

York Graduate Research School newsletter - May 2022

Update from the Dean



May has been a joyful month across the University. First, we had the in-person celebration events for students who graduated online during the pandemic. Feeling the buzz of excitement and happiness amongst our graduates and their families and friends was amazing to experience. Well done to those of you who were celebrating your previous academic achievements!

Then we had the [REF results](#). York has moved into the top 10 in the UK for our research achievements. PGRs made key contributions to our collective success in terms of your research projects, the impacts of your research on wider society and your involvement in creating a dynamic and inclusive research culture. In some departments over 50% of the outputs (publications) submitted to REF were based on PhD research. So, I want to thank you on behalf of the University for being such a creative, committed and innovative group of researchers!

Here at YGRS, we are trying to get to know our PGR community better, so we can better support and empower you. Our first [PGR Forum](#) last month, in partnership with the GSA, seemed (from my point of view) to go well. We discussed a range of topics including Covid-19 mitigations, cost of living rises and accommodation. The GSA and YGRS have taken away a number of actions which we will report back on soon. So, please let your PGR academic reps know if there are University level issues that you think we need to be addressing.

The YGRS team is really grateful to those of you who responded to our requests for information about PGR recruitment and admissions - we are using this to ensure York's policies and processes around recruitment and selection are fair, transparent and inclusive. As always feel free to email YGRS@york.ac.uk to ask questions or provide feedback on any PGR related issues.

Another source of joy this month is that the campus is full of flotillas or parades of baby waterbirds who don't seem fazed by being filmed by staff and students. Whether or not Long Boi is a father was a genuine topic of conversation at a recent staff event - he is huge in the Twitter-verse.

Anyway, I hope that you get time to enjoy the Jubilee bank holidays - although if you are a GTA you might have piles of marking to deal with. My daughter's school is running a Jubilee baking competition this week and she wants to make a 3D corgi cake wearing a biscuit crown.....she has been watching too much GBBO!

Best wishes,
Kate

YGRS and University news

YGRS's ongoing work

The first meeting of the new PGR Experience Committee chaired by [Dr Jason Lynam](#) from Chemistry will be happening later this term. We will be starting to develop a plan of action around a range of issues relating to PGR mental health and wellbeing, as well as other areas such as career development and training.

PGR Policies and Programmes Committee has been looking to strengthen the University's approach to the provision of continuing professional development for PGR supervisors and is about to undertake its annual review and update of the [Policy on Research Degrees](#), which is the policy that underpins all PGR provision at York.

Thank you for sending us your perspectives on the UKRI's consultation on the 'new deal for postgraduate research'. We have woven them into our institutional response, as well as using them to inform our up and coming work at YGRS.

PGR Forum: Roundup from the first meeting

The first PGR Forum took place on Wednesday 27 April and covered topics such as PGR funding, Graduate Teaching Assistant (GTA) contracts, and ongoing support to PGRs whose research has been affected by the Covid pandemic. The minutes are now available (your University login is required). Find out ways you can feed back to the Forum.

- [Find out more about the PGR Forum](#)



Student Centre: What's your opinion?

Wondering about the plans for a new Student Centre? Do you have an opinion on what it should look and feel like? Take a look at our new dedicated web portal for the most up to date information on why we need this building, where it will be and most importantly, how you can get involved.

- [Help shape our new Student Centre](#)

Calling all current BAME postgraduate researchers

York is a lead partner in the Yorkshire Consortium for Equity in Doctoral Education (YCEDE) project. It's a collaboration dedicated to equity at doctoral level with a specific focus on access to doctoral study for graduates from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic backgrounds.

The YCEDE project team is looking for existing BAME PGRs to get involved with their work (most opportunities are paid). If you're from a BAME background and are passionate about equality and diversity then please get in touch: email info@ycede.ac.uk.

