

## York Graduate Research School newsletter - 22 March 2023

### Update from the Dean



So, York's last ever Spring Term is over. Campus has calmed down a bit and so has my timetable. At YGRS we have been working with departments and support teams to sort out the implications of [modularisation and semesterisation](#) (aka Mods & Sems) for PGRs. Aside from the impacts on you in terms of any GTA-ing that you carry out, the rhythm of the academic year will change in ways that are hard to predict. For TAPs and Progression meetings, we think that there will be enough flex to allow for new ebbs and flows in staff and PGR workloads. But, as always, we will keep listening to feedback via our forums, committees and inbox.

Your Grad Chair might have circulated info about updates to PGR assessment formats.

When I submitted my PhD thesis at the University of Queensland 20+ years ago, it was in the form of several data chapters written as draft manuscripts for journals, topped and tailed by a general intro and general discussion. At the time, I didn't realise that this 'journal-style' PhD thesis was a relatively unusual format globally. Anyway, York has allowed this format for a while, but YGRS has just circulated further [thesis formatting guidance](#) to see whether this format might be suitable for more departments. In some disciplines, a book or monograph is the right output from a PhD, and in others, especially the sciences, it is academic papers and reports. It might be worth talking to your supervisors as to what forms of thesis are possible in your department.

Finally, we are very grateful to those of you who have already completed the [Postgraduate Research Experience Survey \(PRES\)](#) - but we need more responses! Please take the time to provide us with your feedback. It is listened to and YGRS will work with departments to ensure that we expand on the things that are really going well and make improvements where needed.

Enjoy the spring sunshine!

Best wishes,  
Kate

### YGRS and University news

#### How are we doing?

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. Your feedback makes a difference at both University and departmental level. Thanks to those that have already completed it. For those that haven't, check your inbox for your personal link to complete the survey.

#### PGR Forum actions

The discussion and agreed actions from last month's [PGR Forum](#) are now on the website. The session covered issues such as student accommodation, the cost of living, industrial action and the position of Graduate Teaching Assistants. Don't forget that you can feed into the PGR Forum via your academic rep.

## Vacation opening hours

See [spring vacation opening times](#) for food, drink and retail units on campus.

## King's Manor Library closed 19-27 March

Due to essential work on the fire detection systems, [King's Manor Library is temporarily closed](#) from 5pm on Saturday 18 March until 9am on Monday 27 March.

## Significant step for new Student Centre plans

The proposed new Student Centre building in the centre of Campus West has moved a step closer following the official submission for planning permission on 10 March. See our [Student Centre](#) web pages for the latest visuals, the proposed plans of each floor, and details on our commitment to sustainability and accessibility.

## Local elections hustings event on campus

Local elections are taking place on Thursday 4 May and, for the first time, you'll need to take photo ID to vote in person. See [which forms of voter ID are accepted](#) at polling stations or find out how you can [vote by post](#). You must [register to vote by Monday 17 April](#). We're hosting a local elections hustings event on campus on Wednesday 19 April. This is an opportunity to hear from, and question, the candidates on topics such as housing in the city, cost of living support, travel and transport and other student-related city policies. [Book your free place at the local hustings event](#).

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## Researcher development

### 27 Mar: British Library Doctoral Open Day

There is still time to book on the first in-person [British Library Doctoral Open Day](#) of 2023. 'Exploring Collections in Your PhD' takes place at Leeds Central Library on Monday 27 March.

### 28 Mar: Getting published in peer reviewed journals

With more than 90% of papers submitted to peer reviewed journals rejected, this session examines the processes used in order to maximise your chance of acceptance. You will discover how to start a paper plan, target a journal, submit your paper, understand the peer review and publishing process, deal with rejection and learn from feedback. By the end of the session you should have a publication plan! Book your place on the [Getting Published in Peer Reviewed Journals session](#).

### York Researcher Festival workshop videos

Easter offers a short break in the [BRIC Team's](#) researcher development training programme - but if you want to take part in some training over the next couple of weeks, take a look at our [York Researcher Festival playlist](#). We've got nine sessions from last year's Festival available on demand - ranging from looking after your mental health to academic publishing and open research.

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## Careers

### 25 Apr: Career planning: Understanding yourself and your options

This session will encourage you to explore your skills, values, strengths and motivations, and consider how these might impact on your career choice. We'll also consider internal and external factors that could impact career choices; review PhD graduate destination data and understand the range of opportunities open to graduates in different sectors; and explore ways to generate and explore career ideas for yourself. [Book your place on the Career Planning workshop](#).

## 26 Apr: Academic careers: Interviews

By the end of this workshop, participants will be able to: identify the likely key stages of the academic interview process; answer questions about their research and teaching strategies; use STAR statements to present their past experience; and undertake appropriate preparation activities for an academic interview. [Book your place on the Academic Careers: Interviews workshop.](#)

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## PGR public engagement activities

### 3 Minute Thesis 2023: application deadline approaching

*"I didn't realise it at the time, but 3MT was just what I needed to get out of my own head and remind myself of the 'bigger picture' of my thesis."* Enter our 3 Minute Thesis competition to help refine your research and practise your communication skills. [Apply to compete in 3 Minute Thesis.](#) Application deadline: Friday 31 March. For an example of previous competitors' presentations, see Kate Mooney on [Why I took part in 3MT.](#)

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

[YGRS newsletter archive](#)

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