

Narrative CVs

for grant writing and career development

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Outcomes for today

By the end of today's session, you should be able to understand:



The format of NCVs, and how they're used



What makes a strong NCV



The use of NCVs for career development



Leadership positions

Spin-offs, start-ups, new products

Successful funding and grants

Publications

Impact (e.g. policy)

Awards and prizes

Widening participation

Mentoring and supervision

Emergent leadership

Building collaborations and stakeholder relationships

Teamwork

Panels/committees

Open Research

Peer reviewing

Accessibility, inclusivity and integrity initiatives

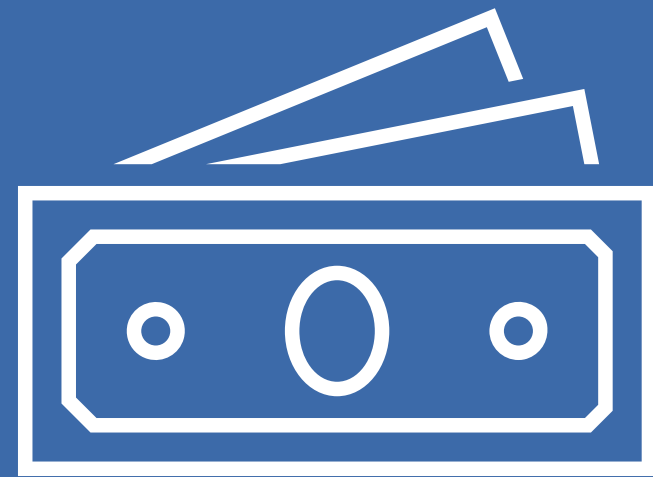
Research culture initiatives

Public engagement

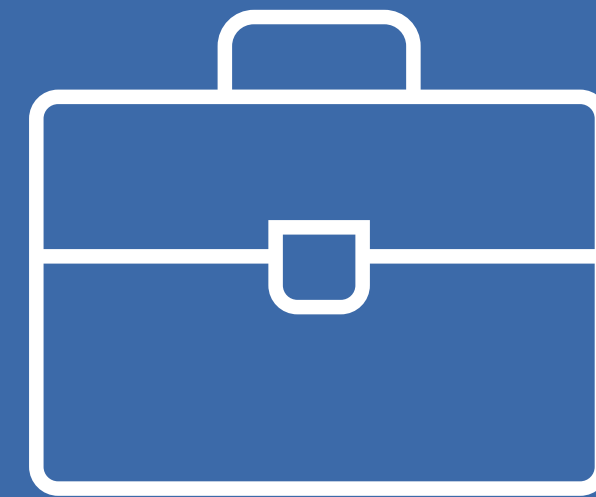
Developing expertise and skills

Why a new CV?

How/where are they used?



For funding applications



For recruitment and promotion

Funders using NCVs



UK Research
and Innovation



Arts and
Humanities
Research Council



Biotechnology and
Biological Sciences
Research Council



Economic
and Social
Research Council



Engineering and
Physical Sciences
Research Council



Medical
Research
Council



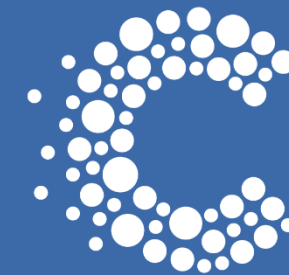
Natural
Environment
Research Council



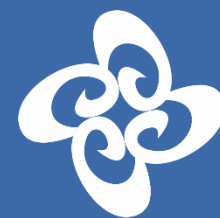
Science and
Technology
Facilities Council



NIHR | National Institute for
Health and Care Research



CANCER
RESEARCH
UK



IRISH RESEARCH COUNCIL
An Chomhairle um Thaighde in Éirinn

**ALZHEIMER'S
RESEARCH UK** FOR A
CURE



Luxembourg
National
Research Fund



Swiss National
Science Foundation

Canada

National Research
Council Canada
Conseil national de
recherches Canada

What is a narrative CV?

A short form, narrative style of CV “designed to help you, or your team, evidence a wider range of skills and experience than a traditional academic CV.”

More like a structured personal statement
than a traditional CV

What do they look like?

Most common format: Résumé for Research and Innovation (R4RI)

Warning:
Other funders have their own versions – always check that you have the right template!

“How have you contributed to...”

