

York Graduate Research School newsletter - 9 February 2023

Update from the Dean



Last week I had the pleasure of meeting up with some of our [YGRS PhD scholarship](#) holders. Over (more than one slice of) cake and coffee, we discussed their research plans and how they are settling into York. Two of them, [Rose](#) and [Butshilo](#), have been featured as Humans of York - so you can find out a bit more about them and their fascinating research. But this wasn't just a cosy chat and I was honoured that our scholarship holders shared some of their more negative experiences. The University has made some bold commitments to diversity and equity, so it is right that our community holds the institution and each other to account. I encourage you to check out [Race Equality Week](#) events and activities, including the Race Equality Matters 5 day challenge, and to sign up for the Union Black anti-racism training.

This week I have been at the Board of Studies for one of our PGR degree programmes (again baked goods were a feature) and heard about some of the amazing professional development workshops available to you. As someone who is still struggling to finish a paper (to be fair I have made progress since I last mentioned this), I am intrigued by [virtual writing retreats](#). Normally sitting in silence on a group Zoom call feels odd and uncomfortable, but my colleagues in [BRIC](#) tell me that it really works. Introducing some accountability and structure into my academic writing would be helpful!

This month we are holding our [PGR Forum](#), a joint initiative with the GSA. If there are issues that you think need to be tackled at a University-wide level, then let your reps or the GSA know. We can then bring the right people round the table to try to come up with a way forward. Recent issues tackled (and ones that we will continue to keep highlighting) include accommodation needs of PGRs, GTA contracts and the [cost of living](#). No quick fixes, but we will keep chipping away.

Best wishes,
Kate

YGRS and University news

PGR Forum: contact your academic reps

The third meeting of the PGR Forum will be on Tuesday 21 February 2023. Contact your PGR academic rep if there are any areas that you'd like to see discussed at the Forum. [Find out more about the PGR Forum](#).

Coming soon: Postgraduate Research Experience Survey

The Postgraduate Research Experience Survey (PRES) is a national survey of postgraduate researchers and a chance for you to have your say on your experience at York. We really value your feedback and it does make a difference at both University and departmental level. You'll find out soon about how you can take part.

YGRS committees round up

The PGR Experience Committee this week continued its focus on how we can develop PGR training and careers support. PGR Policies and Programmes Committee will be looking at how PGRs contributed to the recent successful REF results and also considering issues relating to PGR assessment (including the corrections period and the impact of AI).

Industrial action update

You'll find [dates and information about the latest Industrial action](#) on the website.

Scams: please be vigilant against unexpected phone calls or emails

We've received reports of international students in other institutions being targeted in a scam where a caller claims to be an official and informs the student there are visa-related or other issues and they need to transfer funds to the police for a number of days. Scammers target anyone - please [check out current scams we're aware of and what you can do to protect yourself](#).

Race Equality Week

The theme for Race Equality Week 2023 is 'It's Everyone's Business' - a reminder that tackling race inequality is a shared responsibility for all of us. We're encouraging everyone in our community to [come to Race Equality Week events](#), take part in the Race Equality Matters five day challenge and complete the Union Black: Britain's Black cultures and steps to anti-racism module.

Sexual Abuse and Sexual Violence Awareness Week 2023

[Sexual Abuse and Sexual Violence Awareness Week 2023 events and activities](#) focus on information and support on issues such as stalking and harassment. You can also find out more about how to support someone who discloses to you.

Next week: One Planet Week

One Planet Week, our week-long sustainability event, is coming up next week. Find out about efforts at rewilding on Campus East, join our Live Cooking Demo, take a guided non-native tree trail walk around campus one lunchtime, or join 'The Oil Machine' film screening. There's lots to get involved in! [See One Planet Week events and activities](#).

Support and wellbeing

YGRS Conference Fund

Self-funded PGRs can apply to the [YGRS Conference Fund](#) to attend research training events when other funding options have been exhausted. The closing date for the next round of funding is midnight on 1 March 2023.

Virtual writing retreats

Our online retreats give you time, peace, and space to fend off procrastination and beat writer's block. Each session provides a friendly and constructive environment in which to meet like-minded peers, discuss challenges and work in a focused way. [View upcoming virtual writing retreats](#).

