

## York Graduate Research School newsletter - April 2021

### Update from the Dean



A strange month so far, in a year of strange months. Things feel a bit more normal in that I have been to the hairdresser and enjoyed sitting outside a cafe with a friend. But I am still regularly having to test my kids for Covid-19 and can't yet visit my mum.

As you know, campus will be opening up more next month and the VC has emailed you to flag what might change for you. There are likely to be more taught students on campus and more outside social and learning spaces will be open. Hopefully, for those of you in York, you will be able to take advantage of some of these new opportunities to meet (safely) with other PGRs and colleagues.

### 'Tell Us' survey results

Many thanks to those of you who completed our latest 'Tell us' survey. You told us your priorities for the next few months:

- Face to face meetings with peers
- To engage others in your research
- Specialist research training
- Financial support

In this newsletter, we have picked out how we can help you address these priorities and I encourage you also to look at what the [Graduate Students' Association](#) (GSA) are organising over the next few weeks - lots of fitness and social opportunities.

In terms of financial support, I am really pleased that YGRS has been able to expand the eligibility criteria of the Covid-19 PhD Scholarship Fund to include self funded international PhD researchers. Globally, Covid-19 has not affected all countries and populations equally, so if you have been impacted by Covid-19 disruptions then do check out the application page. Finally, YGRS will soon be publishing our vision for the next decade and we will start consulting with you on how we can achieve our aspiration for York to be the best place in the world for attracting, training and inspiring diverse, talented PGRs.

Warm regards, Kate

---

### Continuation fees during the pandemic

A continuation fee is charged if you have not submitted your thesis by the end of your normal registration period. We previously announced that we would continue to waive continuation fees until 31 March. We have now extended the date and can confirm that [we will not charge continuation fees until 30 June 2021](#).

---

### Apply for assistance funding

The 'Tell Us' survey told us you want financial support and there are several funds open to postgraduate researchers at the moment. The third round of the [Covid-19 PhD Scholarship Fund](#) closes **today (Friday 23 April)** and **international self-funded PhD researchers are now eligible**. The application form is fairly short and awards are not means-tested. The final round of funding opens in August.

The [Emergency Student Support Fund](#) has reopened and closes on **Tuesday 27 April**. It provides short-term financial support for the unanticipated needs of students caused or exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic. Apply for a maximum of £500 of non-repayable funding to cover things like living costs, accommodation, and study-related costs.

The [Postgraduate Research Writing-up+ Support Fund](#) supports postgraduate researchers who are currently in their writing-up period; have been granted an extension to their studies; or will enter their writing-up or an extension period within the next six weeks. This funding is currently available until **Monday 31 May**.

---

## How to write a conference proposal

The 'Tell Us' survey told us you want to be able to develop your research skills and engage others with your research and the annual University Learning and Teaching Conference is a great opportunity to do that. The Academic Skills Community is offering a series of three workshops designed to help you engage with the Learning and Teaching Conference - though it can help with any conference proposal:

- How to write a conference proposal
- How to create an online poster
- How to put together and deliver an online presentation



[Find out more and register your place at the workshops](#)

---

## Online professional development training summer programme



The Research Excellence Training Team (RETT) have put together a professional development training programme for the summer so you can develop specialist research skills. Sessions include:

- Managing your supervisor
- Preparing for your online viva
- Social media for researchers
- Networking and collaboration
- Completing your Thesis

[See all forthcoming training sessions](#)

---

## Want to work in research?

Gain an insight into a range of research based career opportunities in academia, public sector, not for profit and commercial sectors by attending our forthcoming 'Working in research' event on **Wednesday 5 May**. Understand how to develop your own career ambitions by connecting with, and learning from, research professionals in an informal research setting.

[Find out more about working in research](#)

---

## Join an online writing retreat in May

Wentworth College is running free online writing retreats for postgraduate students and researchers. The aim is to give dedicated writing time to those in need of progressing their projects, providing a supportive environment and an opportunity to share good writing practice with other writers.

[Book on a free writing retreat](#)



---

## Teaching opportunities

If you want to teach as a Graduate Teaching Assistant, then you need to have completed the Introduction to Teaching and Learning course. [Sign up for Introduction to Teaching and Learning training](#).

There are lots of teaching opportunities at the moment. Suggest a course idea and [work with the Centre for Lifelong Learning](#) this autumn. Application deadline: **Friday 30 April**.

You can also get involved with [Access and Outreach teaching opportunities](#). There are various roles available to support students from backgrounds that are underrepresented in Higher Education to reach their full potential. Application deadline: **Tuesday 4 May**.

---

## York Learning and Teaching Award applications open



We are now accepting applications to the York Learning and Teaching Award (YLTA) for 2021/22 entry. YLTA is a taught-course designed to support Graduate Teaching Assistants (GTAs) to reflect on and develop your practice and help you plan for future employment. In addition to the award of 20 Masters-level credits, YLTA is accredited by Advance HE to award Associate Fellow of the HEA (AFHEA) to those who successfully complete the course. Application deadline: **Thursday 6 May**.

- [Find out more about YLTA](#)

---

## Push through procrastination

Details of forthcoming online wellbeing workshops have been released. Do you struggle with perfectionist thinking? Do you want tips on how to overcome feelings of worry and stress? How can you push through procrastination? College tutors provide a welcoming space with practical tips and techniques that can help you. They also let you know about services and resources that you can access after the session.



- [See future wellbeing workshops](#)

---

## Give your feedback in the Postgraduate Research Experience Survey



We are always looking for ways to enhance the learning and supervision experience. To do that, we need your feedback on your experience. The Postgraduate Research Experience Survey (PRES) is the only national survey of postgraduate researchers' experience and it is an opportunity for you to voice your opinion. Check your email for your unique url to complete the survey.

- [Postgraduate Research Experience Survey](#)

---

## New Thrive and Survive Coordinator

The 'Tell Us' survey told us you want face to face meetings with peers. While we can't arrange face to face support sessions just yet, do look out for new online workshops in the How to Thrive and Survive Your PhD series. They are organised by our [new PhD Thrive and Survive Coordinator](#), Estelia Bórquez Sánchez. The next workshop is coming up next month - details coming soon. Do get in touch with her with your ideas for workshop subjects!

---

### **Update: Three Minute Thesis**

Thanks to all who submitted an application to compete in this year's Three Minute Thesis. We had a bumper number of applications and it was very difficult to shortlist them.

Good luck to the 25 applicants from all faculties who are taking part in live auditions this week in order to make it to the York 3MT final in June! Details on how you can attend the finals will be coming soon.



---

### **Recent opportunities on the blog:**

- [Colleges Postgraduate Experience Survey: win £50 voucher](#)
- [L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science UK & Ireland Rising Talent Programme](#)
- [The Brilliant Club PhD researcher opportunity](#)
- [Making better policies for food systems](#)

---

**All these news items and more can be found on the [Research Student Community blog](#)**

---

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

Sent this in error? Email: [ygrs@york.ac.uk](mailto:ygrs@york.ac.uk)