- [Calling all BAME PGRs](#)



**Yorkshire Consortium for
Equity in Doctoral Education**

Professional development

Sign up for the European Doctoral Summer School

The annual European Doctoral Summer School will take place online this year on Monday 20 to Thursday 23 June. Organised by the University of York, University of Munster and Maastricht University, the School offers doctoral candidates and postdocs an opportunity to work with colleagues from different institutions, culture and values, in

sessions that will enable you to consider how to maximise your strengths, skills, career prospects and self confidence. The theme for 2022 is Curriculum for life? Unpacking the story of your (research) life. Registration deadline: Wednesday 25 May 2022

- [European Doctoral Summer School](#)

Combatting imposter syndrome

Focusing on the 'Inner Game' of being a researcher, our 'Exploring Resilience and Work-life Balance: Combatting Imposter Syndrome' workshop on Wednesday 13 July will examine the beliefs that help and limit our capabilities, specifically: confidence building and dealing with 'Imposterness'; building personal resilience for handling rejection and criticism; and personal wellbeing and work-life balance.

- [Book your place on the imposter syndrome workshop](#)

Research data management tutorial

All postgraduate researchers have a responsibility to properly manage the data they create, collect or use during the course of their research. Get to grips with the principles and practice of good research data management by completing the RDM 101 online tutorial in the VLE.

- [Research data management tutorial](#)

Support and wellbeing

How to Thrive & Survive your PhD: Upcoming session and volunteers needed!

We're happy to announce the return of our popular [How to Thrive and Survive in Your PhD](#) series of workshops! Run by PhDs for PhDs, Thrive and Survive sessions tackle a variety of themes, with panel and peer-to-peer discussions. The next session on Monday 11 July examines PhD myth busting - book your place now!

The Thrive & Survive programme is peer-led, so we rely on our wonderful Postdoc and PhD volunteers to help run our sessions alongside Georgia Beel, the Thrive & Survive Coordinator. We'd love to have you on board – participate for just one session or more. Email pgr-thriveandsurvive@york.ac.uk for more information.

- [Book your place at the PhD myth busting session](#)

Careers and job opportunities

Career decisions and transitions workshop

Learn how to improve your employability at our online 'Career decisions and transitions' workshop on Wednesday 6 July. Depending on your career goals, we will use tools and techniques to help you assess your skills and interests and identify areas for personal development. We'll also examine the employment market and learn a variety of job seeking strategies.

- [Book your place on the careers workshop](#)

Job opportunity: Research trainees

The Department of Social Policy and Social Work are looking to recruit two research trainees to join their ongoing project exploring how we can use asset-based approaches to support parents with learning disabilities. Application deadline: Monday 30 May

- [Job Opportunity – Two Research Trainees, Department of Social Policy and Social Work](#)

Ten days of CPD

Researchers are typically encouraged to engage in continuing professional development (CPD) activities alongside their own research. For example, one of the key obligations within the principles of the 2019 Concordat for the Career

Development of Researchers is to enable researchers to pursue 10 or more days of CPD each year. Through our membership with Vitae, UoY researchers have free access to an event on Friday 27 May examining what qualifies as CPD for researchers and how can it be championed among different competing priorities?

- [Ten is Zen: Counting 10 days of Continuing Professional Development \(CPD\)](#)

Summer internships

The Student Internship Bureau (SIB) is advertising paid summer internship opportunities with local employers. Some of these are available on a part-time, hybrid working basis so may suit PGRs.

- [Summer internship opportunities](#)

Public engagement activities

3 Minute Thesis: Relive previous finals!

It's less than a month to go until the University of York 3 Minute Thesis final – and what better way to get in the mood than to catch up with the previous UK finals?! Vitae have put together a series of playlists with content from their previous national finals. You'll see a few friendly faces – we're a regular competitor in the national finals! And don't forget to book your place at the York 3MT final on Wednesday 15 June.

- [3 Minute Thesis: Relive previous finals!](#)

News from the Graduate Students' Association

Elections and strategy consultation

Voting is now open for you to choose the new GSA sabbatical officer team for 2022/23. Voting deadline: Thursday 26 May 2022

- [GSA elections: voting now open](#)

The GSA has launched a student consultation campaign to inform its new three-year strategy. Win vouchers for completing the survey.

- [GSA launches strategy research project](#)



Recent opportunities on the blog:

- [Current UoY teaching opportunities](#)
- [Become a Brilliant Club tutor](#)
- [York Festival of Ideas 2022 – programme and free tickets available](#)

All these news items and more can be found on the [Research Student Community blog](#)

www.york.ac.uk/YGRS

Sent this in error? Email: ygrs@york.ac.uk