Emerging Researchers Forum

Join the Emerging Researchers Forum for two new peer discussion events this term on preparing for submission and demystifying the viva (17 Feb) and tips and tricks of how to disseminate research to non-expert colleagues (3 Mar). [Find out more about the ERE](#).

Postgraduate Room in the Library feedback

The Library has recently made some changes to the Postgraduate Study Room and we would really value your feedback and comments. We want to gain a better understanding of how postgraduates study and use the postgraduate study room in the Morrell library and the study lounge in the Fairhurst building. Can you spare a few

minutes to [complete the Postgraduate Study Room survey?](#)

NEW: Housing Hub

Our new Housing Hub is here to support anyone struggling with issues related to private sector accommodation. With drop-ins on Wednesdays and Thursdays, the Housing Hub can help with issues such as contracts/tenancy agreements, landlord disputes, deposits and disrepair. [Find out about the new Housing Hub.](#)

Researcher development

Creativity Lab: free 3D printing, podcasting and more

Want to learn more about how you can use new and emerging technologies in your research? Check out the Creativity Lab's exciting programme of workshops, masterclasses and drop-in sessions in areas such as 3D printing, VR, podcasting, video editing and more. Events are free, informal and open to all. [Find out more about what you can explore with the Creativity Lab.](#)

14 Feb: What is Open Research and why does it matter?

Join this online session to learn about the benefits and methods of opening up your research, and the support you can receive from the Open Research Team to achieve this. [Book on the Open Research workshop.](#)

16 Feb: Copyright for researchers: protecting your own work and re-using other people's

This workshop is aimed at researchers from any discipline who are preparing material for a thesis or scholarly publication. Participants in this session will explore the legal terms and licences which permit the re-use of third party materials, consider strategies for requesting additional permissions and review the licences available for releasing your own material. [Book on the copyright workshop.](#)

Careers

14 Feb: Careers outside academia: exploring options

Whether you're just generally considering your career options, or actively want to pursue a career outside academia, this session will look at a variety of careers and help you make informed decisions about your career. [Book on the 'Careers outside academia' event.](#)

20 Feb: Careers and Employability for PGRs: Academia and Beyond

This YCEDE event looks at how a PhD can benefit your career aspirations in academia and industry, how to maximise opportunities, enhance employability during your doctorate and pursue a career after your PhD. [Book your place at the YCEDE online careers event.](#)

23 Feb: Career planning: developing your career plan

An interactive workshop where you will be guided through identifying the steps you need to take to create a career action plan for yourself. The workshop will combine presentations with small group/paired discussion and private reflection time. [Book your place at the career planning workshop.](#)

Have an idea for a business?

Join the Explore Enterprise programme for the basics of starting your own business, from idea generation to a pitching competition with the chance to win £100. You don't need to already have a business idea or experience to join - just an interest in starting up a business or a concept you would like to make a reality. [Book on the five week Explore Enterprise programme.](#)

Teaching

Professional development for GTAs

Applications for York Learning and Teaching Award (YLTA) and York Academic and Professional Development (YPAD) Scheme are currently open. YLTA is a part-time, taught course to support GTAs develop as university teachers. GTAs with more teaching experience who do not wish to complete a taught course might instead be interested in applying for professional recognition only via YPAD. [Find out more about GTA development opportunities.](#)

News from the Graduate Students' Association

Simon Poulding Prize for LGBTQ+ rights and activities

The Simon Poulding Prize for LGBTQ+ Rights/Activities is open to staff and students within STEM departments who have demonstrated notable achievement in or promotion of LGBTQ+ rights or activities during the past 12 months. [Find out more about the prize.](#)



Come to the GSA Mid-Year Ball

The GSA Postgraduate Mid-Year Ball is an evening of fine dining and dancing at a historic venue in the centre of York. Tickets include a welcome drink, a three-course dinner and private access to the 14th-century Hospitium and museum gardens. [Book your Mid-Year Ball tickets.](#)

Celebrating our PGRs

Computer Vision scientist honoured with India UK Achievers award

A University of York computer science PhD student has been recognised for her role in using science to create positive social impact. [Find out how Meghna Asthana was selected as one of the 75 India UK Achievers award winners.](#)

PGR research on Winterwatch

Hull York Medical School [PhD student Kim Chandler had their work presented on BBC's Winterwatch](#) last month. The research is behind a new initiative recruiting help from UK school children to analyse dietary factors affecting the decline of the native Red Squirrel. [Find out about the research.](#)

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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