

York Graduate Research School newsletter - 27 August 2024

Update from the Dean



Since our last newsletter, we have seen worrying instances of racist violence across the UK. We hope you and your loved ones are keeping well and safe during this difficult time. YGRS strongly condemns all incidences of hate, and the targeting of individuals or groups because of their ethnicity, culture, religion, nationality or political views. The University seeks to build bridges and community, to promote social cohesion and collaborations, as well as to create opportunities and hope through the research, education and people that we support. This is particularly evident within the PGR community across York. In case you haven't seen it, the University has produced some guidance for staff and [students](#) affected. See also the [YCEDE webpages](#).

York values the diversity of our PGR community. So, YGRS is really pleased to be launching our new [code of practice](#) for staff involved in PGR recruitment and selection. This very much focuses on ensuring that we have a fair and transparent process for PGR selection - and an equity minded approach to doctoral recruitment. The emphasis is on people's potential to do research rather than simply past performance in exams and other things that reflect socio-economic opportunities for example.

Finally, a limited number of academic staff will be leaving the university over the next few months under the [voluntary severance and early retirement scheme](#). Some of you may experience a change in supervisory team as a result. There is a process for supporting you and your supervisors through this process - and we have sent guidance to your departmental Graduate Chair who will be working with colleagues to make sure that you continue to be supported through your studies. We have also gathered answers to [frequently asked questions here](#), as well as a link to contact details for your Graduate Chair. As always, email ygrs@york.ac.uk if you have any queries that can't be answered within your department.

Best wishes,
Kate

YGRS and University news

New researcher?

If you're beginning your research degree with us, [see all the information you need to help you settle in and get started](#) - including signing up for the YGRS induction event on 2 October and getting a buddy!

Postgraduate Researcher Induction - Wednesday 2 October

Whether you're a brand new Postgraduate researcher (PGR - PhD, MPhil and Masters by Research students), or you missed our previous induction events, you are warmly welcomed to the upcoming University of York Induction for new Postgraduate Researchers! Meet your fellow PGRs, learn about key information and support available to you, hear practical advice from current PGRs and join us afterwards for refreshments and networking. [Please book your place](#) for catering purposes.

Recruitment, Selection and Admission of Postgraduate Researchers

YGRS has recently updated York's [Code of Practice on the Recruitment, Selection and Admission of Postgraduate Researchers](#). This update has introduced a range of contextual admissions practices focusing on making the recruitment of Postgraduate Researchers more equitable, in line with the University's Research Strategy and work being done by our partners in YCEDE. We believe that while talent is everywhere, opportunity is not, and this update to our code of practice will provide more opportunity to the next generation of talented researchers here at York.

Support for Changes in Supervisory Team

If you undergo an unexpected change to your supervisory team, this can be a difficult experience. The University has policies in place for this scenario, but you will likely have questions about what this means for you and your research. YGRS have sent a detailed guidance document to all Graduate Chairs so that they are aware and prepared to support you. You will also find answers to [frequently asked questions on the University's webpages](#), along with contact details, so that you can find the right person within your Department or School to speak with, as well as who to contact if you require additional support.

Support and wellbeing

Support for PGRs affected by recent riots

See the University statement for [staff](#), [PGRs and students](#) following recent events.

- **Students and PGRs** can find a [directory of support services here](#), including links to OpenDoor and College Support.
- **Staff** can access a range of [support services here](#), including guides on HR processes for requesting a change to working patterns, locations, and leaves of absence.
- **Staff, students, and visitors** can report racism as a victim or a witness [here](#).

Researcher development

Launch of the Research Culture Action Plan

The University has launched its [Research Culture Action Plan 2024-2030](#), which sets out our ambitions for building a positive research culture across the institution. The plan is split into five 'focus areas', with one section specifically focussing on 'meeting the needs of our postgraduate research student community'.

An update on training workshops

The BRIC Team is currently working on the Researcher Development & Skills Programme for 2024/25. Sessions will be added to SkillsForge before the start of Semester, before training commences again in October. We'll put another announcement in this newsletter when the programme is launched!

Careers

PhD Careers Fair at the University of Leeds, 11th September, 13.00-15.00

Don't miss this PhD Careers Fair, organised by the University of Leeds, but open to postgraduate researchers from York. Travel expenses (up to £25) will be reimbursed. Read the [YGRS blog post](#) to find out which organisations are attending and book your place.

Careers Advice

The Careers and Placements team remains open during the [vacation period](#), contact us for advice or book a careers appointment

Teaching

Current teaching opportunities

See any current Graduate Teaching Assistant (GTA) [teaching opportunities on Handshake](#).

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.

Events and opportunities:

- [Improving Research Community Builder Award](#) - support for PGRs who want to host local events focused on improving research practices and culture at their universities.

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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