The ART of Foresight & Sustainable Futures:
Anticipating, Recommending and Transforming
Research and Innovation Futures

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COURSE:
MIOIR in partnership with VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland LTD

1-5 July 2019
The ART of Foresight & Sustainable Futures: 
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Research and Innovation Futures

Manchester Institute of Innovation Research, as a leading European centre in the use of forward looking tools supporting science, technology and innovation policy-making, has been running an annual foresight training course since 1999. Building on over twenty years of foresight experience, we are able to call upon a wealth of expertise, from staff with know-how of the practice of foresight, as well as from sponsors and practitioners. The course now runs in partnership with VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland, a leading global research and technology development organisation. Future-oriented innovation policy research is a key focus for VTT, supported by the Centre’s competencies in qualitative and quantitative methods.

Need for Foresight and Sustainable Futures
The world is experiencing great uncertainties caused by ever growing social, economic, political, environmental and ethical crises. Many countries, industries and public services face challenging futures where the quest for opportunities is increasingly competitive. Economic discontent has combined with existing political stresses to catch many institutions – and countries - wrong-footed. Meanwhile, globalisation, migration, environmental, political and technological trends are reshaping the rules of the game. This calls for critical reflections on existing assumptions, plans and strategies for the long-term future. Our foresight course explores ways in which decision-makers can address uncertainties. How to produce sound, sustainable and forward looking results and roadmaps that are useful for decision-makers?

Who is it for?
• Business and industry leaders
• Policymakers, analysts, programme sponsors and managers
• Science and research agenda shapers
• Professionals in research and innovation organisations and funding agencies
• Foresight and horizon scanning practitioners

Key topics
Typical topics addressed in the course include:
• Foresight origins, concepts and evolution
• Foresight process, frameworks and fundamentals
• Foresight methodology, methods and approaches
• Horizon scanning tools, techniques and platforms
• Using evidence, expertise, interaction and creativity
• Shaping science, technology and innovation systems
• Forward-looking regional and territorial development
• Supporting research and innovation priority-setting
• Future-oriented sustainable innovation approaches
• Addressing industry needs and societal challenges
• Defining long-term strategies and policy agendas
• Using expert/citizen panels and Delphi surveys
• Analysing trends, wild cards and weak signals
• Developing models, scenarios and roadmaps
• Evaluating foresight processes and impacts
Course contents and practical work

The course consists of a set of interactive lectures reinforced with practical work in groups. During the week, you will design a foresight exercise with a group of participants, supported by facilitators. This will enable you to bring together different elements covered in the course and apply them to a real life case. You will return to your job with:

• immediate tangible benefits,
• hands-on practical experience, and
• know-how on the state-of-the-art of foresight.

Course outcomes

At the end of the course, you will:

• Understand the key rationales for foresight, the building blocks of a foresight process and the main features of a foresight methodology.
• Have gained practical knowledge on the most commonly used foresight and horizon scanning tools, as well as on the key factors influencing the selection and combination of foresight methods.
• Recognise why and how foresight is increasingly being embedded into science, technology and innovation policy-making,
• Be able to design and conduct a foresight exercise from the scoping phase through to the mobilisation of key players to the anticipation, recommendation and transformation of future-oriented outcomes.
• Be able to commission, interpret and use foresight across a wide range of research and innovation areas, industries, sectors, themes and institutional contexts.
• Benefit from the networking and knowledge sharing opportunities with course staff and other participants.

Course staff

Invited speakers and international policy experts also regularly contribute to the course.
Course Overview
Delivered by: Senior staff, invited speakers and international policy experts
Teaching: Lectures, interactive group exercises, case studies, comprehensive group project

Group size: The maximum size is usually not much more than 20 participants.

Location:
Alliance Manchester Business School

Course Costs
Full residential course fee: £2,200 per person
Non-residential fees can be negotiated on application
Discount for early booking: Applications prior to 10/04/2019 the course fees will be reduced to £2,000.

Fee includes
• All course materials,
• Accommodation for five nights.
• Social activities (social dinner and a tour of Manchester)

Full terms and conditions are outlined at our website at http://bit.ly/mcr_eval

How to apply
Please contact the Institute Manager, Debbie Cox (debbie.cox@manchester.ac.uk) who will be able to send you an application form and further details.

The Manchester Institute of Innovation Research is a world-leading centre of excellence in the study of science, technology and innovation policy and management, within the Alliance Manchester Business School at the University of Manchester. With over 50 members, our research, teaching, professional development and engagement activities build on many years of expertise, covering a broad range or expertise and interests across the landscape of innovation.

The Institute’s programme of research combines four interlinked perspectives: we analyse the creation and exploitation of innovation in firms, the dynamics and governance of emerging technologies, the broader long term transitions of socio-technical systems in relation to societal challenges, and the specific role of the state and public sector in these areas. This approach allows us to better understand how science, technology and innovation can contribute to the world around us.

For more information, please contact Professor Rafael Popper for queries on the content of the course, or Institute Manager, Debbie Cox, for other details.
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