

York Graduate Research School newsletter - 8 September 2023

Update from the Dean



Just back from my summer holidays, so not much to report! Many thanks to all of you who filled out the Postgraduate Research Experience Survey (PRES) - this survey runs every couple of years and allows departments and the university to celebrate what is working and make improvements to PGR related activities that are less effective. YGRS is now working with departments and teams to make the changes needed to ensure that your experience as current PGRs is even better in the future.

We are looking for your input into tackling bullying and harassment - please think about participating and contributing to the creation of a better research culture. Colleagues in the Department of Education are looking for input into a project that will be feeding into changes at the University (see below).

Finally, we are looking forward to welcoming new PGRs (PhD, MPhil and Masters by Research candidates) at the start of the ~~term~~ semester - we have a sparkly new format for the [YGRS induction](#) on 4 October. If you haven't been to a central PGR induction - then you are very welcome to join us. And please encourage new PGRs and supervisors in your department to come along to hear about all the support available to PGRs and network over refreshments.

Best wishes,
Kate

YGRS and University news

New postgraduate researcher? Here's how to get started

We welcome lots of new postgraduate researchers (PGRs) in the coming weeks. If you're joining us, or if you started recently, take a look at [YGRS information for new postgraduate researchers](#).

- See the at-a-glance checklist for what you need to do on our [welcome pages for new postgraduates](#)
- [Sign up for a buddy](#)
- [Sign up for the University of York induction event for new postgraduate researchers hosted by YGRS](#) on 4 October 2023

Celebrating our Postgraduate Research Experience Survey (PRES) results

We have received our 2023 Postgraduate Research Experience Survey (PRES) results. PRES surveys all our PGRs and asks you to rank your experience. Our response rate of 44% was above average within the sector so thanks to all of you who completed the survey! The PRES results indicate that York continues to provide an excellent experience for its postgraduate researchers. York's ranking increased from 26 to 19 (out of 100 institutions) for overall experience. [Find out more about the PRES results](#).

Understanding sexual harassment and bullying in research culture

The Department of Education is working with YGRS to conduct research to understand the experiences of sexual harassment and bullying, and how it impacts research culture at the University. It aims to develop a resource for PGRs to use and encourage a positive research culture. Participants will get a £20 Amazon voucher. This is open to PGRs

from the UK (home student status) who identify as racially minoritised. Please email sahana.arunkumar@york.ac.uk for more information.

Steps to anti-racism

We're aiming for at least one in ten of our community - students and staff - to complete the 'Union Black: Britain's Black cultures & steps to anti-racism' training by 1 October, in time for the start of Black History Month 2023. The training is organised by Santander Universities UK in partnership with the Open University. Developed in response to Universities UK's 'Tackling racial harassment in higher education' report, the course has been designed to drive cultural change across the higher education sector. [Find out more about the Union Black module.](#)

Support and wellbeing

Win one of 50 research grants worth £1,000 each

Santander is providing the opportunity to win one of 50 research grants. The £1,000 grants will be awarded by random selection - you just need to fill in a quick application form to capture a brief personal profile and research area. [Find out more about the Santander Universities Research Grants.](#)

Researcher development

Professional Development in 2023/24

The [Building Research and Innovation Capacity \(BRIC\) Team](#) is still a few weeks away from publishing the Professional Development and Skills Programme for 2023/24. We'll send out further notice when everything is finalised - however in the meantime, many of our sessions are already available to book on [SkillsForge](#). We're excited to be offering a number of new and pilot sessions this academic year, and are looking forward to supporting you all in your research and professional development!

Careers

Job opportunity at The York Policy Engine

The York Policy Engine (TYPE) is the University of York's specialist policy engagement unit. It connects people, ideas and evidence to drive policy change in the pursuit of public good. TYPE is offering an exciting [opportunity to fund up to 6 Policy Associates in 2023/24](#). Application deadline: 14 September 2023

Teaching

New for 2023/24: Student Check-In

The University is introducing a new digital student engagement tool to improve student welfare and wellbeing. Taught students will be asked to 'check-in' at the start of teaching sessions involving a code generated by teaching staff. This will then enable early identification of students who may be experiencing difficulties and allow us to promptly reach out to students who may require additional assistance. If you're teaching this academic year, [see our staff Check-In pages for more information on how to generate class codes.](#)

Introduction to Teaching and Learning: bookings open for autumn

Our [Introduction to Teaching and Learning training](#) is open for booking. If you're planning to teach as a Graduate Teaching Assistant at York, you need to complete this training once. [Find out more about teaching at York.](#)

PGR public engagement activities

The York Researcher Festival: Call for contributions and expressions of interest

The [York Researcher Festival](#) is back for 2023, and will be held on 6-10 November. We're currently accepting expressions of interest from all researchers who are interested in running a session. If you have experience that you'd like to share with the research community, or would be interested in promoting wellbeing/community building, then please email bric@york.ac.uk by 15 September with your idea. The programme and registrations will be published in October.

News from the Graduate Students' Association

Postgraduate Welcome 2023

All - not just new PGRs - are welcome to join in the welcome activities for new postgraduates as the new academic year begins. Highlights from the GSA include:

- Mon 11 Sep: GSA Welcome Night - with free pizza and drink voucher included
- Wed 13 Sep: GSA Information Fair - find out about sports clubs, societies and postgraduate networks you can join
- Wed 13 Sep: Postgraduate Welcome Reception and Talk with the Vice Chancellor

[See all welcome 2023 postgraduate events](#)



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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