

## York Graduate Research School newsletter - 16 November 2023

### Update from the Dean



For many of you (and me), starting a PhD was really intimidating and I didn't even have the extra stress of operating in a foreign language (NB [free English language lessons](#) - see below). So, YGRS is asking you to tell us about your experiences and how we can make the transition to PGR less daunting. Zaynab, in the YGRS team who recently finished her PhD in the Department of English, invites you to [take part in our short survey](#) and/or spend an hour at a [focus group](#). Thanks in advance for your help.

Last week the YGRS team met up with some of our current YGRS PhD Scholarship holders. It was great to hear about their projects and planned outputs. We have just launched the next recruitment round so if someone you know is from a UK ethnically minoritised background and wants to study for a PhD then let them know about the [York Graduate Research School \(YGRS\) PhD Scholarships](#). We also offer mentoring, advocacy and, via [YCEDE](#), networking opportunities.

At a recent meeting with the GSA sabbatical officers, they shared with me the concerns of PGRs attending their events. Two themes kept recurring - [careers advice](#) and mental [health and wellbeing support](#). Let me point you to a couple of sources of info. The first is Janice Simpson, our PGR careers advisor, who has developed [tailored careers information for PGRs](#) and is running a [Career Planning workshop](#) this month. Also, YGRS has a commitment to improving the support for PGRs who experience harassment or sexual misconduct and we have been working with [Dr Anna Bull](#) of The 1752 Group and colleagues to address this issue. There is more change needed, but I would draw your attention to [Report + Support](#) tool (see below) and the empathetic support provided by the Sexual Violence Liaison Officers ([SVLOs](#)).

Finally a shout out to all of our distance learning PGRs - wherever you are in the world I hope that you are safe, well and enjoying being part of York's global research community.

Best wishes,  
Kate

### YGRS and University news

#### Revised University Research Data Management Policy

The University Research Data Management Policy has been revised. You should make yourself aware of the Policy as it applies to all research conducted by University staff and postgraduate researchers (PGRs). Updated guidance on research data management is available and you contact the Open Research team. Find out more about the [revised University Research Data Management Policy](#).

#### Come to the next PGR Forum

All postgraduate researchers are welcome to attend the next [PGR Forum](#) on Monday 4 December between 2.30-4.30pm online - please contact [academic-quality-pgr@york.ac.uk](mailto:academic-quality-pgr@york.ac.uk) if you'd like to receive the Zoom link (Academic Reps are automatically invited). We'll be looking at the outcomes of the Postgraduate Research Experience Survey (PRES) and the draft PRES action plan. If you have any items that you'd like to see included in the meeting please speak to your PGR representative or contact [academic-quality-pgr@york.ac.uk](mailto:academic-quality-pgr@york.ac.uk).

## How was your journey to becoming a PGR?

YGRS is investigating how we can support offer holders to make the transition into postgraduate research. Please take part in our focus groups or survey and share your insights into how the stage from offer to enrolment was for you. Please [take part in our short survey](#) (deadline 24 November) to improve things for future applicants and [register for our focus group](#) by Friday 17 November. As a thank you, all focus group participants will receive a £10 voucher.

## YGRS Conference Fund deadline

The closing date for the next round of the [YGRS Conference Fund](#) is midnight on 1 December 2023. The Fund is open to self-funded PGRs to attend UK and international conferences when other funding options have been exhausted.

## YGRS PhD Scholarship - spread the word

We're pleased to offer up to [six fully-funded PhD scholarships](#) for UK candidates who self-identify as being from a Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic (BAME) background.

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## Support and wellbeing

### Report + Support: how it works

If you experience harassment, violence or sexual violence, you can report it to the University using our [Report + Support](#) tool. If you report an incident, an appropriate member of staff will make contact within five working days to discuss what you would like to happen next and discuss the support available for you. You can also report anonymously if you wish - we can still use this information to better understand the issues impacting our community, to monitor trends and inform proactive and preventative work.

