

## York Graduate Research School newsletter - 4 June 2024

### Update from the Dean



A big week in the YGRS calendar - on Saturday we are hosting the [3MT final](#) as part of the Festival of Ideas. It's the first time that 3MT has been at the weekend, so we are hoping for a big turn out to support the 10 finalists. Do join us - it is a fun event and a great showcase for the impactful research of our PGR community.

With ongoing debates around freedom of speech and academic freedom (see [Notes on York's 'Regulation 10'](#)), York has been experiencing two different forms of protest with an encampment and a remake of a Pink Floyd classic. And of course, we are in the midst of a general election. Whether you feel like 'another brick in the wall' or 'comfortably numb', do check out [YUSU's guide to the general election](#) on what it means for students and also how

to register to vote.

We are delighted at the [UK Migration Advisory Committee's explicit recommendation](#) that the Graduate Visa Route (GR) should remain in its entirety. International candidates make up 40% of our PGR community and are vital to the success of our research endeavours at York. And we welcome the opportunity to retain more of our PGR alumni within our research groups.

Best wishes,  
Kate

### YGRS and University news

#### Summer on campus

From next week, catering venues and shops on campus will follow [revised summer opening hours](#) so you'll need to check to see when your favourite spot is open. You can still access the usual academic support. The Library is open 8am until midnight and the [Academic Skills Community](#) continues with its programme of workshops and one-to-one appointments to help you work on all things related to academic reading, writing and statistics. Check the [MyUoY app](#) for [student events](#) continuing over the summer.

#### Studying off campus over the summer?

If you're planning on studying off campus over the summer, you may need to [connect to the Virtual Private Network \(VPN\)](#) so you can access restricted services and get access to your filestore. For those who will be using IT resources overseas, make sure you read our [using University IT facilities overseas guidance](#) before you travel as some countries restrict the IT services you can access. Students working from China should use [China Connect](#) to access University services and Google workspace.

#### Marking Pride Month

Join us tomorrow (5 June) on the flag mound behind Central Hall where we are raising the Progress Pride Flag. Find out more about our plans for [Pride Month 2024](#).

## 14 June: Temporary closure of EV charging bays

All Electric Vehicle ([EV](#)) charging bays across campus will be temporarily closed on 14 June for essential maintenance work and will reopen on 15 June.

## 10 - 24 June: Campus East book locker closed for relocation

The Campus East book locker and book drop return point will be [relocated back to the Ron Cooke Hub ground floor foyer in June](#), in order to ensure the service remains accessible 24/7 going forward. For alternative book return facilities during this interim period, use the external Library [book drop or book return point on Campus West](#) at the JB Morrell Library.

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## Support and wellbeing

### [PGR Mentoring Programme](#): applications closing soon

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

### Win one of 50 research grants worth £1,000 each

Resources, equipment, travel, conference attendance – these are just some of the ways you can spend your £1,000 Santander Universities Research Award. Available to any postgraduate student or academic staff member conducting research in the 2023/24 or the 2024/25 academic year. [Visit Santander's website for more details and apply by 11 July](#).

### 19 June: York science communication social

The York Science Communication social offers a relaxed environment to network and socialise with others involved or interested in science communication. [Sign up to the science communication social mailing list](#).

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## Researcher development

### Fundamentals of academic writing workshops (online)

Join the Building Research and Innovation Capacity (BRIC) team for four interconnected workshops in the fundamentals of academic writing:

- 10 June: [Laying the Foundation for Clear Writing](#)
- 11 June: [Strategies for Effective Drafting](#)
- 12 June: [Strategies for Effective Editing](#)
- 13 June: [Getting the Writing Written](#)

Attendees are encouraged to attend all four sessions if possible; however, you can attend single sessions.

### Refine your writing skills

Whether you're in the middle of writing a chapter, working on a research publication, or just starting your research journey, the [Academic Skills Community's upcoming workshops](#) are designed to help you master the art of writing.

### 12 June: [Confidence to present at a conference](#) (in-person)

Boost your confidence to present at a conference at an interactive face to face workshop on 12 June. This session will give you the chance to practise the skills required to deliver with confidence.

### 13 June: [Gale Digital Scholar Lab Training Day](#)

The White Rose Universities of Leeds, Sheffield and York are holding a training day in collaboration with Gale to explore the sources and tools available in the Gale Primary Sources database and the Gale Digital Scholar Lab.

