Doctoral Academy Updates

Faculty of Humanities Doctoral Academy

PGR Handbook

For all the information you need for your PhD programme, scan the QR code for your Faculty of Humanities PGR Handbook or visit www.humanities-pgr-handbook.manchester.ac.uk/

A warm welcome (and welcome back) to all our new and returning PGRs!

In the first newsletter of the new academic year are some important reminders regarding registration and course enrolment as well as the semester 1 programme for artsmethods and the My Research Essentials programme from the Library.

You will also see your PGR Handbook is now on Sharepoint. Scan the QR code and bookmark it!

The Doctoral Academy Team

Follow us on Bluesky: https://bsky.app/profile/uom-humsdocacad.bsky.social

Join us on LinkedIn: [The University of Manchester Faculty of Humanities Doctoral Academy | Groups | LinkedIn](#)

[DA Spotify Podcast](#)

Welcome and Welcome back!

I want to welcome back those returning to continue with their studies with us after a summer of rest!

To those starting with us, congratulations on gaining admissions to our PGR programme here at Manchester. It is my pleasure to welcome you to the Faculty of Humanities and the Humanities Doctoral Academy as you start this exciting journey with others.

You are joining a vibrant research community that will nurture the research talent you have and set you on a pathway to be world leading researcher ready to confront modern day challenges with skill and confidence.

You will work with your supervisors and other researchers and support staff at Manchester to add to what is already a vibrant research community. You will be challenged to build your resilience as a researcher and you will be encouraged and supported to succeed.

Through our Researcher Development Programme, you will build the transferable skills you will need to be a successful researcher - perhaps a future thought leader! The journey you are starting is expected to be challenging and fulfilling but can also be lonely and frustrating. You need not worry because here at the HUMs DA and in your school and discipline area you will make friends, build networks and be supported through out your stay here. I encourage you to venture beyond your discipline, to make friends and make your stay here a success!

We know from experience that your PhD experience will be more fulfilling and satisfying if you immerse yourself in the many learning opportunities available through seminars, reading groups, workshops, master classes and conferences that your discipline area will organise. We encourage you to be at the centre of such academic endeavours and to enrich the research culture and environment in your area through your energy and new ideas.

As you start your PhD here is a challenge: We expect you to have your first publication and perhaps land your first grant during your stay here! Everyone you meet here at the DA and the University wants you to succeed and they will support you in this journey.

Dr Admos Chimhowu

Faculty Associate Dean for PGR

Meet the Doctoral Academy Team

Welcome to the new academic year!

Hi everyone, whether you're returning to your doctoral studies or just beginning your research journey—welcome to the new academic year!

My name is Anne-Marie, and I joined the University of Manchester in July 2024 as the PGR Services Manager, leading the Doctoral Academy (DA).

The DA is here to support you throughout your postgraduate research experience at the University. We are based on the ground floor of Block C in the Ellen Wilkinson Building, do feel free to pop by and meet the team.

I've recently reviewed the outcomes of the PGR Voice Survey, and one thing that really stood out is how many of you have great ideas for how we can improve the services we offer. To make it easier for you to share your thoughts—whether it's a good news story or a suggestion for improvement—I've created a Humanities DA Feedback and Ideas form where you can provide feedback at any time.

This section of the newsletter is actually a direct response to feedback that many PGRs don't feel they know the staff in the DA. So, going forward, individuals or teams from the DA will be writing short introductions to help you get to know the people behind the service.

We're really looking forward to working with you this year and hearing your ideas!

Warm wishes,
Anne-Marie Walsh
PGR Services Manager, Doctoral Academy

New PGR Handbook

Your PGR Handbook is now on Sharepoint!

The Humanities PGR Handbook can now be found on a brand new Sharepoint site.

The new handbook brings together information about your programme, support and services in the Doctoral Academy, your School and Department into one place.

Access your Handbook here

The move to Sharepoint means that access is restricted to users within the University of Manchester. You will be required to log in (only for the first time) to your University of Manchester Microsoft account in order to access this Sharepoint site.

