York Graduate Research School newsletter - 17 May 2024

Update from the Dean

Well done to all of the PGRs who received awards for their Open Research projects - I was particularly impressed by the work of archaeologist Lucy Moore who has created a Wikipedia page for a woman in every country of the world.

You'll know that we are well into assessment marking season and that staff are working extremely hard. We've also shared an update with students about the UK funding for higher education and what this means for York. This week, we launched a University-wide voluntary severance scheme. So, there is change happening which we know may be unsettling.

YGRS is aware that PGRs may be impacted by these changes and our efforts to reduce costs. We will be working with professional support teams and also your Grad Chairs to ensure we protect the most important aspects of PGR experience. We are working with every department to respond and put in place the right mitigations to deal with these challenges. If you'd like to ask any further questions, please get in touch with your PGR reps or the GSA, or you can contact YGRS directly: ygrs@york.ac.uk.

We remain committed to providing opportunities for training and facilitating connections across the University. One conference run by some of our PGRs is 'Race' and Socially Engaged Research: Conference for PGRs and ECRs. I attended last year and it showcased the work of some inspirational researchers and activists.

Best wishes,
Kate

YGRS and University news

Open Research Awards results
We are delighted to announce the recipients of the York Open Research Awards 2024! The panel selected their chosen projects for recognition through careful consideration of the ways in which they engage with, reflect upon and advocate for open research practices and principles. Explore the full list of awardees and the diverse range of projects and subjects their work covers.

Extended opening hours for the Library and Creativity Lab
To coincide with the assessment and examination period for taught students, the University Library and Creativity Lab have extended opening hours for all users to access study spaces, facilities and support. The Library is open 24 hours a day until 9 June, whilst the Creativity Lab will be open until 11pm between Monday - Thursday from 20 May until 6 June.

YGRS Conference Fund: deadline 1 June
Self-funded PGRs can apply to the YGRS Conference Fund to attend UK and international conferences when other funding options have been exhausted. The closing date for the next round of funding is midnight on 1 June.

University finances update

You may have read that UK funding for higher education continues to be very challenging and, like many other universities, we continue to face increasing costs. It's now widely reported that universities across the country lose £1 billion each year on teaching domestic students and £5 billion on undertaking research. This means we need to find different ways to manage our finances so that we can reinvest in teaching and learning, our student experience and in our research. Read about [how we're responding at York and what this means for our students](#).

Exploring equitable research support in the Faculty of Social Sciences survey: call for responses

The Faculty of Social Sciences is looking for your thoughts and experiences of research support, activities and practices in your department/Centre/School. [Please complete the Social Sciences survey](#) by 20 May.

Support and wellbeing

[PGR Mentoring Programme](#): applications now open

Open to all postgraduate researchers in their 2nd, 3rd or final year (or part time equivalent), the PGR Mentoring Programme pairs you typically with a UoY Postdoctoral Researcher. 9 out of 10 previous mentees would recommend taking part - so don't miss your opportunity to apply to be a mentee! Deadline: 5 June

22 May: [Balancing an academic career with caring responsibilities](#) (in-person and online)

Hear from academics at different career stages and with different backgrounds about their experiences, struggles, lessons, and advice on topics such as having a child at an early career stage, moving abroad to a new institution with young children, as well as an exciting new initiative to help carers maintain some of their lab's research activity while they are on parental leave.

Researcher development

28 May: [Copyright for Researchers](#) (online)

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.

29 May: [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. Learn how IP and commercialisation processes can be used to increase your research impact, develop new funding opportunities, and strengthen your grant applications.

29 May: [Advanced Oral Presentations: Secrets of Great Presenters](#) (online)

In this short, focused webinar we'll discuss: best practice in presenting; the devices and approaches that help a speaker connect with an audience; how to develop a presenting style that works for you; and getting a complex message across to an audience effectively.

3-19 June: [From Data to Insights: Transform your research with data analysis](#) (online)

Getting started with data analysis and statistical software can be daunting. The Maths Skills Centre is hosting a series of workshops designed to equip you with the essential tools and techniques for data analysis.

19-20 June: ['Race' and Socially Engaged Research](#): Conference for PGRs and ECRs (in-person)

Registration is open for this conference, which includes panel and paper presentations from PGRs and ECRs, two roundtable discussions, three interactive workshops, a poster and artwork exhibition.

Careers

20 May: Academic Careers: Interviews (online)
Join us to explore and identify the likely key stages of the academic interview process. Learn how to answer questions about your teaching/research strategies, how to use STAR statements, and how best to prepare for an academic interview. Book onto the Interviews workshop.

XR Stories residency programme - apply by 24 May
XR Stories has launched a new residency programme for researchers (including late stage PhD students) and creative businesses to work on projects using extended reality technologies in a space outside their usual environment. Successful applicants will become residents in the XR Stories immersive technology lab in The Guildhall, for up to five days focused research and development time, with support from the XR Stories team.

Teaching

Introduction to Teaching and Learning training: now booking for Sept 2024
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.

Current teaching opportunities
See current Graduate Teaching Assistant (GTA) teaching opportunities on Handshake.

PGR public engagement activities

Come to 3 Minute Thesis
Join us on 8 June for the live final of this year's Three Minute Thesis competition. In a challenge against the clock, ten postgraduate researchers will compete to educate and engage audiences with their research… in just three minutes! Come along to support your fellow PGRs, learn something new, and vote for your favourite speaker! Register for your free ticket.

Events and opportunities:
- Fellowship Funding Opportunity: Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS)
- Register your interest in carbon literacy courses
- Win an iPad with the Santander Universities Student Tech Prize Draw
- Discover funding opportunities with XR Network+

More news and opportunities can be found on the Research Student Community blog

YGRS newsletter archive