

York Graduate Research School newsletter - 4 May 2023

Update from the Dean



May is a month that is both energising and exciting, but so full that I don't know how I am going to fit it all in. A big highlight for me at the moment is the privilege of interviewing applicants for various PhD scholarships. The range of research projects and inspiring life stories that we get to hear about is extraordinary.

If you are preparing for a career interview or wondering about 'what next' then I can recommend getting in touch with [Careers and Placements](#), which has a dedicated postgraduate adviser, Janice Simpson. There are also lots of internships and other opportunities to develop your career plans coming up - see our careers section below.

Welcome to our three new staff members in YGRS. Current PGRs at York, [Samir Belgacem](#) and [Zulfiya Hamzaki](#), are carrying out research for us on how interviews and reference letters are used in PGR recruitment and selection. Also, Dr [Alice Stamataki](#) will be joining us to develop York's support for PGR applicants transitioning from taught programmes or work to the wonderful world of postgraduate research. Our expanded team will help YGRS to deliver on our ambitions to further diversify York's exciting and dynamic PGR community.

Thanks to all of you who filled out PRES - YGRS and academic departments value your input. Once we get back York's results, we will share with you and consult with PGR reps on responses and actions.

Finally, I won't be swearing allegiance to the King this weekend, but the extra bank holiday is appreciated. Enjoy your time off this month!

Best wishes,
Kate

YGRS and University news

Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who filled in the [Postgraduate Research Experience Survey \(PRES\)](#). The survey has now closed and we'll receive the outcomes over the summer. We'll let you know our recommendations for action in the autumn.

Welcome to our new Thrive & Survive Coordinator

A very warm welcome to our [new Thrive & Survive Coordinator Zara Stubbs](#). Zara is a 2nd year PhD Researcher in English and Related Literature and will run our peer support workshops throughout the year. Sign up for our next session [Managing Research Obstacles: Staying on Track Your Way](#) on Wednesday 31 May.

Come to the York Festival of Ideas

York Festival of Ideas returns from 2 to 15 June with an eclectic programme featuring over 150 free in-person and online events. This year's Festival invites you to 'Rediscover, Reimagine, Rebuild', and promises to educate, entertain and inspire with an array of talks, concerts, exhibitions, family activities, panel discussions, and more. It also features our very own Three Minute Thesis! [See our festival highlights and book your tickets](#).

Support and wellbeing

Get involved with our Thrive & Survive peer support programme

Contribute to the vibrant research community at York by getting involved as a panellist in a forthcoming How to Thrive & Survive in your PhD session. [Learn more about getting involved with the Thrive & Survive peer support programme.](#)

PGR wellbeing in research and learning workshops

The White Rose Social Science Doctoral Training Partnership is running a range of online courses centred around wellbeing specifically in the context of postgraduate learning and research. [See the schedule and book your place.](#)

Creativity Lab digital wellbeing sessions

The Creativity Lab is running a series of [digital wellbeing sessions](#) for all York students and researchers throughout May. These sessions offer some fun and informal downtime.

Free food events for postgraduates

Wentworth College hosts [free food events three times per week for postgraduates](#). Whether you fancy meeting others for a cup of tea and a scone on a Monday afternoon, a crumpet and some fruit on Tuesday morning, or a more substantial jacket potato lunch or soup on a Thursday, it's a good opportunity to meet other postgraduates and fuel your research.

Researcher development

European Doctoral Summer School bookings open

Organised by the Universities of York, Munster and Maastricht, the European Doctoral Summer School offers doctoral candidates 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. [See the European Doctoral Summer School programme and book your place.](#)

It's Fellowship Fortnight

Fellowship Fortnight is taking place until Friday 12 May. Whether you know nothing about early career Fellowships, already hold a Fellowship, or support those applying for a Fellowship, there is something here for you. See the [Fellowship Fortnight](#) event schedule and view our [Fellowships Playlist](#) of videos offering an introduction to Early Career Fellowships.

16 May - Microsoft Word: Academic documents

Find out how to use Microsoft Word to produce material to a professional standard in our forthcoming [Microsoft Word: Academic documents session](#). We'll focus on how to add outline headings, tables of contents and also how to make your document accessible. We'll also look at using some automated tools to make your life easier.

17 May - How to prepare a presentation

An introduction to various presentation styles focusing on the importance of structure and the best use of visual aids as well as hints and tips on how to combat nerves. Book onto the [How to Prepare a Presentation session](#).

Careers

Help us review careers support for postgraduate researchers

The Careers and Placements team are offering a [paid internship to carry out a research project this summer](#) in order to understand more about how postgraduate researchers approach career planning, their views on the careers and employability provision at York, and whether the pandemic and changing labour market has had an impact on their career decision making. Apply by Monday 8 May.

Part-time summer internships

Careers and Placements are advertising a number of paid summer York Internships open to students at all levels of study. They are project-based and some offer part-time and hybrid working options. [Find out more about summer internships.](#)

17 May - Making the most of your PhD

Getting involved with activities beyond your own research can be beneficial for your employability, professional development and your wellbeing. Our [Making the most of your PhD session](#) will highlight a range of activities and opportunities that will help you to expand your experience and transferable skills, whether you are considering a career in academia or other sectors.

18 May - Career planning: Understanding your personality

Discover your personality preferences using the Myers Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI) and understand the impact that different preferences can have in considering the types of work activity and environment that would satisfy your preference. Book onto the [Understanding your personality session.](#)

Teaching

Introduction to Teaching and Learning Training: booking now

If you want to teach as a GTA, book now onto the Introduction to Teaching and Learning training. 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. The training comprises a self-study component (to complete before the workshop) and a two hour in-person workshop. [Find out more and book your place.](#)

News from the Students' Unions

Your chance to shape the new Students' Union

It's your last chance to give your feedback about the merger of our two Students' Unions to form one union. [Let us know what you want from a new Students' Union](#) and be in with a chance of winning £100.



Nominate yourself for the GSA Sabbatical Officer team 2023/24

Sabbatical Officers lead your postgraduate union and represent postgrads in meetings with the University of York. Becoming a Sabbatical Officer is one of the most rewarding and fulfilling experiences you can have. Check out the [GSA Elections page](#) for more information, or to nominate yourself.

Excellence Awards

Nominations for the 2023 YUSU Excellence Awards are now open. These awards recognise staff members across the university in nine categories - including PhD Supervisor of the Year and a Sustainability Champion category. [Submit your Excellence Awards nominations.](#)

Events and opportunities:

- [Emerging Researchers' Forum: call for contributors](#)
- [National Postdoc Conference 2023 – call for abstracts](#)

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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