# Check list – Are you Collaboration Ready?

One of the main reasons for expanding your networks is to find potential collaborators. Are you doing the things that will naturally build networks and attract potential collaborators? Take a few minutes to reflect on the following ten questions (adapted from the [Vitae Collaborative Researcher Programme)](https://www.vitae.ac.uk/vitae-publications/vitae-library-of-resources/about-vitae-researcher-development-programmes/collaborative-researcher)

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| Do you? | Why? | Checkbox Ticked with solid fill | What will you do? |
| 1. **Provide Clarity**

Could someone in your department (not your PI / boss or a close friend) describe your research / work in simple accurate terms?  | These colleagues will hear about opportunities that they could connect you to. If they can’t describe what you do, they can’t suggest you. |  |  |
| 1. **Translate**

Have you described your research in interesting and relevant terms to someone from a different research area in the last month or two? | This enable you to learn how other disciplines see you, and enables them to see what you could you offer them. |  |  |
| 1. **Be Accessible**

Can you clearly and distinctively explain your research in One Sentence / One Paragraph / One Page to someone not from your discipline? | If you can communicate quickly and clearly, this will build trust and show that you put effort into communicating across disciplines |  |  |
| 1. **Become Recognisable**

Would a key researcher in your field who has attended the same meetings as you in the past be able to identify you by sight? | They will then know you and be more likely to make contact if they see you at an event |  |  |
| 1. **Build your ‘Visibility’**

Does your name or work come up in a web search for your research topic?  | It shows that you have developed a brand and reputation, and you are the first person that people find when they search for an expert |  |  |
| 1. **Identify Ambassadors**

Has your boss/mentor/champion introduced or recommended you to someone? | These people will be asked to recommend collaborators – would they know to recommend you?  |  |  |
| 1. **Be Reliable**

Could your colleagues honestly recommend you as a potential collaborator based on your current performance and track record? | Personal recommendations and reputations mean a lot. |  |  |
| 1. **Be Interested**

Do you make a habit of talking to other researchers (outside your field) about their work and do you find them interesting? | Being curious about another researcher and actively listening to them builds trust, and helps you to effectively position what you can offer to them. |  |  |
| 1. **Tune in**

Have you considered what the main research questions in your field will be in 10 years?  | If you talk about these then others will see you as having vision and will want to engage in your strategy. |  |  |
| 1. **Create Opportunities**

Can you think of **three** possible applications for your expertise outside of HE and your current project? | Do the hard work for others: show them what you offer that would benefit them. |  |  |