

## York Graduate Research School newsletter - November 2022

### Update from the Dean



A highlight this month was our [PGR Forum](#) which we run jointly with the GSA. I spend much of my time in meetings discussing policies and strategies so the PGR reps forum was a welcome reminder of who I am tasked with representing and supporting. What an amazing bunch of researchers and communicators! They articulated the concerns and questions of PGRs to myself and other staff responsible for delivering key services. The cost, quality and availability of accommodation is a fundamental issue for all York students but we know our PGRs tend to be older and have partners, families and different needs compared with undergrads. There are no quick solutions, but I think that we are gaining traction in making the case for PGR-specific accommodation planning.

Another highlight was being part of a team that won [York's Inclusive Impact award for partnerships](#): YGRS is leading the Yorkshire Consortium for Equity in Doctoral Education (YCEDE), which aims to increase access to postgraduate research to UK black, Asian and minority ethnic candidates across five Yorkshire Universities. YCEDE has been consulting widely on how we can support current PGRs and we are using this information to develop a programme of activities. The first is a [targeted mentoring scheme](#). Also, YGRS is looking to widely promote our [YGRS PhD scholarships](#) which are open to UK black, Asian and minority ethnic applicants. We are running two webinars about how to apply so please pass on this information to your friends or colleagues who are potentially interested in doing a funded PhD degree at York.

Finally, YGRS has just launched a new programme of [training and professional development for PGR supervisors](#). There will now be a mandatory requirement for PGR supervisors to complete an online tutorial every three years. Just as being a PGR has become more complex over the last decade, so has being a PGR supervisor. When I did my PhD (many many moons ago!), supervisors really were only expected to provide occasional advice on doing research and comment on manuscripts. Now we (and you) expect PGR supervisors to signpost to careers, mental health advice, public engagement, research integrity, etc, in addition to overseeing the production of PhD level research. Hopefully, our new suite of training, workshops and communities of practice will support supervisors to support you even better whilst reducing their workloads. That's the ambition anyway! Feel free to let us know your thoughts on this and anything in this newsletter either directly via [ygrs@york.ac.uk](mailto:ygrs@york.ac.uk) or via your PGR rep.

Best wishes,  
Kate

### YGRS and University news

#### PGR Forum

The latest [PGR Forum](#) took place recently, with academic reps raising questions about accommodation, provision for students with children, as well as issues faced by Graduate Teaching Assistants. The minutes of the meeting will be available in due course.

#### Cost of living support

We know that the cost of living is a major concern at the moment. Check our [cost of living hub](#) for all the ways the

University is supporting students.

### **YGRS Scholarships open**

As part of a coordinated plan to increase diversity and inclusion among our PGR community, YGRS is offering up to six fully-funded PhD scholarships for UK candidates who self-identify as being from a Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic background. [Find out about the YGRS Scholarships.](#)

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## **Support and wellbeing**

### **Bespoke mentoring programme for UK black, Asian and minority ethnic PGRs**

The Yorkshire Consortium for Equity in Doctoral Education (YCEDE) is pleased to announce the launch of our first Postgraduate Researcher (PGR) mentoring programme. The purpose of this programme is to provide PGRs with a trained mentor with whom they are able to have supportive, non-judgemental conversations about their experiences of postgraduate research and their professional and career development. Register by Friday 2 December. [Sign up for the mentoring programme.](#)

### **How to thrive and survive in your PhD – Work/life balance**

The latest peer to peer support session in our 'How to thrive and survive in your PhD' series takes place online on Thursday 1 December. Current PhD students and postdocs will share how to keep a good work/life balance throughout your studies. [Book your place at this support session.](#)

### **New PGR? Apply for a buddy**

We've re-opened applications for new postgraduate researchers to be matched with a buddy in our popular PGR Buddy Scheme! Your buddy will help you settle into the York research experience, provide a friendly welcome and help you to get to know the University and the city of York. Application deadline: Wednesday 31 January 2023. [Apply for a buddy.](#)

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## **Researcher development**

### **Research data management 101**

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.

### **York Open Research Skills Framework & Open Access Fund**

The Open Research Team are pleased to share the York Open Research Skills Framework. It provides an accessible guide to help researchers navigate the values, benefits and practicalities of embedding open research in their work. It also signposts the support provided by our open research community of practice and includes good practice examples and case studies from a range of disciplines across the University. [Find out more about the framework and the Open Access Fund.](#)

### **Academic Skills Community update**

Find out about the [practical guides, workshops and one-to-one appointments](#) available with the Academic Skills Community.

### **Funding for language courses**

Many bursaries are available to postgraduate students to cover the costs of a short Languages For All course. Application deadline: Monday 9 January. [Find out about bursaries to fund short LFA language courses.](#)

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## Careers

### Free online course: Career Management for Early Career Academic Researchers

The Career Management for Early Career Academic Researchers MOOC has re-opened and will be available to all researchers until July 2023. This online course is designed specifically for research students and staff who are exploring their career options and preparing for the next stage in their career, whether in academia or beyond. [Sign up for the career management MOOC.](#)

### Job opportunity at STEM Learning, York

STEM Learning Ltd, based on the University of York campus, is advertising for an Evaluation Coordinator. They would like to encourage applicants who are soon to complete their PhD to apply, particularly if they are working in a social research, education or related subject. [Find out more about the role.](#)

## PGR public engagement activities

### PhD Spotlight competition opens

We're looking for 10 PhD Students to take part in a live event, where you'll create a display or interactive experience that communicates your research to the public in creative and accessible ways. As well as the opportunity to showcase your research, your display will be judged by an experienced panel, with the top 3 receiving a prize! Application deadline Sunday 11 December. [Enter the PhD Spotlight competition.](#)

## Teaching

### GTAs: Tell us about your training needs

The Academic Practice Team is currently reviewing GTA support, training, and professional development at either University wide, faculty, or departmental level. We would therefore be grateful if all PGRs interested in teaching and learning in Higher Education would [complete a GTA Training Needs Survey](#) to support us in this review.

### Introduction to Teaching and Learning training

For PGRs who want to teach, the Academic Practice Team welcomes you to book onto the Introduction to Teaching and Learning course. It covers key aspects of HE teaching and learning, such as marking and planning your teaching, and will help build your confidence to teach as a GTA. [Find out about our Introduction to Teaching and Learning.](#) You can also find out more about [teaching at York](#) on the YGRS web pages.

### Teach with the Maths Skills Centre

The Maths Skills Centre is advertising for Graduate Teaching Assistants with no fixed deadline. If they have applications and no vacancy, they will hold your application on file until a position becomes available. [Register to teach with the Maths Skills Centre.](#)

## News from the Graduate Students' Association

### GSA vacation events

GSA events over the vacation period include a Christmas Pottery and Prosecco session on Tuesday 6 December and a Christmas Chill and Chat on Wednesday 14 December. At the Chill and Chat, there will be food, Christmas crafts and a Secret Santa.



Find out more about the [GSA vacation events.](#)

## Recent opportunities on the blog:

- [Share your research at the Student Sustainability Research Conference 2023](#)
- [Applications now open: 2023 L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science UK & Ireland Rising Talent Programme](#)
- [The Urgency of Global Climate Action – 2022 Fulbright Distinguished Lecture](#)

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

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[www.york.ac.uk/YGRS](http://www.york.ac.uk/YGRS)

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