**Research as a Transferable Skill** online program: invitation to review draft course content

As a member institution of the Development Group for the *Research as a Transferable Skill* program, you are invited to join the upcoming Alpha review process. This enables members of each of our partner universities to view and comment on the draft courses for this program.

The official review period is from **FRIDAY DECEMBER 22nd 2017** to **MONDAY JANUARY 22nd 2018**. We will need to receive all your comments by **MONDAY JANUARY 22nd 2018, 9am UK time**.

Detailed instructions for accessing the reviewing the content will be sent out when the Alpha site is live. To prepare in advance, below please find a summary overview of how this process works and what you’ll be looking at.

We very much look forward to reading your comments.

With best wishes,
The Epigeum Team

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**What is the purpose of the alpha review?**

The principal purpose of the alpha review is to gather feedback from key stakeholders and potential end users at the universities in the Development Group. This feedback helps the editorial team and the authors to refine the *Research as a Transferable Skill* program.

The review period is also an opportunity for each university to start thinking about how the new courses will fit in with their existing training and to consider ways in which they might want to customize the content to fit their particular context.

**What is the program?**

*Research as a Transferable Skill*, currently in editorial development, is an online learning program that prepares students to apply the principles of research, scholarship, and creativity for academic and professional success.

Colleges and universities have for some time been embracing high-impact practices as a foundation of student success and community engagement. Post-secondary education is increasingly concerned with preparing students for experiences and challenges beyond the classroom, with new attention to integrating essential professional skills (e.g. leadership, communication) into the undergraduate experience.

*Research as a Transferable Skill* is a training program dedicated to supporting these educational imperatives while encouraging a spirit of inquiry, empowering students to ask questions and seek solutions. It focuses on the core competencies that promote employability in a broad range of careers including academia. The training will take a student through the stages of understanding the benefits of developing a “researcher mindset” while at school, with a strong focus on promoting overall college and career success.
This program is intended for undergraduate students who are preparing to engage in original research and scholarship projects in any discipline. There are also three courses intended for faculty and other stakeholders, to support the visibility and successful integration of undergraduate research programs within the university.

**What are the courses?**
The *Research as a Transferable Skill* program consists of 15 courses:

**Student-facing courses:**
- **Course 1:** Research, scholarship and creativity: what it is and why it matters
- **Course 2:** Integrity and ethical decision making in research
- **Course 3:** Starting a research project
- **Course 4:** Working with a research team and mentors
- **Course 5:** Engaging stakeholders and funders
- **Course 6:** Research project management
- **Course 7:** Literature reviews: discovering and evaluating information
- **Course 8:** Research methods and approaches
- **Course 9:** Writing about research
- **Course 10:** Sharing your research findings: communication and public engagement
- **Course 11:** Commercialization and entrepreneurship
- **Course 12:** Research skills for career planning

**Faculty-facing courses:**
- **Course 13:** Introducing undergraduate research across the curriculum
- **Course 14:** Models of undergraduate research
- **Course 15:** Measuring the impact of undergraduate research

**Who should be reviewing them?**
The more people from your institution who are able to participate in this review process, the better. The feedback we gather really helps us to improve and refine the courses.

In particular, we would really value feedback from:
- Program implementers – those who will be in charge of 'rolling out' the program at your institution
- Student reviewers i.e. 'end users' from different disciplines
- Experts and specialists in particular areas covered by the different courses.

You may find it more efficient to divide the review process up between different members of the review team.

**What will I be looking at?**
At this stage, the courses have been written, but not yet built. This means that you will be looking at online versions of Word documents. These contain descriptions of activities and so on, but these interactive elements will be created after we have received your feedback. We ask you to review the courses at this stage as changes are much harder to make once the design and interaction elements have been added.