

York Graduate Research School newsletter - 26 September 2023

Update from the Dean



Welcome (back) to University of York! For those of you based in York, you will have noticed that campus is filling up again. The University is running lots of activities to [welcome students and postgraduates](#) onto campus, including the [YGRS induction for new PGRs](#). We are looking forward to meeting some of you on 4 October in the Spring Lane Building. The Students' Unions are also super busy too - the [GSA is running lots of PG-focused welcome events](#) over the next few weeks. We know from York's PRES results that many of you are looking to interact more with researchers from across the University, so please head onto campus or join online events over the next few weeks.

Last week, I had the pleasure of attending the Race and Socially Engaged Research Conference co-organised by some of our York PGRs - one of whom also happens to be one of our [YCEDE](#) Scholars Board members. It was great to be able to support such an inspiring event and be enthused by researchers who are approaching research in new and more co-creative ways. If you are organising events aimed at PGRs then please let YGRS know and we can help to support and promote them: ygrs@york.ac.uk.

As you have probably heard, the planned industrial action at York has been called off. The University is allocating funding to reflect the progress of marking and assessment, including sharing some of the funding (via departments and faculties) for GTAs who have missed earning opportunities due to the MAB. See the [message to staff on behalf of Vice-Chancellor, Charlie Jeffery, and the UCU York Executive Committee](#) on 20 September 2023.

Finally, many of you will have been or will soon be reviewing your Personal Development Plan. With the new academic year, there are lots of new opportunities to gain professional development, research skills and career development training - so check out the [careers information on the York Graduate Research School web pages](#) to book up.

Best wishes,
Kate

YGRS and University news

New postgraduate researcher? Here's how to get started

We welcome lots of new postgraduate researchers (PGRs) in the coming weeks. If you're joining us, or if you started recently, take a look at [YGRS information for new postgraduate researchers](#).

- See what you need to do on our [welcome pages for new postgraduates](#)
- [Sign up for a buddy](#) before 9 October
- [Sign up for the University of York induction event for new postgraduate researchers hosted by YGRS](#) on 4 October 2023

New address?

- All PGRs - please make sure your address is up-to-date in [e:Vision](#).
- New PGRs - updating your student record is one of your first week tasks. Are you doing everything on your [Welcome to York PGR checklist](#)?

Direct debit deadlines

Don't want to miss payment deadlines? The easiest way to pay tuition fees and University accommodation fees is by direct debit. You need to submit your completed direct debit mandate form online or to the Fees Office by Tuesday 3 October. [Find out more about paying the University by direct debit.](#)

Student Tuition Fee Refund Policy update

The University has updated the Student Tuition Fee Refund Policy to make it simpler and easier to understand. You can find the updated policy on our web pages about [leaving the University](#).

MyUoYapp update

Getting a bit lost on campus? [Download the MyUoY app](#) for a comprehensive room finder and campus map.

Changes to buses

Don't forget that this weekend there have been [significant changes to buses](#) in York affecting routes, timetables, the free zone and bus numbers.

Support and wellbeing

NEW cost of living support: Off Campus Rent Grant

Our Off Campus Rent Grant helps students in their second or subsequent years in 2023/24 to get support towards their rent costs. This support has been put in place as a direct response to the rising prices of private rental accommodation in York. It's open to eligible continuing postgraduate researchers, though you may receive a prorated payment based on your enrolment date for the 2023/24 academic year. [Applications for the Off Campus Rent Grant open on 2 October.](#)

Support for PGRs with a disability

The Joan Samuels Scholarship offers one award of £2,000 to be paid as a living cost stipend for one postgraduate taught student or postgraduate researcher with a disability each academic year. [Applications to the Joan Samuels Scholarship open on 2 October.](#)

Scams: don't share your personal details

We never offer discounts on tuition or accommodation fees through third parties. If something appears too good to be true, it probably is. Please be vigilant and [learn our seven tell-tale signs of a scam.](#)

Researcher development

The York Researcher Professional Development Skills Programme

A wide variety of professional development is available for all postgraduate researchers at York. These sessions, online resources, support and public engagement opportunities are offered by a number of specialist teams across the University, and are designed to supplement and enhance your research experience at York. Learn about our key professional development themes and see all of our available training and support on the [YGRS Researcher Development web page](#). **Places may be limited, so booking well in advance is encouraged!**

York Biomedical Research Institute (YBRI) seminar series

The YBRI seminar series showcases exciting research from external speakers working in the biomedical sciences. Talks are open to all academic staff, students and researchers, and begin from Friday 29 September. For more information about these seminars and speakers, visit the [YBRI events page](#).

Take part in York Environment Week 2023

York Environment Week (YEW23) takes place from Monday 25 September to Sunday 1 October across York with over 60 events featuring climate action, biodiversity, and sustainability. Explore the [University's YEW23 programme](#) and see which events are being hosted on campus.

Languages for All courses

The Department of Language and Linguistic Science's Languages for All (LfA) programme runs year-long extracurricular language courses from October to May. LfA courses are open to students, staff and members of the public as an opportunity to study a variety of languages, ranging from Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Latin, Russian and Spanish. Registration closes on Monday 2 October. Visit the [Languages for All](#) pages to find out more and apply.

Careers

Careers resources and support

[Careers resources for PGRs](#) can be found on the YGRS web pages and includes information on career options, building skills and experience, job search and applications. Individual careers appointments can be booked on [Handshake](#) but, if you can't find a time to suit you, contact janice.simpson@york.ac.uk directly to arrange.

Careers events

You can find employability and career development workshops in the [Researcher Development and Skills programme](#) and we also advertise a programme of careers events and fairs in [Handshake](#). There is a range of external/online events led by employers and other organisations, for example McKinsey, JP Morgan, EY and GSK. [Graduate Fairs](#) will be on campus in October - although they will mainly be promoting graduate schemes, these are open to PGRs and you are welcome to attend.

News from the Graduate Students' Association

Welcome!

Postgraduate welcome events continue - see what's happening on the [GSA website](#).



1 Oct: GSA Trip to Apple Day at Newby Hall

Rumoured to be the inspiration for Downton Abbey, join us on our trip to [Newby Hall](#), a fine example of a classic country mansion on the River Ure near Ripon, North Yorkshire. Newby Hall has featured in period dramas such as Gentleman Jack, Peaky Blinders, Victoria, and the TV adaptation of Jane Austen's Mansfield Park.

3 Oct: GSA Jazz Night

Join us at Kennedy's for our annual [Jazz Night](#)! Ever popular, this event has guaranteed chill vibes and good times. Your ticket gains you access to a night of smooth jazz and a free drink upon entry, for an easy evening of meeting new people!

Events and opportunities:

- [Free Bayesian modelling training in January and March 2024](#) (NERC-funded PGRs)
- Apply to be a [paid Student Ambassador](#) - there are both postgraduate and international student roles
- [Sign up to be a student feedback volunteer](#) for opportunities that can include vouchers or payment for your time
- Sign up to the Eat, Shop and Drink mailing list for a [free hot drink and the chance to win breakfasts](#) for a full semester

- Enter the [Santander £500 prize draw](#)
- [York Sport Freshers membership offer](#)

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

[YGRS newsletter archive](#)

www.york.ac.uk/YGRS

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