live and asynchronously, allowing postdocs to manage their Prosper time alongside their research commitments.



**What Your Postdoc May Have Discovered in Quarter Three**

In quarter three the postdocs continued to Explore their career options, with a suite of resources covering commercial awareness and communication, entrepreneurial thinking, business plans, and running your own business.

These sessions were supported by a series of employer panels which gave the postdocs an opportunity to ask employers about issues including project management, policy and recruitment processes. Opportunities to strengthen employability were also offered in our masterclasses on personal branding, positioning, LinkedIn, and targeted CVs.

Alongside these resources the postdocs were able to build and strengthen existing transferable skills including negotiation and influencing skills, effective communication skills, and presentation skills.

**What Your Postdoc May Discover in Quarter Four**

Those postdocs continuing on the pilot into quarter four will be able to continue to Explore their career options through resources on university spinouts, the private sector, and further employer panels.

The main focus of quarter four, however, is to provide postdocs with the skills and knowledge to Act upon what they’ve learned. Resources will concentrate on the job application process, including navigating job boards and advertisements, getting noticed by recruiters, overcoming self-limiting barriers, preparing for interviews, as well as understanding the recruitment from the other side of the desk.

We’ll also continue to empower the postdocs to develop their transferable skills, including communicating research to a non-specialist audience, building confidence in talking to professionals, and developing intercultural competence. Alongside this last resource, we’re running a **PI Network** event focussed on managing an intercultural team on 12th January 2023, for details and to register **click here [link]**.

With the end of the cohort approaching we want to equip the postdocs with the ability to continue to manage their own career development. As such additional resources will cover driving your own career development, growing key skills for the future, managing failure, and balancing professional development alongside your other responsibilities. To help PIs support their postdoc’s career development, our next **PI Network** session is on managing productivity and professional development, on 22nd November, for details and to register **click here [link]**.

Finally, look out for an invitation to our virtual end of cohort event where we will be celebrating the journeys your postdocs have taken and the impact the pilot has had.



If you would like to know more about any of the resources mentioned above, please don’t hesitate to ask us at prosper.postdoc@liverpool.ac.uk. If you both feel comfortable discussing it ask your postdoc about their experiences on the pilot. Whilst some postdocs like to keep career development separate from their current role, we know that many appreciate their PI taking an interest.

We hope that your postdoc has found the third quarter of Prosper’s career development pilot beneficial. We also hope that you are finding the experience interesting, you may even have noticed a difference in your postdoc. If you have any questions, concerns, thoughts or experiences you’d like to share with us then please get in touch, we’d love to hear from you.

Best wishes,

The Prosper Team



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