

York Graduate Research School newsletter - September 2021

Update from the Dean



Welcome to our new cohort of PGRs and hello again to those of you who can now call yourselves 'experienced' PGRs!

September heralds a new term, new students and PGRs, new projects and a new YGRS. And for some of us in Covid-times, (even more) new ways of working.

We're particularly pleased to be able to welcome you to campus in person this year. As a home-loving introvert, I never thought it was possible.... But yesterday I was buzzing after being back in the office with 'real' people - many of whom I have worked with for a year and never met in person. (That old adage that people are shorter in real life apparently holds true for colleagues on Zoom as well as for film stars!)

We recognise, however, it's still a challenging time and people feel differently to the increase in face to face events. So, for this reason, we're asking everyone to [protect, respect and be kind](#). This means taking proactive steps to keep one another safe, having compassion for others, and collectively supporting a safe community for us all.

Learning new skills, refreshing existing ones and regularly adding to your 'toolbox' is essential if you are going to have a real impact on your research field. I am constantly impressed by the innovative training for research and professional development happening across campus. Please take advantage of these opportunities. And for those of you on distance learning programmes, at our new [CITY College campus](#) in Greece or who haven't yet been able to reach York - you will be able to interact with peers and stay connected with our online support and training activities.

We're planning lots of exciting changes for PGRs (and supervisors) this year - including releasing our shiny new vision for YGRS - and we will be asking you to help shape the future for graduate support and training at York. More to come, so please do get involved.

And if you want to know more about how YGRS and the wider York PGR community can support you during your postgraduate degree then join me at the YGRS induction event (see below). See you there!

Warm regards,
Kate

Sign up for the online induction event - Friday 24 September

Starting a postgraduate degree can seem daunting but YGRS is here to connect you to other postgraduate researchers as well as staff across the University who can help you succeed. So, whether you have questions about policies, finance, accessing archives, finding a buddy or improving your maths skills - please join us.

We will be providing bite-sized summaries of the professional support available at York and you will also get the opportunity to hear from some of our current PGRs and ask them questions. Open to all.



- [Book your place at the YGRS induction event](#)

New PGR? Sign up for a buddy

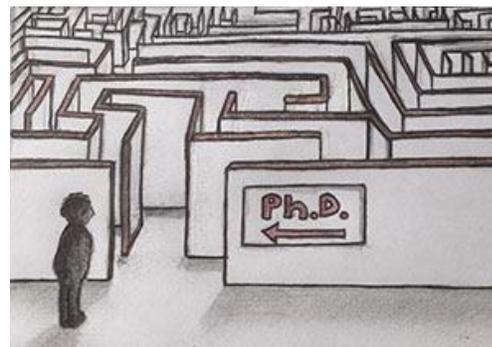


The PGR Buddy Scheme connects you to an existing postgraduate researcher. They will help you settle into the York research experience, will provide a friendly welcome, and help you to get to know the University and the city of York. **Application deadline: Monday 27 September.** If you apply after the deadline, we'll do our best to match you with a buddy later in the Autumn Term.

- [Sign up for a buddy](#)

Thriving in your PhD peer support session

The 'How to thrive and survive in your PhD' initiative is a peer-led forum organised by PhD students for PhD students. You'll hear the experiences of current PhD and post-doctoral researchers who have dealt with the same challenges and are now passing their wisdom on. The sessions offer a safe, supportive space for you to network and meet other researchers, ask questions and discuss any issues about PhD research at York. The first session this academic year on **Tuesday 12 October** examines 'Starting your PhD and surviving the journey'.



- [How to thrive and survive in your PhD](#)

GSA Welcome Week



Check out events hosted by the Graduate Students' Association (GSA) to welcome you to York. There's something for everyone - from formal dinners to the Welcome Festival, with plenty of online options, casual day time events, and postgrad sports involved, too. Welcome Week takes place **from Monday 20 September** and is followed by two weeks of events run by GSA student-led networks.

- [Find out more about the GSA Welcome Week](#)

The York Researcher Festival 2021

Sign up for the York Researcher Festival – a two week celebration for all researchers here at York. Running **from Monday 20 September**, this is an opportunity to celebrate the contribution that PG researchers and postdocs make to the research culture and community at York.

Week one focuses on the collaborations, relationships and issues that affect research. Week two explores the skills, professional development and mindset that support researchers in developing their careers. The festival provides opportunities for researchers to come together across disciplines to share experiences, learn, network and develop new skills.

- [Find out more about the York Researcher Festival 2021](#)

Autumn 2021: Skills guides and training

The Library and IT Services have a range of sessions and resources to help develop your skills. Want some guidance on anything from setting up your thesis in Microsoft Word to getting creative with data processing and visualisation? We also have support for critical reading, referencing, web development, Google Apps and much more.

- [Autumn 2021: Skills guides and training](#)

Planning to teach this academic year?

Before you can teach, you will need to complete our Introduction to Teaching and Learning course. This allows you to acquire the knowledge and skills to establish yourself as a confident, enthusiastic and effective teacher and is an induction into Higher Education teaching and into working as a Graduate Teaching Assistant at York. The training comprises two weeks of self-study and a face-to-face (or online) seminar.

- [Find out about Introduction to Teaching and Learning](#) and see [current teaching opportunities](#)

Three Minute Thesis national finals

Congratulations to Theo Issitt who took part in the national 3MT competition recently. His pitch on 'The smell of cells' perfectly communicated his PhD research investigating the chemical signals released by cancer cells to help create diagnostic breath tests. Theo will take part in the Utrecht Falling Walls competition this month - good luck!

- [Read more about York 3MT 2021](#)

Women in STEM masterclasses

'Women in STEM, Reimagined' is a free, week-long online masterclass series for women in science and technology starting on **Monday 20 September**. It includes a session on 'How to Smooth the Transition From Academia to Industry' and a variety of other speakers from the worlds of coaching, STEM and equality, diversity and inclusion.

- [Women in STEM, Reimagined](#)



Fellowship opportunity

Three prestigious one-year Fellowships in the area of mental health and neuroscience are available through the University's Centre for Future Health. The scheme is intended as a stepping stone to an externally-funded postdoctoral fellowship in the area of mental health and/or neuroscience for those who have just completed a PhD. The opportunity is open to individuals resident in the UK from across the sciences, social sciences and the arts and humanities and those with interdisciplinary interests are especially encouraged to apply. Application deadline: **Sunday 26 September**.

- [Centre for Future Health Fellowships](#)

Recent opportunities on the blog:

- [Digital Collaboration 2021: call for contributions](#)
- [The Brilliant Club PhD researcher opportunity 2021/22](#)
- [UKRI Policy Internships](#)
- [China Recruitment Webinars](#)

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

www.york.ac.uk/YGRS

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