

York Graduate Research School newsletter - 26 January 2024

Update from the Dean



Storms have been battering the UK and York is under water again. A reminder, as if we needed one, that there are many things that we can't control. All we can control is our own response to them. So, this week when trying to get over the Millennium bridge and faced with an enormous puddle, my son and I just pedalled as fast as we could, whooping and laughing as mud and water sprayed over us. Sometimes all you can do is keep going and not take things too seriously!

This week, I didn't need to look too far for joyful moments. The YGRS team met up with the [YGRS PhD scholarship](#) holders to hear more about their research. They are tackling some really big issues such as migration, ageing, health and how we imagine our futures.

Absolutely fascinating and thought provoking - I could have spent all day talking with them. And we are open for applications for the next academic year - so please promote widely.

This week we also welcomed the new cohort of PGRs from across campus. Again - brilliant to meet everyone. Doing a PhD can feel like a lonely activity but hopefully you are all aware of the huge team of people at York who can support you (and your supervisors) - whether you need [computing power](#), help to deal with [emotional upheavals](#) or advice on [writing your CV](#). See the [YGRS pages for new PGRs](#).

Finally, please think about becoming a [representative in the new Students' Union](#). Sabbatical officers sit on most of the major committees of the University so they have a lot of opportunities to affect decision making and resource allocation. Plus, it is a great opportunity to show leadership and gain experience of how a large organisation works.

Best wishes,
Kate

YGRS and University news

Induction event round up

It was great to see so many of our new postgraduate researchers at the January YGRS induction event this week! Don't forget you can see our summary for new starters on the website. Check out our [information for new postgraduate researchers](#), including a list of things you need to do in your first year.

Pause on Student Centre development

The University is sorry to update that the new [Student Centre](#), temporarily on hold from summer 2023, has been paused for a further three year period. The decision comes as a result of escalating costs and the impact of inflation and global market uncertainties. The Student Centre remains a firm commitment in our 2030 Strategy and will be re-initiated as soon as possible, and we will continue to keep staff and students informed of progress.

Reintroduction of the free zone bus travel

From 5 February, First York is reintroducing the free to travel 'Campus Zone' on inter-campus bus routes 66 and 67. [Read more about what the Campus Zone is](#), as well as where and how to use it.

New campus nursery opens

With places for 94 children over different age groups, the [new nursery on Campus East](#) has opened. Students are eligible for [discounted York Campus Nursery fees](#).

Fee payment reminder - 31 January 2024

A quick reminder that [if you pay your own tuition fees or campus accommodation costs](#), a payment instalment is due at the end of this month. The easiest way to pay is via direct debit or the [‘My Finance’ section in e:Vision](#).

Support and wellbeing

Make Time to Talk

Thursday 1 February is Time to Talk Day, a day when everyone is encouraged to talk about how they are. The more conversations we have, the more barriers we can break down. [Download the Time To Talk bingo card](#) to help start conversations. Can you complete four actions for your mental health?

5 Feb: Light Up The Night

In solidarity with survivors of sexual violence, we’re hosting our annual Light Up The Night walk across campus on 5 February, as part of [Sexual Abuse and Sexual Violence Awareness Week](#). Following a pre-mapped route around campus with battery powered candles, the event will end with hot drinks and an opportunity to learn more about the support provided by the University and local services. The event is free to attend but [please book a place at Light Up The Night](#) as spaces are limited.

Researcher development

1 Feb: It's all in the presentation: Creating and presenting your slides

PowerPoint and Google Slides include many under-exploited features that can help the creation of more effective presentations and other resources. This session explores the use of template design, and working with animations and other media - as well as how to source and evidence the information you include in your presentations. [Book onto the Presentations workshop](#).

7 Feb: You don't know what you don't know

Want to know how to work smarter, not harder? There are many digital tools offering new, more effective ways of achieving old goals. Come to this online [You don't know what you don't know](#) session for an overview of some of the tools you might find useful for planning and organising information, note taking and keeping track of your notes, working collaboratively, or keeping up to date.

8 Feb: Copyright for Researchers

This workshop is aimed at PhD researchers from any discipline who are preparing material for a thesis or scholarly publication. Participants in this session will explore the legal terms and licences which permit the re-use of third party materials, consider strategies for requesting additional permissions and review the licences available for releasing your own material. [Book onto the Copyright for Researchers workshop](#).

Careers

6 Feb: Making the most of your PhD

Getting involved with activities beyond your own research can be beneficial for your employability, professional development and your mental health and wellbeing. This session will highlight a range of activities and opportunities that will help you to expand your experience and transferable skills, whether you are considering a career in academia or other sectors. [Book onto the Making the most of your PhD workshop](#).

Teaching

19 Mar: Practice teaching workshop for GTAs

A chance to practise teaching in a 'safe space' with feedback from both the Academic Practice facilitator and your GTA peers. This 4-hour session will typically have 6 participants. You'll teach your peers for 15 minutes followed by constructive, supportive discussion and feedback. [Sign up for the practice teaching workshop](#) by 7 March.

Introduction to Teaching and Learning training

If you're planning to teach as a GTA at York, you need to complete [Introduction to Teaching and Learning training](#) first. There are three different workshops; you should complete the one recommended by your department. For any queries, please contact the Academic Practice Team: academic-practice@york.ac.uk

PGR public engagement activities

Call for contributions: York Festival of Ideas Fringe Family Fun Afternoon

Every year, the Humanities Research Centre organises a family fun afternoon as part of the [York Festival of Ideas](#). Could you run a fun and creative activity based on your research? It is a great opportunity to engage with the local community and gain public engagement experience. [Suggest your Family Fun Afternoon session](#) by 4 March.

Launch of the Viking 2 Supercomputer

To coincide with the official launch of the Viking 2 York's new super computer we are looking to engage with the public through a series of outreach activities. As part of preparing for this we want to hear from researchers who use Viking for their research and would be interested in engaging with outreach. If this is you please fill out the [Viking 2 Researchers Outreach Questionnaire](#). Email James.Lees@york.ac.uk with any questions.

News from the Graduate Students' Association

Forthcoming GSA events

10 Feb: GSA Lunar New Year Celebrations

13 Feb: GSA Pal-entine's Night at Kennedy's

[Find out more about GSA events](#)



Suggest a Sabb

Do you know someone who would make a great student representative in the [new single Students' Union](#)? Then recommend them! They don't need any experience and don't need to have been involved in Union activity before. YUSU will simply get in touch with them with more information about running in the Students' Union elections. It's a great way to show your support to your peers and encourage them to take on the challenge of running as a candidate! You can [Suggest a Sabb](#) until Wednesday 6 March.

Events and opportunities:

- Free entry and money off over 50 of York's top attractions, restaurants, bars and retailers at this weekend's [York Residents' Festival 2024](#)
- City of York Council are inviting all York residents, visitors and commuters to take part in an important [conversation about transport in York](#)
- [Book a slot with the bike doctor](#) for a free bike check and discounted repairs

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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