## **NEW: Flexible 'after hours' workshops**

We're piloting 'after hours' training workshops this month for PGRs who can't attend our workshops held during typical working hours, including distance learners in different time zones, as well as anyone who works flexibly:

- 17 June: [Preparing for your Viva](#)
- 18 June: [Effective Time Management](#)
- 19 June: [What is Public Engagement of Research?](#)

### **17 June: [Making your Publication Open Access](#)**

This workshop will give an introduction to Open Access to research publications, why it's important, and options for making your publication open.

### **27 June: [Celebrating Spaces: Connecting researchers](#)**

A full day celebration of research at York and the people who make it happen. The day aims to particularly spotlight the behind the scenes drivers of our research: postdocs, technicians and professional services staff.

### **4 July: [Introduction to impact and knowledge exchange: how can your work make a difference?](#)**

An introduction to the essentials of research impact and knowledge exchange, including their drivers and how they relate to national initiatives such as the Research Excellence Framework (REF). We will demystify terminology and explore the question that's really important: how can my research (or the research I support) make a difference?

### **[New online learning resource about research impact](#)**

This self-directed learning resource on the VLE covers the fundamentals of research impact, and is split into five 30 minute modules looking at planning for impact, engagement with stakeholders, and evaluating impact.

### **Open research newsletter**

The fifth issue of the Open Research Newsletter is now available, celebrating the outcomes of this year's York Open Research Awards and sharing findings and recommendations from the recent University open research survey. There is also an Open Research Journey from PGR Luqman Muraina (Interdisciplinary Global Development Centre) and updates on open access publishing and new training opportunities. [Read all issues of the Open Research Newsletter](#) (login required) and [subscribe](#) to receive future issues.

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## **Careers**

### **14 June: [Enhancing Research Culture: Conversations between academia and industry](#)**

Hear from panellists who have spent significant time working in industry and have experience collaborating and working with academics. There will be plenty of opportunities to ask questions to the panel and network over lunch, with hot drinks provided - please bring your own cup!

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## **Teaching**

### **New GTA training and development web pages**

We have revised our [web pages for Graduate Teaching Assistants \(GTAs\)](#) to reflect planned changes to our support for GTAs' professional development in 2024/25.

### **Supporting your students' wellbeing**

Open Door have produced a [supporting student wellbeing guide for GTAs](#) on how to signpost support for your students and maintain your professional boundaries.

### **Introduction to Teaching and Learning training: Booking now for September**

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](mailto:academic-practice@york.ac.uk).

### Current teaching opportunities

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

## PGR public engagement activities

### Come to 3 Minute Thesis

Join us on Saturday (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](#).

### Support your fellow PGRs at York Festival of Ideas

[York Festival of Ideas](#) began this weekend with a packed programme of over 200 mostly free events. And with topics ranging from animals to art, history to health and politics to psychology, the Festival promises something for everyone. Look out for events involving your fellow PGRs including:

- [Let's Sing: Ballads and cries of York workshop](#)
- [Soapbox Science](#)
- [Making Musicals in the Metaverse: Live demo](#)
- [Why You're Not Dead: Biomedical science](#)

Also, make sure not to miss Festival highlight, [From Page to Hollywood Screen](#), with filmmaker Shekhar Kapur (Elizabeth: The Golden Age), author Vikas Swarup (Q&A, filmed as Slumdog Millionaire) and Katie Razzall, BBC News Culture and Media Editor.

## News from the Graduate Students' Association

### GSA Survey Swap Social

Starting a research project and not sure where to begin recruiting participants? Join the GSA for their next Survey Swap Social - a monthly collaborative space where you can share your survey, support your peers, and enjoy a well earned drink and cake! With sessions planned for 20 June and 18 July, [register your interest now](#).



### Events and opportunities:

- [Call for Abstracts: Vulnerability and Policing Futures Research Centre PhD Summer School](#)
- ['A Leader's Destiny': Lecture by Elias Aboujaoude](#)
- [Win an iPad with the Santander Universities Student Tech Prize Draw](#)
- [York Sport summer of sport membership offer](#)
- [Register as a potential participant in economics experiments](#)
- [PAID: Work as an event steward for Celebrating Spaces: Connecting Researchers](#)
- [Alumni Action Day in Wheldrake Ings Nature Reserve](#)

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

[YGRS newsletter archive](#)