The generation of new ideas, hypotheses, tools, or knowledge



Your research area

The development of others and maintenance of effective working relationships



Those working around you

The wider research and innovation community



Your wider discipline and community

Broader research/innovation users and audiences, and towards wider societal benefit



Non-academics

What could you include?

The generation of new ideas, hypotheses, tools or knowledge

- Key outputs (publications, conference papers, datasets, software, products, exhibitions)
- Development of methods, tools or resources
- Generation of new ideas and hypotheses
- Funding, awards and prizes

The development of others and the maintenance of effective working relationships

- Supervision, mentoring, teaching
- Teamwork, establishing and maintaining collaborations
- Leadership

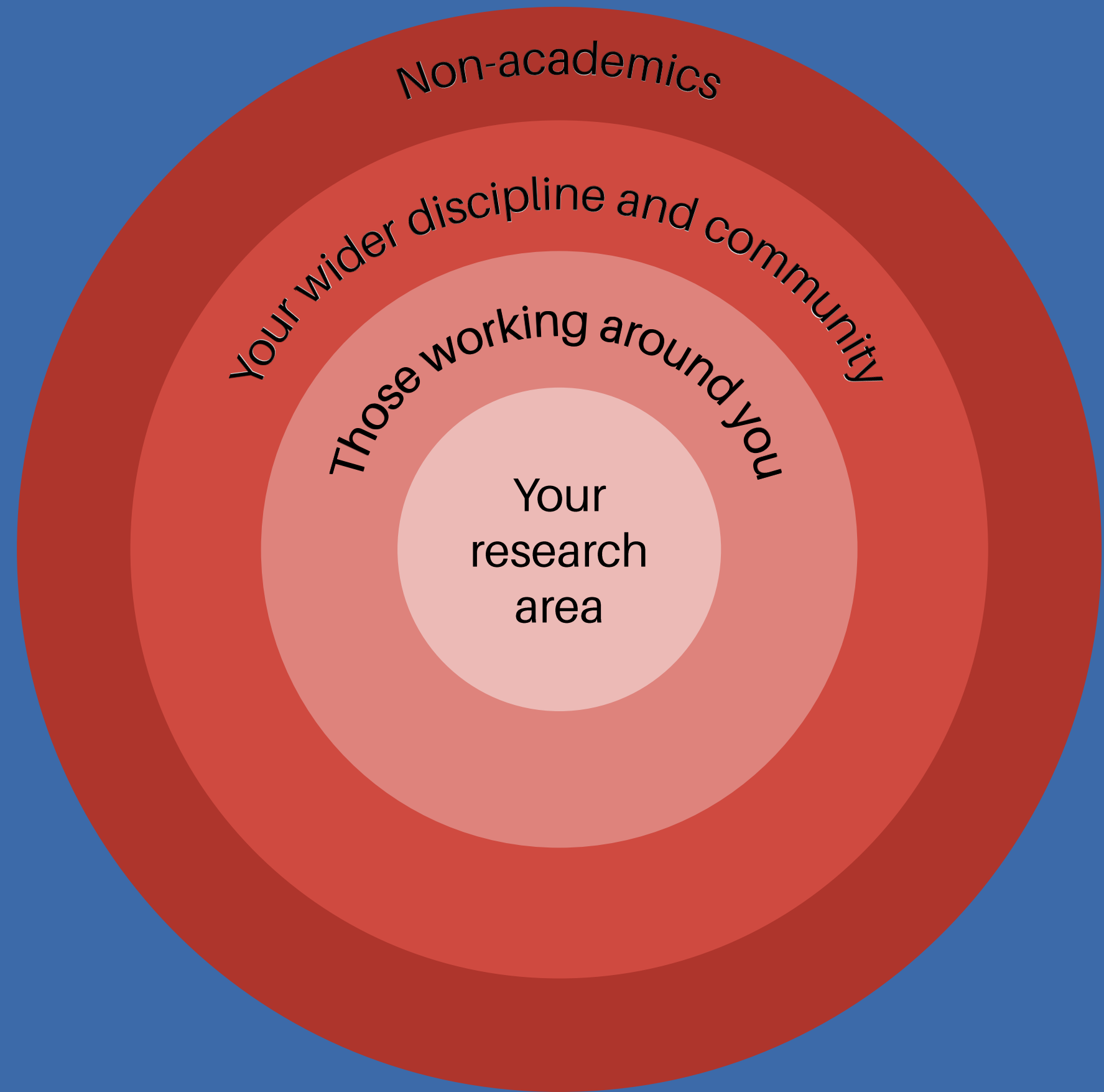
The wider research and innovation community

