

York Graduate Research School newsletter - 8 March 2023

Update from the Dean



I Happy International Women's Day! This morning, Hes Hall has been echoing to the sounds of live music and positive vibes from the 'Be the Face of Your Story' event. But if you missed this then the posters are still up and other [IWD events](#) are running this week. At York, we have increasing numbers of fantastic female role models and a greater appreciation of so-called 'non-standard' careers paths. Having worked part-time for over a decade since my son was born, and having limited success in being awarded grant funding, I didn't think I would ever get promoted. But thanks to changes to York's promotions criteria, which recognise a wide range of valuable contributions beyond ££, and a more enlightened attitude of (some) colleagues, this was possible for me. We still have much to do as an institution, particularly in the area of ethnic diversity which is why I am so passionate about the work we are doing in [YGRS](#) and [YCEDE](#) on widening access.

In case you haven't spotted this announcement, [YUSU and GSA will be consulting on a potential 'merger of equals'](#). So, if you want to contribute to this debate - in particular on how we ensure that the PGR voice is represented and PGR-specific needs are addressed - then please respond. I don't normally comment on Student Union business, but I do think that this is such a big change that PGRs should think about getting involved.

Finally, two recent launches - [Postgraduate Research Experience Survey \(PRES\)](#) and [3 Minute Thesis](#). PRES is your opportunity to tell us what is working and where we could do better. This is a national survey - and we can quibble over the wording of some of the questions (as academics are prone to!) - but it provides the institution with some useful long term data that can be benchmarked against other unis. It would be great if you could take part. Ditto 3MT. On 14 June, we are holding the York 3MT Final in person this year which I am really looking forward to. Hope to see you there either as a finalist or audience member.

Best wishes,
Kate

YGRS and University news

Complete the Postgraduate Research Experience Survey

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. We really value your feedback and it does make a difference at both University and departmental level. Check your inbox for your personal link to complete the survey.

PAID ROLE: Can you help lead our Thrive & Survive Programme?

We're looking for a current PhD researcher to take up the role of Thrive & Survive Coordinator until July 2024. As T&S Coordinator you'll take the initiative to build a diverse community for PGRs at York and develop a series of engaging peer-to-peer support workshops with support from the [BRIC Team](#). Application deadline: Wednesday 22 March. [Learn more about the Thrive & Survive Coordinator role and how to apply](#).

Marking International Women's Day

Join us for talks, panels, exhibitions and more to celebrate this year's theme 'Embracing Equity'. From discussions on Iran to live music and networking, there are a range of events to explore. [Find out about International Women's Day events on campus](#).

'Missing pieces': discussing the experiences of our international students

The next Middle Ground event takes place on Tuesday 14 March and focuses on the experiences that international students and staff face. Middle Ground events aim to normalise difficult conversations, raise awareness of issues faced by different members of our community and to encourage everyone to understand different perspectives. Everyone is welcome to get involved - [register your free place at the Middle Ground event](#).

Local elections: you will need voter ID to vote in person

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](#).

Support and wellbeing

University Mental Health Day

There's lots you can do to improve your wellbeing for [University Mental Health Day](#) this Thursday (9 March).

Download the TalkCampus app

TalkCampus is our new instant, free 24/7 support for student mental health. Replacing Togetherall, TalkCampus is for students to talk with other students from around the world about the ups and downs of student life. It's anonymous, safe and moderated and is designed as a place where you can just be yourself and talk about how you're really feeling. [Download the TalkCampus app](#).

Help inform student wellbeing research

You can directly help inform research into student wellbeing. Researchers in Health Sciences - including Health Sciences PhD student, Paul Heron - are looking into the best strategies to improve student wellbeing and they need your input. Look out for our [SWANS student wellbeing study](#) survey invitation in your inbox later this week.

Your first response for security or safety issues on campus

The Security Services team has been renamed the [Campus Safety team](#) and are in a new location in Market Square. The new Campus Safety Hub is open 24/7, 365 days a year. The team is your first response for any security or safety issues. They are trained in first aid and mental health first aid. [Contact the Campus Safety team via SafeZone, by phone or in person](#).

