

## York Graduate Research School newsletter - 12 January 2024

### Update from the Dean



Happy New Year to all of you! I am back from a full two weeks of doing no work. It was bliss! Now, I just need to wean myself off mince pies and naps.

This week, I had the pleasure of attending [YorkTalks and the PhD Spotlight](#) competition. Congratulations to everyone who was involved - there was fantastic engagement and feedback from the general public and campus colleagues!

January can seem a bleak month but YGRS has another motivating community event on the 24 January - our [induction event](#) for new PGRs and their supervisors. A chance to learn about the support you will get at York and to meet other PGRs over a warm beverage.

There might be some freebies on offer, judging by the last induction event! See also all the [fun things that GSA are organising for PGs](#) - Noughties Pub Quiz anyone?

As you know, YGRS is committed to creating a diverse and inclusive PGR community at York. As part of this, we are offering up to six [PhD scholarships for UK applicants](#) from ethnically minoritised backgrounds. So if you are (or are supervising) Masters or MPhil students, then please check them out. The deadline is after many other funding schemes, as we expect PGR candidates to be applying to lots of schemes given how competitive they are.

Enjoy the rest of this first month of 2024.

Best wishes,  
Kate

### YGRS and University news

#### Come to our January induction event

The York Graduate Research School (YGRS) invites you to [sign up for our January induction event](#) on Wednesday 24 January, where you'll receive essential information and practical advice about starting your research programme, plus an opportunity to meet other new researchers from across the University. Any PGRs who missed our October induction, or have joined the University since then, are warmly invited to join us. There will be cake...

#### Please complete the Research Integrity Tutorial

There are a number of [things you need to complete in your first year](#) as a postgraduate researcher. This includes the [Research Integrity Tutorial](#) on the VLE, which gives a comprehensive guide to citations, references and academic misconduct. Please make sure you have completed this training.

#### Fee payment reminder - 31 January 2024

A quick reminder that [if you pay your own fees](#) or campus accommodation costs, a payment instalment is due at the end of this month. The easiest way to pay is via the ['My Finance' section in e:Vision](#). If you have set up a direct debit to pay your fees/accommodation, this will be automatically taken from your chosen bank account around the due date and you'll receive a notification of the amount beforehand. \*\*\*Please [be aware of scams](#) - we will never phone you and ask for card details for fee payments\*\*\*

## Continuation Fee 2023/24

After a 3.5 year hiatus due to the pandemic, the University resumed charging a [continuation fee](#) as of 1 October 2023. There is a grace period of three months; however, PGRs are liable for payment of the fee in the fourth month of their continuation year. The continuation fee for 2023/24 is £420. If this applies to you, you'll receive an email to advise when and how payment should be made.

## Valuing voices for equitable and responsible research

The University is collaborating with Mahidol University in Thailand on a major project to identify ways of supporting fair and responsible research processes and outcomes. [Find out more about the research culture project.](#)

## Funding for future PhD researchers

The University of York is pleased to be offering up to [six fully-funded PhD scholarships](#) for UK candidates who self-identify as being from a Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic (BAME) background. YGRS is hosting two webinars covering general guidance on [finding the right PhD for you](#) as well as the YGRS scholarship application process. Please share the word!

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## PGR public engagement activities

### PhD Spotlight winners 2024

A huge congratulations to Sarah, Andrew and Francisca, our [YorkTalks 2024 PhD Spotlight winners!](#) If you didn't get a chance to visit the displays at YorkTalks this week, you can [read about our finalists' research](#) online.

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## Support and wellbeing

### Library open 24/7 until 4 Feb

To support the taught student assessment period, the [Library](#) is currently open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, until midnight on Sunday 4 February.

### Digital wellbeing events

The Creativity Lab in the Library is hosting [digital wellbeing sessions](#) over the coming weeks. Create some digital art or play with some VR technology!

### Connecting new devices

If you got a new computer, tablet, mobile phone or games console over the winter break, you'll need to get it working with our services. Find out [how to connect your new device to the network](#). For more help, there are IT Support drop-in sessions between 2-4pm on the ground floor of the JB Morrell Library until Friday 19 January.

### Mentally Fit York: 2024 fund open

The Mentally Fit York fund supports initiatives that aim to protect and improve mental health for all. It is open to students with a member of a staff acting as a co-applicant/mentor. Submit applications by 7 February. [Read about the Mentally Fit York fund and find out how to apply.](#)

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## Researcher development

### Tailored academic skills advice

The [Academic Skills Community](#) has a range of personalised one-to-one appointments to enhance your PhD journey. The Writing Centre can help you refine your academic writing style and our study coaching sessions offer strategies for

academic success without critiquing your work. And for all your maths and statistical needs, the Maths Skills Centre is here to assist. Appointments are free, confidential, and available online and in person.

### **22 Jan: An introduction to using generative AI tools for researchers**

Explore some of the concepts and myths behind generative AI tools like ChatGPT. Examine what these tools can actually do and what they aren't so good at, and discuss some of the benefits and issues when using these tools as part of the research process. [Book onto the Generative AI workshop](#).

### **Collaborative Writing Retreats**

Our online retreats give you time, peace, and space to fend off procrastination and beat writer's block. Each session will provide a friendly and constructive environment in which to meet like-minded peers, discuss challenges and work in a focused way using the established Pomodoro technique. [View the full list of sessions](#).

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## **Careers**

### **25 Jan: Creating your Career Action Plan**

This workshop will guide you 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 onto the Career Action Plan workshop](#).

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## **Teaching**

### **Be a Writing Centre tutor**

The Writing Centre is recruiting [three paid Graduate Teaching Assistant \(GTA\) writing tutors](#). If you're a successful, accurate academic writer, preferably with experience of providing feedback on academic writing to peers or less experienced students, then apply by 1 February.

### **GTA opportunities - York Interdisciplinary Modules**

[Environmental Sustainability at York \(ESAY\)](#) is recruiting Graduate Teaching Assistants (GTAs) to support the delivery of the new York Interdisciplinary Modules (YIMs). This is a suite of innovative modules designed to equip students to work collaboratively in multi-disciplinary teams to solve local, regional and global sustainability challenges. Find out more and apply on [Handshake](#) - deadline 17 January.

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## **News from the Graduate Students' Association**

### **Forthcoming GSA events**

15 Jan: GSA Blue Monday Retro Arts and Crafts

18 Jan: GSA Noughties Pub Quiz

20 Jan: GSA 00'S Disco Party

25 Jan: Burns Night Ceilidh Celebration

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



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### **Events and opportunities:**

- [York Sport Semester 2 offer](#)
- [Costello Medical is hosting a virtual recruitment event on 17 January](#)

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

[YGRS newsletter archive](#)

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

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