- Interdisciplinary, interinstitutional or international engagement
- Editing or reviewing responsibilities, positions on committees, professional bodies
- Activities benefitting the research community (e.g. EDI, Open Research, research culture)

Broader users/audiences and towards wider societal benefit

- Work beyond academia – knowledge exchange, policy engagement, partnerships with business, industry, healthcare, community groups, public engagement, participatory research

Spheres of influence



First drafts often look like this...

"I published a paper about [topic] in *Journal of Innovative Methods*."

"I organised the 2024 Conference on Innovative Methods."

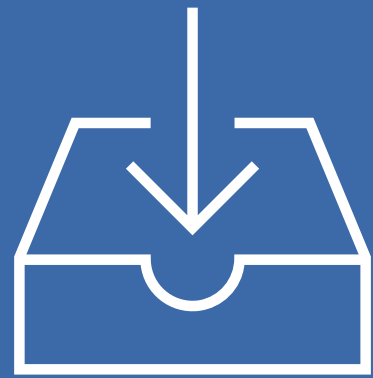
"I've supervised 10 undergraduates and 4 Masters students."

What's missing?

1. How you did it and the skills that you used/developed
2. The impact/effect that you had

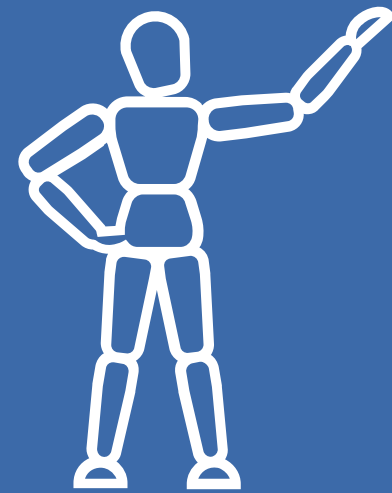
Strong NCVs focus not
just on the what, but the
how and why

Developing a narrative



Context

What was the situation, task, or challenge?



Action

What actions or steps did you take?



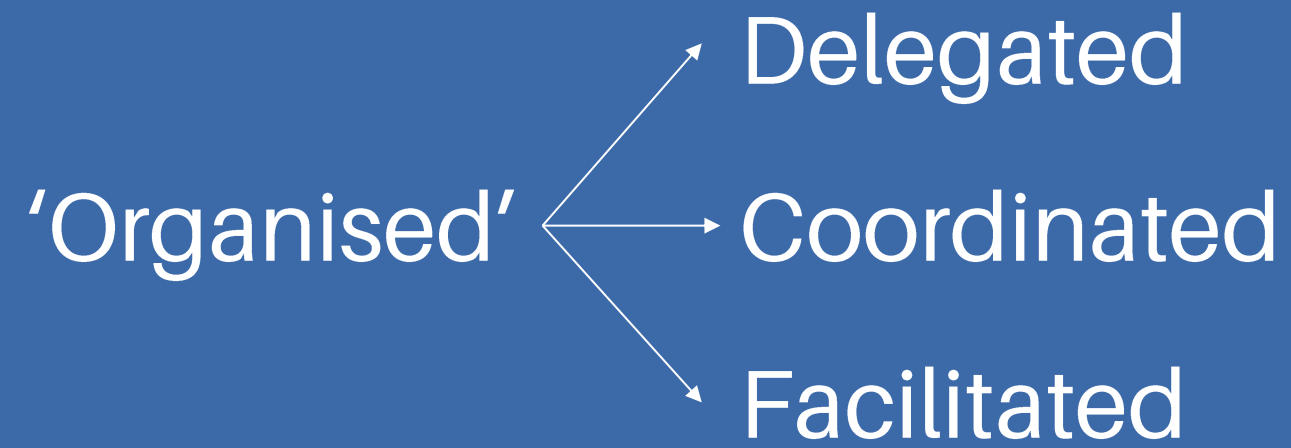
Result

What was the outcome, result or impact?

Tip 1: Be clear about the Action



What did
you do?



