

The Postdoc Congress 2025

Theme: Postdoc Identity

Location: Queen Mary University of London, The Octagon ([Mile End Campus](#))

Working Programme (03.06.2025)

Timing	Session Name	Purpose and Invited Speakers
09:00-09:30	Registration	Arrival and registration
09:30-10:00	Welcome Address	Welcome Address <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conference Co-chairs: Dr Anastasia Prokopi (Blizard), Dr Pauline Simon (SPCS), and Dr Marjolaine Thomas (SEMS) Research and Innovation Leadership – TBA Anna Price – Head of Researcher Development, Queen Mary Academy
10:00-11:00	Session 1: Postdoc Life, Postdoc Identity	<p>Current and former QM researchers speaking about different elements of their lived experience as QM postdocs; each highlighting different facets of the ‘postdoc identity’.</p> <p><u>Panellists:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr Zeinab Rekad (former BCI) Dr Sandra Jumbe (WIPH) Dr Charlotte Johann (History) Dr Keiji Ota (SBSS) Dr Alena Vdovchenko (former SPCS)
11:00-11:20	Break	Break and Networking Photo competition
11:20-12:20	Session 2: Postdoc Development and Support	<p>QM researcher support staff presenting opportunities available for QM postdocs CEDARS 2025 – What have we learned from this year’s survey?</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chris Mullin (Recognition and Reward Manager) – Rewards and Benefits for Postdoctoral Research Staff Lucy Newman (Interim Research Culture Manager) – Postdocs and Research Culture Eleanor McDavis (Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Manager) – Topic TBC

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anna Price (Head of Researcher Development) – Researcher Development Support from Queen Mary • Leah Thompson (Associate Director Entrepreneurship) – the Knowledge Transfer and Entrepreneurial support landscape at Queen Mary • Rui Pires Martins (Researcher Development Manager) – What Postdocs said in CEDARS 2025
12:20-13:20	Session 3: Table Discussions on Postdoc Identity	<p>2 x 30-minute discussions on topics impacting postdocs (related to the theme of identity. Postdocs can participate in two discussions. Table discussions will be led by stakeholders in the university who can respond to postdoc feedback and drive change systems to better serve research community</p> <p>Table topics:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Redefining ‘postdoc’ 2. Postdocs on the academic continuum/ as a specific career stage 3. Postdocs as Staff 4. Postdocs as Entrepreneurs 5. The Queen Mary Postdoc Experience 6. Postdoc as Representatives of other Postdocs 7. Postdocs and Research Culture 8. EDI-related theme – to be updated. 9. Postdocs as Research Professionals
13:20-14:20	Lunch	Lunch and Networking Photo competition
14:20-15:40	Session 4: Careers Panel	<p>Former QM postdocs or Current researchers speaking about their career journeys from their postdocs.</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Claudia Lemus (former PDRA in Law) – OFGEM • Jonathan Ho - Lab manager in Vascular Pharmacology, Centre for Cardiovascular Medicine and Devices • Luca Franci (former SPCS PDRA) - Senior Research Fellow Department of Mathematics, Physics and Electrical Engineering at University of Northumbria • Rubina Aktar (former Blizzard PDRA) – Co-founder Elcella Ltd • Prarit Agarwal (former SPCA PDRA) - Amazon
15:40-16:00	Closing Address	Closing address and prize announcement – Conference co-chairs
16:00-16:30	Reception	Closing reception with refreshments served