

York Graduate Research School newsletter - 30 June 2023

Update from the Dean



This week I am celebrating because one of my PhD supervisees has submitted his PhD thesis! An amazing achievement under any circumstances but, like many of you, he was hugely impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic - fieldwork was cancelled, labs and museums closed for months and collaborators were out of action. Extra funding and [flexibility in uni regs](#) (amongst other things) helped, but there is no denying that it has been a 'long haul'. So, this weekend I will be raising a glass to all of our York PGRs who have persevered through the last few years.

To date, I have avoided the 'lure' of most social media but I was recently asked to record a [short video promoting some widening access work](#) that we are doing at York. I am not a natural performer - unlike our [3MT winners](#) - but I try! If you want some further insights into our work on race equity at doctoral level then check out a recent blog by [Ayo Barley](#), the chair of [YCEDE's](#) external advisory board.

As you know, I am interested in how we might improve York's recruitment and selection process to ensure that our community of PGRs becomes even more inclusive and diverse. Current PGRs Zulfiya and Samir are working with YGRS to gather your perspectives on how interviews and reference letters are used in PGR admissions. So please [sign up for one of our online focus groups](#) and let us know your thoughts. And if you are yourself preparing for an interview then check out these [blogs](#) by some of our YCEDE scholars.

Best wishes and Eid Mubarak,
Kate

YGRS and University news

Tell us about your experiences of York's PGR admissions process

We are looking to improve the PGR admissions process at York so we would like to hear the experiences of current PGRs as you applied to study a research degree, as well as from staff involved in postgraduate admissions processes. In particular, we want to look at how recruitment interviews and references are used to assess PGR applicants. Could you share your experience of coming to York? [Please sign up to participate in our PGR Recruitment and Admissions Project](#). PGR participants will be thanked for their time with a £10 Amazon voucher.

Could you help welcome a new PGR in the autumn?

We need your help to extend a warm welcome to all our new postgraduate researchers starting in the autumn. Can you volunteer to be a buddy? The PGR Buddy Scheme provides peer to peer support for new PGR students. It can make a huge difference to receive advice from someone who's been there before. [Please sign up to be a buddy](#) before Friday 25 August.

Forthcoming cost of living support: Off Campus Rent Grant

We know one of the biggest challenges students are facing is rising rent costs in the city. In recognition of this, we will offer an Off Campus Rent Grant next academic year. Postgraduate researchers who are eligible may receive a prorated payment based on your enrolment date. We'll provide full details on our [cost of living support page](#) at the start of next academic year in September.

5 July: PGR Forum

The next [PGR Forum](#) takes place on Wednesday 5 July. The PGR Forum brings together the York Graduate Research School, the GSA and PGR academic reps to listen and respond to the views of PGRs on a range of issues. [Contact your PGR academic rep](#) as soon as possible if there is anything that you'd like to see discussed at the Forum (this should not include individual PGR cases or departmental-specific issues).

Transforming doctoral supervision

We're pleased to announce that Dr Karen Clegg, Head of the Building Research and Innovation Capacity (BRIC) Team, is leading a project to improve and enhance research supervision in the UK. The [Next Generation Research SuperVision Project \(RSVP\)](#) is a £4.6 million project involving over 20 universities, two overseas partners, plus over 400 doctoral students. It will facilitate discussions about how to properly recognise, reward and professionalise doctoral research supervision.

News from the Graduate Students' Association

A Single Students' Union: Moving Forward

Following extensive consultation, YUSU and the GSA have today announced that they will move towards creating a single students' union. It is anticipated that an all-student vote on newly elected officer roles and a new set of governing documents will take place in spring 2024. [Read the YUSU and GSA joint statement.](#)



Support and wellbeing

Summer on campus

We're now out of term time so catering venues on campus may follow a revised summer schedule. You can still access the usual academic support, though. See our information about [summer on campus](#).

Researcher development

Digital Creativity workshops for PGRs

The Creativity Lab in the Library is running a series of workshops for researchers on digital creativity. Learn about facilities available at the Lab whilst picking up highly-transferable skills. Sessions available are:

- 5 July: [Create a 3D model](#)
- 13 July: [How could Virtual Reality help me?](#)
- 19 July: [Introduction to Video Editing](#)
- 26 July: [Podcasting 101](#)
- 21 July: [Supporting students with a Digital Creativity Project](#)

PGR public engagement activities

Congratulations to our 3MT 2023 winners!

Eleven finalists competed for first place in our tenth anniversary University of York Three Minute Thesis (3MT) competition final. Pitching themselves against the clock to communicate the impact of their research, these PhD students delivered captivating and inspiring research presentations, showcasing the strengths of postgraduate research at York, in just three minutes. [Congratulations to all who took part and to our 2023 3MT winners!](#)

Events and opportunities:

- [Expression of interest: 'Race' and Socially Engaged Research](#)
- [British Library Doctoral Open Day: The Americas and Oceania Collections](#)

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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