What did
you do?

Tip 2: Provide a clear Result

- What was the outcome?
- What were the outputs?
- What was the impact?

%

123

£

Quantitative evidence

- Number of citations
- Number of downloads, views, etc.
- Student feedback (e.g. engagement scores)
- Funding awards
- # of papers reviewed/edited



Qualitative evidence

- Awards, prizes, funding
- Feedback and testimonials (from students, colleagues, collaborators)
- Success stories from those you've supported
- Evidence of peer recognition
- New or continuing collaborations
- Other people using your work

Example

Before:

"I organised the 2024 Conference on Innovative Methods."

After:

"In the second year of my PhD, I co-organised the 2022 Conference on Public Health. In my role as ECR Rep, I suggested that the conference needed to increase its outreach to early career researchers. To do so, I developed the idea for, and chaired, a session aimed specifically at ECRs, which attracted a total of 12 presenters, and which was attended by over 100 ECRs, the largest number of ECRs ever to attend the conference."

The finished product

Each section:

1. Opening sentence, summarising your achievements
2. A selection of your most relevant accomplishments (in CAR format)

Module 1 – Contributions to the generation of new ideas, tools, methodologies or knowledge

One morning, when Gregor Samsa woke from troubled dreams, he found himself transformed in his bed into a horrible vermin. He lay on his armour-like back, and if he lifted his head a little he could see his brown belly, slightly domed and divided by arches into stiff sections. The bedding was hardly able to cover it and seemed ready to slide off any moment. His many legs, pitifully thin compared with the size of the rest of him, waved about helplessly as he looked. "What's happened to me?" he thought. It wasn't a dream. His room, a proper human room although a little too small, lay peacefully between its four familiar walls. A collection of textile samples lay spread out on the table - Samsa was a travelling salesman - and above it there hung a picture that he had recently cut out of an illustrated magazine and housed in a nice, gilded frame. It showed a lady fitted out with a fur hat and fur boa who sat upright, raising a heavy fur muff that covered the whole of her lower arm towards the viewer. Gregor then turned to look out the window at the dull weather. Drops of rain could be heard hitting the pane, which made him feel quite sad. "How about if I sleep a little bit longer and forget all this nonsense", he thought, but that was something he was unable to do because he was used to sleeping on his right, and in his present state couldn't get into that position. However hard he threw himself onto his right, he always rolled back to where he was. He must have tried it a hundred times, shut his eyes so that he wouldn't have to look at the floundering legs, and only stopped when he began to feel a mild, dull pain there that he had never felt before.

Module 2 – Contributions to the development of others and maintenance of effective working relationships

"Oh, God", he thought, "what a strenuous career it is that I've chosen! Travelling day in and day out. Doing business like this takes much more effort than doing your own business at home, and on top of that there's the curse of travelling, worries about making train connections, bad and irregular food, contact with different people all the time so that you can never get to know anyone or become friendly with them. It can all go to Hell!" He felt a slight itch up on his belly; pushed himself slowly up on his back towards the headboard so that he could lift his head better; found where the itch was, and saw that it was covered with lots of little white spots which he didn't know what to make of, and when he tried to feel the place with one of his legs he touched it quickly back because as soon as he touched it he was overcome by a cold shudder. He slid back into his former position. "Getting up early all the time", he thought, "it makes you stupid. You've got to get enough sleep. Other travelling salesmen live a life of luxury. For instance, whenever I go back to the guest house during the morning to copy out the contract, these gentlemen are always still sitting there eating their breakfasts. I ought to just try that with my boss; I'd get kicked out on the spot. But who knows, maybe that would be the best thing for me.

Module 3 – Contributions to the wider research community

If I didn't have my parents to think about I'd have given in my notice a long time ago, I'd have gone up to the boss and told him just what I think, tell him everything I would, let him know just what I feel. He'd fall right off his desk! And it's a funny sort of business to be sitting up there at your desk, talking down at your subordinates from up there, especially when you have to go right up close because the boss is hard of hearing. Well, there's still some hope; once I've got the money together to pay off my parents' debt to him - another five or six years I suppose - that's definitely what I'll do. That's when I'll make the big change. First of all though, I've got to get up, my train leaves at five." And he looked over at the alarm clock, ticking on the chest of drawers. "God in Heaven!" he thought. It was half past six and the

