Responsible Research & Innovation for CDT’s

ORBIT has trained over 1400 researchers, most of whom EPSRC CDT research students, in the theory and practice of applying RRI to technical and scientific research projects across a very wide range of disciplines. ORBIT stands for The Observatory for Responsible Research and Innovation, a nonprofit spin-out co-owned by the University of Oxford and De Montfort University which arose from an EPSRC project on Responsible Innovation.

We have worked with leading researchers in AI, Agriculture, Biomedical Science, Chemistry & Energy to name a few. From this experience, we have developed and evolved methodologies and tools to assist researchers in designing and evaluating effective RRI activities within research.

ORBIT offers a range of training courses and other services to support doctoral candidates, experienced researchers and research organisations in doing their work responsibly.

RRI
Responsible research and innovation (RRI) aims to help individuals and organisations to ensure the acceptability and desirability and sustainability of research and innovation. It is an approach that has been adopted by major research funders including the EPSRC.

For new CDTs
We recommend a package of a one-day Foundation workshop, augmented by four self-study learning modules as an ideal introduction to the theory and practice of RRI.

This course package is intended for new and experienced researchers looking to participate in and design/apply RRI to research projects.

The course package consists of the following modules:

- One day face-to-face (or online) Foundation workshop
- Ethics by Design (Self-study)
- Responsible Organisations (Self-study)
- Stakeholder Engagement (Self-study)
- Sustainable Research (Self-study)

The course will familiarise participants with the foundational principles of RRI and provide a detailed analysis of the AREA (Anticipate, Reflect, Engage, Act) Framework along with the keys (equality/diversity and inclusion (EDI), ethics, public engagement, open access, and science education). Participants will be given in-depth training on a suite of software tools that help to structure, streamline and showcase RRI activities.

In addition to this standard offering, we also provide advanced training and bespoke services.