Researcher development

Professional development resources

It's recommended that you undertake at least ten days of professional development per year. Professional development enhances skills that will help you thrive not only during your research degree, but for your long term professional goals. [Find out what you should do to develop your skills](#), including developing a Personal Development Plan with your supervisor.

15 Mar: Public engagement of research

The term 'Public Engagement' (PE) describes the many ways in which HE institutions and their staff and students can connect and share their work with the public. This session will examine the potential audiences for research, and provide case studies and interactive exercises to help you bring your research to life. [Book your place on the Public Engagement of Research workshop](#).

20 Mar: Preparing a funding proposal

This workshop will help you to recognise potential sources of research funding, consider what project you might wish to focus on, consider the potential impact of your idea, and understand the key elements of proposal writing and signpost to sources of support. [Book your place on the 'Preparing a Funding Proposal' workshop](#).

23 Mar: Networking and collaboration - how can it help your research?

Research councils and funding bodies increasingly expect researchers to work in cognate subject disciplines to enable a cross-fertilisation of ideas and expertise. But how do you network effectively and set up successful collaborations? [Book your place on our 'Networking and collaboration - how can it help your research?' session](#).

One to one statistics support

The Maths Skills Centre offers 30-minute one-to-one statistics appointments for PGRs both online and on campus. [Book a Maths Skills Centre appointment](#).

Learn a language this summer

Learn a language at a relaxed pace with a discounted Languages For All short course next term. A variety of languages are on offer with options for beginners through to advanced learners, including Arabic Intercultural Understanding, French Everyday Communication, and business, management and culture in Spanish-speaking countries. [Book your Summer Term eight-week language course](#).

Get involved with Digital Creativity Week

Digital Creativity Week is a week-long event in June to get hands-on with digital and creative technologies, explore archival material and research, and develop skills. It culminates in the creation of digital artefacts for an exhibition celebrating the University of York campus and collections. [Apply to get involved in Digital Creativity Week](#) by Friday 21 April.

Careers

PAID ROLE: Data Discoveries event organiser and resource coordinator

The Data Science Working Group are seeking a Graduate Teaching Assistant to both [organise the 2023 Data Discoveries event and to collate existing resources into a single repository](#). Application deadline: Monday 20 March

13 Mar: Careers outside academia: exploring options

This workshop is for researchers from all disciplines who want to consider the many career choices available to them outside of academia. This could include both research roles and non-research roles. [Book your place on the upcoming Careers Outside Academia: Exploring Options session](#).

21 Mar: Careers outside academia: Interviews

This workshop will include discussion of the function of interviews, some practical advice about preparing for and handling interview situations, plus an opportunity to practise interview skills. Understand more about selection interviews and identify techniques and strategies which will enhance your performance. [Book your place on the Careers Outside Academia: Interviews session.](#)

Teaching

Current teaching opportunities

The Department of [Sociology is holding a recruitment event](#) for any PGRs interested in being a Graduate Teaching Assistant (GTA) in the next academic year.

PGR public engagement activities

Take part in the 10th anniversary of 3 Minute Thesis 2023

Could you explain your research in just three minutes? Enter our 3 Minute Thesis competition to help refine your research and practise your communication skills. Ten PhD researchers will be given training to compete in the York 3MT Finals, with the winner going on to the national 3MT competition. [Apply to compete in 3 Minute Thesis.](#) Application deadline: Friday 31 March. For an example of previous competitors' presentations, see Daisy Johnson on [Why I applied to 3 Minute Thesis.](#)

News from the Graduate Students' Association

A Statement from YUSU and the GSA

YUSU and the GSA are considering the benefits of establishing a single, unified Students' Union for all students at the University. They are working on detailed proposals for the respective Boards of each Union and students will be consulted in the coming months. [Read the statement from YUSU and GSA.](#)



Celebrating our PGRs

Politics PhD student, **Fawzia Ehsani**, is speaking at the [official opening of David Kato College](#) on Tuesday 14 March. Fawzia's research focuses on the efficiency of regional and international organisations in Afghanistan's reconstruction after 2001. Before starting her PhD, Fawzia was Deputy Minister for the Afghan Ministry of Transport and Senior Advisor with the High Council for National Reconciliation.

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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