

York Graduate Research School newsletter - 22 April 2024

Update from the Dean



At an event in Cambridge last week, I and some colleagues presented some of the results of our [YCEDE project](#), which is looking to increase the ethnic diversity of the UK PGR community. Baron Simon Woolley gave us an inspirational welcome to Homerton College. If you don't know his backstory then [check it out](#) - it is an amazing affirmation of the power of education (and individual persistence) to change lives.

You might have seen that the Vice-Chancellor published an article about the [financial challenges facing the higher education sector](#) recently. The implications of this for York are currently being discussed among staff with more information coming out to you very soon.

I am sure that you are starting to hear via the grapevine about some of the changes being planned, but you will get a full briefing soon.

PGR accommodation - cost and lack thereof - has been raised with YGRS repeatedly via reps and our [PGR Forum](#). In turn, I keep raising it as an issue with relevant teams and committees. You now have an opportunity to raise issues via a survey that will form the basis for discussions with York City Council. Please [share your housing experiences by completing a brief survey](#). It would be great if the PGR perspective - which is so distinct from that of UGs - could be heard.

Best wishes,
Kate

YGRS and University news

30 Apr: Fee payment reminder

A quick reminder that if you pay your own fees, 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](#). *****A reminder to please be wary about giving out your financial information***** We have been advised of a current scam where phone callers claim to be from the University finance team and ask students for personal financial details. Please remember that University staff will never contact you in this way. See more information about [scammers - they're after your money](#).

Small change, big impact: Use energy wisely

We're embarking on an exciting journey to [revolutionise how we use energy across our university](#) community. We've set ourselves an ambitious target: saving over 1,500 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent in just 12 months. We're asking everyone within our community to [make our own small changes when it comes to energy usage](#) so that collectively we can make a big impact on our sustainability. Please get involved.

Responsible investment at the University

We have announced that [the University no longer holds investments in companies that primarily make or sell weapons](#) and defence-related products or services. The changes to our responsible investment statement also confirm that York does not and will not invest in companies whose primary activity is tobacco, gambling, adult entertainment or predatory lending.

Do you qualify for a student parking permit?

If you bring your car to campus, please don't park inconsiderately in residential streets close by. Check if you qualify for a [student parking permit](#) and find out about other [ways to travel to campus](#).

Winning student idea brings you new Library sensory rooms

It began as a winning idea from [LibInspo](#) 2023. Now, we have [two new sensory rooms in the Library!](#) Located on the 2nd floor of the Harry Fairhurst building, the bookable Sensory Study Room is designed primarily for studying, whilst the drop-in Sensory Retreat Room is a calm space that allows you to take time out from studying.

Support and wellbeing

What's your experience of accommodation in York?

We're taking part in research aimed at making the future housing experience of students in York better. Alongside Fusion Student, York St John Students' Union, the NHS, and others, we're gathering insights to understand the current housing landscape and explore ways to enhance off campus and private housing options in York. Please [share your housing experiences by completing a brief survey](#). Your feedback will be presented to York City Council, helping to shape future accommodation solutions in our city. There's also a chance to win a £250 voucher. Survey deadline: 28 April

How are you?

Take part in important research here at York by Health Sciences PhD Candidate, Paul Heron. By completing the SWANS survey into student wellbeing, you'll contribute to much-needed research so that we can better support students. Check your UoY inbox for [your invitation to take part in the SWANS survey](#). And, don't forget, there are lots of people at the university who are [here to help with your wellbeing](#).

Researcher development

24 Apr: [Introduction to Intellectual Property and research commercialisation \(online\)](#)

This course provides a brief overview of what Intellectual Property (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.

25 Apr: [Enhancing Research Culture: The \(good\) life of a scientific editor session \(online and in person\)](#)

Dr Alejandro Montenegro-Montero (Executive Editor, CSH Protocols Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, USA) will discuss the life of an editor and ways to join this career path. There will be opportunities to discuss and exchange ideas during a Q&A session and lunch.

7-17 May: [Open Research at York fortnight](#)

Join members of the University of York research community for an exciting and inspiring series of open research aligned events. The Open Research at York fortnight programme covers a diverse set of practices, topics and formats including training workshops, discussion groups and research showcases.

13 May: [Bridging boundaries: Fostering partnerships for researchers in the Social Sciences \(in person\)](#)

This workshop aims to empower academic researchers in the Social Sciences with the tools and knowledge to identify, cultivate and scale up strategic partnerships with stakeholders for research and education.

Careers

24 Apr: [Working in research event \(in person\)](#)

Are you interested in using your research skills beyond your PhD ? Hear from York alumni working in research roles in sectors such as academia, heritage, public sector, business, technology and media at this panel Q&A and networking event. Many of the panellists have postgraduate qualifications and will be able to discuss how they apply the skills and knowledge from their studies in their work.

30 Apr: [Careers in voluntary and charity sectors \(online\)](#)

Join us for a dynamic alumni panel discussing careers in the voluntary and charity sectors. Gain insights and advice from professionals making a difference. Learn about diverse opportunities and routes into a career in the sector.

Teaching

9 May: [GTA Microteaching: teaching practice workshop for GTAs](#)

An opportunity to practise teaching in a 'safe space' for 6 GTAs. You'll teach your peers for 15 minutes on a topic of your choice, followed by constructive, supportive discussion and feedback from both the Academic Practice facilitator and your fellow GTAs. [Sign up for the microteaching workshop](#) by 29 April.

[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.

News from the Students' Unions

[Nominations for the Love York Awards are open](#)

[YUSU's Love York Awards](#) are your chance to nominate your peers for awards that recognise their hard work, passion, and commitment to making York the best it can be. With 10 categories like Contribution to Student Wellbeing and Event of the Year, now is the time to shine a spotlight on those extra-special people. Nominations close at midday on 1 May.

Celebrating our PGRs

[How Henry VIII's grandmother used a palace in Northamptonshire to build the mighty Tudor dynasty](#) - Keely Hayes-Davies (History)

Events and opportunities:

- [Contributors wanted: NIHR Advisory Groups](#)
- [The White Rose Universities & Gale Symposium Event](#)
- [University of York Open Lectures](#)
- For PGR supervisors: [Supporting postgraduate researchers \(PGRs\) with neurodiversity](#)

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

[YGRS newsletter archive](#)