Using the NCV to support career development



Reflecting on
your career



Making the
'case for you'

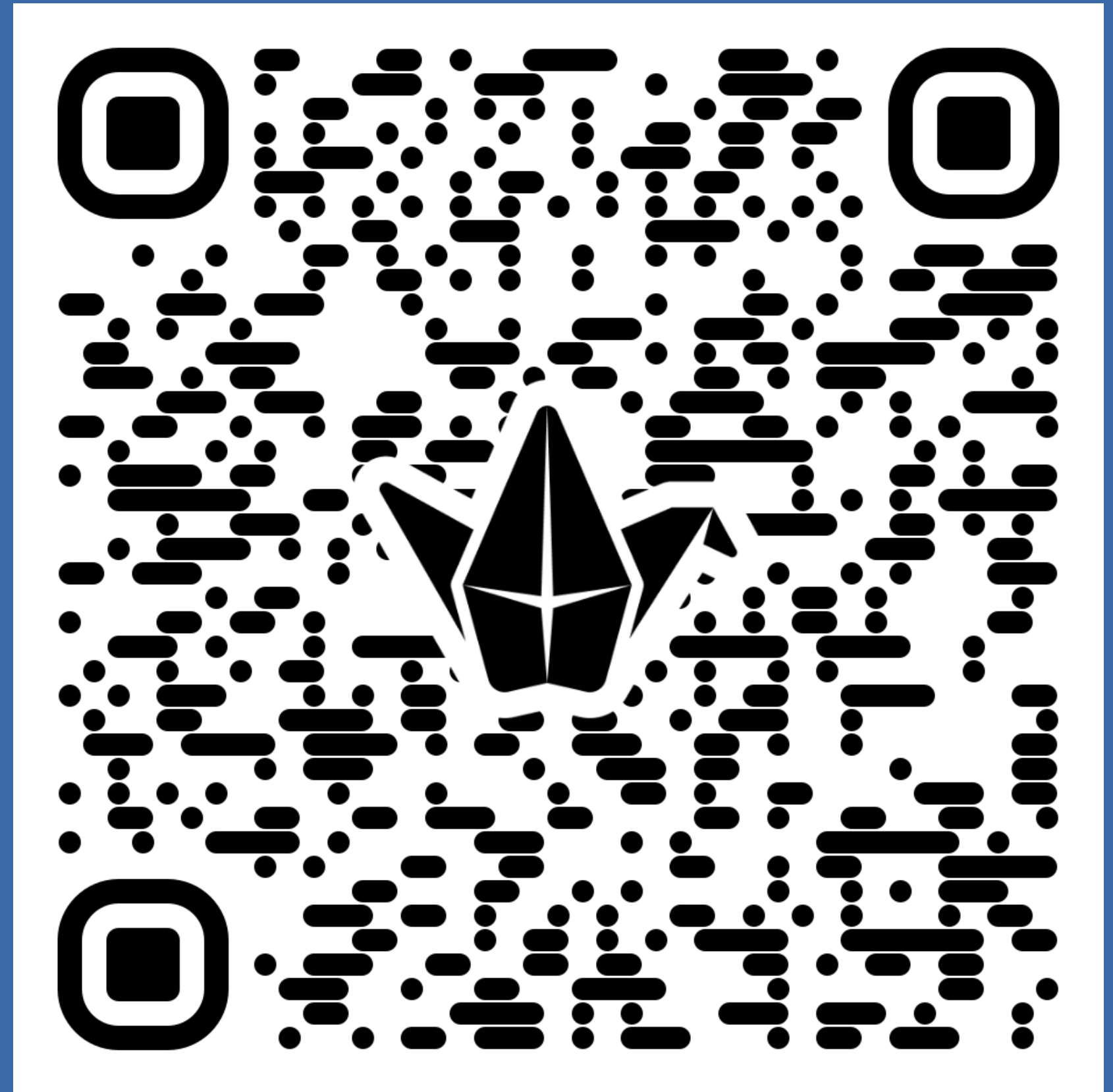


Identifying areas
for development

Resources

Narrative CV Padlet

- Funder templates
- Guidance and advice
- Research
- Opinion pieces



Additional workshop, 4 June

In-person

We'll cover:

1. How to tailor your NCV to specific opportunities
2. Drafting 1 section of your NCV
3. Giving and getting peer review

