

CSC Connect and Collaborate Event 2026

Networking for impact workshop

Thursday 20 January 14:30-15:30

Scenario 1: Networking for a grant/bid proposal

You are a mid-career professional planning to apply for a major research grant. You need to build a team of experts, including academics and practitioners, to strengthen your proposal. Some of these individuals are industry leaders you haven't met before.

Key discussion points:

1. Determine how to identify and approach suitable collaborators.
2. Plan an elevator pitch to convey your project idea and why it's worth their involvement.
3. Identify ways in which a social media platform can be utilised to enhance the effects of your strategy.
4. Create a follow-up strategy to ensure continued engagement.

Scenario 2: Expanding a research collaboration

You are part of a small research group at your university, and you want to expand your network by collaborating with researchers from other institutions to enhance your project's scope. A colleague introduces you to an expert at an upcoming workshop, but you only have a brief window to make an impression.

Key discussion points:

1. Prepare an introduction highlighting your project's relevance.
2. Plan how to make your conversation engaging and establish mutual interest.
3. Identify ways in which a social media platform can be utilised to enhance the effects of your strategy.
4. Determine how to follow up effectively after the event

Scenario 3: Exploring interdisciplinary collaboration

You are interested in interdisciplinary work and want to connect with academics and practitioners from another field to explore joint research opportunities. You've identified a few people at an upcoming conference whose work aligns with your interests but have no prior connections.

Key discussion points:

1. Create an approach to introduce yourself and spark a conversation at the conference.

2. Plan how to explain the value of interdisciplinary collaboration and the potential benefits for them.
3. Identify ways in which a social media platform can be utilised to enhance the effects of your strategy.
4. Devise a strategy to maintain the connection post-conference.

Scenario 4: Engaging stakeholders for community impact projects

You are leading a project aimed at addressing a social issue. To gain funding and support, you need to connect with stakeholders, including NGOs, local government representatives, and community leaders.

Key discussion points:

1. Develop a strategy to approach stakeholders with diverse priorities.
2. Plan how to align your project's goals with their interests.
3. Identify ways in which a social media platform can be utilised to enhance the effects of your strategy.
4. Create a roadmap for sustaining long-term partnerships.

Scenario 5: Initiating collaboration with an international academic

You have read a recent publication by an international academic whose research aligns closely with your area of interest. You want to reach out to explore potential collaboration opportunities, particularly for an upcoming joint research initiative.

Key discussion points:

1. Plan how to introduce yourself via email or at an academic event.
2. Draft a message that highlights your shared interests and potential benefits of collaboration.
3. Identify ways in which a social media platform can be utilised to enhance the effects of your strategy.
4. Outline a follow-up strategy to maintain communication despite geographical barriers.

Scenario 6: Forming a cross-sectoral partnership

You are leading a project that requires partnerships across sectors (e.g., academia, private sector, NGOs). You've been invited to a forum where representatives from these sectors will be present. Your goal is to secure commitments from key stakeholders.

Key discussion points:

1. Identify the stakeholders you want to approach and their potential interests.
2. Prepare talking points that align your project's goals with their priorities.
3. Identify ways in which a social media platform can be utilised to enhance the effects of your strategy.
4. Develop a strategy to follow up and formalise the partnership after the forum.

Scenario 7: Building a network for policy impact

You are developing a policy recommendation and want to connect with government officials, academics, and NGOs who influence policy in your field. You've been invited to a policy roundtable discussion.

Key discussion points:

1. Prepare an introduction that positions you as knowledgeable and approachable.
2. Identify ways to build relationships during the discussion without being overly formal.
3. Identify ways in which a social media platform can be utilised to enhance the effects of your strategy.
4. Develop a strategy to follow up and build ongoing engagement.