### How to be successful at York

Studying for a research degree is ultimately rewarding but we know there can be bumps along the way. The good news is that we have developed a tool to help you recognise your situation and develop a positive plan in dealing with it. Try our [Success at York Toolkit](#) to help you work out your priorities - whether that's academically, personally or socially. By taking quizzes, exploring a range of videos, podcasts and activities, you'll soon understand more about what you want to achieve and feel more confident in facing some of the challenges of PGR life.

### New English for employability sessions

Careers and Placements are running weekly sessions to support students who speak English as a second language to prepare for common interview questions and scenarios. The sessions will be peer led by international students, informal, and usually hosted in the Church Lane Business lounge from 1-3pm on Wednesdays. [Sign up on Handshake](#).

### Free English language sessions - intermediate level

The Centre for Global Programmes is hosting trainee teachers from Hong Kong this autumn and, as part of their visit, is offering [free English language lessons](#). The sessions are open to students or members of the public and are aimed at an intermediate level.

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## Researcher development

### 22 Nov: Introduction to Intellectual Property (IP) & commercialisation support available

A brief overview of what IP is and most importantly how it can be used to benefit your research. Understand how IP and commercialisation processes can be used to increase your research impact, develop new funding opportunities and strengthen your grant applications. [Book onto the IP & Commercialisation workshop](#).

## 29 Nov: Developing effective people management skills

An insight into the fundamentals of interpersonal communication, negotiation skills, and assertiveness with the aim of allowing you to improve your upward, downward and lateral management of the people you encounter as part of your PhD and prepare you for your role of leadership. [Book onto the Developing Effective People Management Skills workshop](#).

## 30 Nov: What is Open Research and why does it matter?

An overview of open research practices and principles, including: what open research means and how it benefits research across a range of disciplines; various methods which can help open up the research lifecycle; and open research support and guidance at York. [Book onto the Open Research workshop](#).

## Careers

### 28 Nov: Career Planning: Understanding yourself and your options

Understand your options and plan your next career steps - considering your skills, values, strengths and motivations and how these might impact on your career choice. [Book onto the Career Planning workshop](#).

### Careers advice for PGRs

To discuss your career plans, or get help with identifying possible options and next steps, book an individual careers appointment in [Handshake](#) with Janice Simpson, our postgraduate careers consultant. Appointments can also be used for CV or application advice and interview preparation. [Tailored careers information for PGRs](#) is available on the YGRS website.

## Teaching

### Teaching opportunity: School of Arts and Creative Technologies

The School for Arts and Creative technologies are recruiting for a [paid Graduate Teaching Assistant](#). Check [Handshake](#) for other opportunities. Remember, you need to have completed [Introduction to Teaching and Learning](#) before you can teach at York.

## PGR public engagement activities

### York Festival of Ideas 2024 - submissions now open

You can now submit an expression of interest to run an event at next year's York Festival of Ideas (1-9 June 2024). Learn more about the [York Festival of Ideas](#) and [submit your application](#) by 27 November.

### Get involved with Pint of Science

Are you passionate about science? Public engagement? Pubs!? If you answered yes to any of these questions, you may be interested in helping to run the [Pint of Science](#) festival in York in 2024!

## News from the Graduate Students' Association

### Postgraduate Events Hardship Fund

The GSA has relaunched its Events Hardship Fund for postgraduates who are unable to attend paid GSA events due to financial difficulties. If there's a GSA event you would love to attend, but cannot purchase tickets due to financial constraints, then check out the [Postgrad Events Hardship Fund](#).



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## Celebrating our PGRs

[How the Playboy bunny suit went from uniform to Halloween costume](#): Daisy McManaman in *The Conversation*

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### Events and opportunities:

- [Royal Society Career Development Fellowship](#)
  - [Alan Turing Institute PhD Enrichment Scheme opens soon](#)
  - A chance to [win £1000 with the Santander Universities Brighter Futures Grants](#)
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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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