

York Graduate Research School newsletter - 25 January 2023

Brief update from the Dean



Last week was a busy, inspiring and joyful one with graduation and the [inauguration of our new Chancellor, Dr Heather Melville OBE](#). Heather is a long term collaborator and friend to YGRS, so we know what an amazing force for change she is. And we are ready to meet her challenge! At her inauguration dinner, the actor Colin Salmon, who received an honorary degree from York, gave an impromptu, rap-style performance of a poem about equity of opportunities which finished with the line ‘...and no child should be left behind’. Not a dry eye in the room.... and the perfect start to a new era at York.

In a week of many highlights, Friday morning’s graduation ceremony was amazing. One of our PhD candidates in the Politics Department, [Fawzia Ehsani gave the most inspiring and heartfelt oration at her MA graduation](#). Fawzia, a former Deputy Minister in the Afghan Government, had to flee Afghanistan in search of safety and education here in York. She continues to fight for the right to education for women and girls in Afghanistan. She received a standing ovation from her classmates and the University community which shows how deeply we care about supporting staff, PGRs and students who are refugees and asylum seekers.

Best wishes,
Kate

YGRS and University news

PhD Spotlight: the winners

Congratulations to our winners in the [PhD Spotlight competition, held as part of YorkTalks 2023](#). Joint first prize was Josephine Flockton and Megan Wright, who communicated their research on ‘Tapping into ASMR: The neural mechanism and analgesic potential of the Autonomous Sensory Meridian Response’ and ‘Are You an Adult? The psychological qualities of adult development’ respectively. Megan also picked up the People’s Choice prize. Third prize went to Rosario Neyra for ‘Can I help you? Offers of help by craft teachers’.

PhD students on BBC Radio 4 this week

A play written by two UoY PhD researchers aired on BBC Radio 4 this week. *Back Home* highlights the ongoing issues of the ivory trade, with a focus on bringing the lesser-heard voices of African communities to the fore. [Find out more about the play](#).

Support and wellbeing

Reminder: 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, including the Student Support Fund.

New PGRs: Sign up for a buddy

We're looking forward to meeting new PGRs in the YGRS induction event this afternoon (Wednesday 25 January). Don't forget that all new PGRs can [apply for a buddy](#) to help you settle into research life at York.

26 Jan: Making the most of your PhD

Although your PhD work is your priority, getting involved with activities beyond your own research can be beneficial for your employability, professional development and your mental health and wellbeing. This workshop will highlight a range of activities and opportunities that will help you to expand your experience and transferable skills. [Book your place](#).

30 Jan: Thriving and surviving your PhD journey

Meet fellow PGRs and ask questions about PhD life, work and expectations in the next session of the peer-led 'Thrive and Survive in your PhD' programme. All are welcome. [Book your place](#).

Researcher development

26 Jan: What is Open Research and why does it matter?

A session examining what open research means and how it benefits research across a range of disciplines. We'll look at various methods that can help open up the research lifecycle, how open research is supported at York, and where further help and guidance can be found. [Book your place](#).

2 Feb: It's all in the presentation: Creating and presenting your slides

PowerPoint and Google Slides include many under-exploited features that can help the creation of more effective presentations and other resources. This session explores the use of template design, and working with animations and other media. We'll also look at how to source and evidence the information you include in your presentations. [Book your place](#).

Careers

31 Jan: Career Planning: Discover your strengths

This workshop encourages individuals to make the most of their strengths rather than focusing on their weaknesses, which can lead to a more positive and resilient mindset. You'll identify your unique strengths and consider how to develop them further, and how these strengths can support your career choices. [Book your place](#).

7 Feb: Career Planning: Understanding your personality

Understanding your personality is a key part of planning for a successful career. Join us to identify your personality preferences, understand how your preferences work in different workplace situations, and consider the kinds of work and activities that will best suit your personality. [Book your place](#).

8 Feb: Academic Careers: What's involved?

This session will provide an opportunity to gain a better understanding of the roles and responsibilities involved in an academic career (including research, teaching, and academic citizenship/administration). Like most careers, there are many elements that make up a career in academia, and specific skills are required to succeed in what can be a very competitive environment. [Book your place](#).

Teaching

Work with the Centre for Lifelong Learning

The Centre for Lifelong Learning is planning its 2023/24 programme and would welcome the opportunity to work with members of departments, and in particular postgraduates, to develop new course ideas and teaching opportunities. Previous teaching experience within higher education is required. [Find out more about suggesting course ideas.](#)

News from the Graduate Students' Association

What could you do with £1000?

The GSA is offering funding of £1000 for at least four community building projects designed to specifically benefit the postgraduate student community at York. Applications are welcome from individual students, networks and societies. [Find out about the Postgraduate Community Fund.](#)



Funding to attend GSA events

Created in collaboration with YuFund, the [Postgraduate Events Hardship Fund](#) is for postgraduates who are struggling to attend GSA events due to financial constraints.

Events and opportunities:

- [British Library PhD Placement Scheme](#)
- [Postgraduate Pedagogies Journal: Call for artwork](#)

More news and opportunities can be found on the [Research Student Community blog](#)

[YGRS newsletter archive](#)

www.york.ac.uk/YGRS

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