If you have a personal Microsoft account, please make sure to log out of that account and log back in using University of Manchester Microsoft account in order to access the handbook (as well other University of Manchester Sharepoint sites that you have access to and Microsoft 365 apps).

We hope you find the handbook useful and we welcome your feedback.

Registration

You will have received communication from the University Student Services Centre inviting you to complete annual registration.

If you have successfully progressed in your annual review, you will be able to complete the registration online. Re-registration is an essential part of your official status on the programme.

For those who are due to re-register in September, the deadline is 30 September 2025. Failure to register when you are required to may result in the registration termination.

If you require support with the registration process, please see here where you can find registration information, access online registration chat facility or submit an online request for support.

School PGR Reps

We're pleased to announce the launch of the Humanities PGR Representation Scheme for 2025/26, designed to strengthen postgraduate research representation across the Faculty.

Following successful models in other faculties, this new two-tier structure introduces:

- School PGR Reps (paid pilot role, £150/month stipend)
- Divisional/Cohort PGR Reps (voluntary roles)

The scheme aims to enhance student engagement, feedback mechanisms, and research culture, while offering valuable leadership and professional development opportunities.

Interested in becoming a School PGR Rep?

We are now inviting Expressions of Interest from PGRs in Year 1 or 2 (or part-time equivalent).

Please submit your EOI by **Wednesday 16th October 2025.**

For full details of the roles see the HUMs PGR Handbook or contact the Doctoral Academy at hums.doctoralacademy@manchester.ac.uk

We look forward to working with you to build a vibrant and inclusive PGR community.

Course enrolment

If your programme has compulsory training units (including SEED Research Training Programme and AMBS Research Training Programme), these will have been enrolled on your record. You can view the courses and timetable through My Manchester. For AMBS Research Training Programme, information will be sent to you separately by the Doctoral Academy.

If you wish to attend additional taught courses, please discuss with your supervisory team in the first instance. Once that you have had your supervisory team's agreement, please refer to the course enrolment instructions in the Development section of the online handbook.

The deadline for enrolment for semester 1 is 4pm 10 October.

Library update

Get Started with the Library!

If you've just joined us, or just need a refresher, and are looking for information on how to use the Library and make the most of its services, be sure to visit the Get Started webpage!

This provides information on:

- how to access our books, journals and databases to help with your studies;
- free training workshops designed to help you build the personal and academic skills you need to succeed;
- study spaces available to you on campus;

Make sure you also check out the Get Started events page so you can join tours and information sessions. If you have questions, you can visit any of the Library sites and chat to our friendly staff about how the Library can support you.

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The Library have also released their upcoming **My Research Essentials workshop programme** for October 2025:

- Introduction to RDM - part one (online) - Mon 6 Oct, 14:00 - 15:00
- Creating and managing your ORCID (online) - Wed 8 Oct, 10:00 – 11:00
- Creating and managing your ORCID (online) - Wed 8 Oct, 10:00 – 11:00
- Writing your Data Management Plan - a Q&A session (on campus) - Tue 14 Oct, 13:00 – 14:00
- Writing your Data Management Plan - a Q&A session (on campus) - Tue 14 Oct, 13:00 – 14:00
- Choosing a credible journal and how to avoid 'Predatory Publishers' (on campus) - Thu 16 Oct, 11:00 – 12:00

- [Choosing a credible journal and how to avoid 'Predatory Publishers' (on campus)](#) - Thu 16 Oct, 11:00 – 12:00

- [Shut up and write (on campus)](#) - Fri 17 Oct 2025, 10:00 - 12:00

- [Shut up and write (on campus)](#) - Fri 17 Oct 2025, 10:00 - 12:00

- [Seven steps to raising your research profile (online)](#) - Tue 21 Oct, 14:00 – 15:00

- [Seven steps to raising your research profile (online)](#) - Tue 21 Oct, 14:00 – 15:00

- [Research data conversations (Dr Vanessa Higgins, UK Data Service) (on campus)](#) - Wed 22 Oct, 12:00 – 13:30

- [Research data conversations (Dr Vanessa Higgins, UK Data Service) (on campus)](#) - Wed 22 Oct, 12:00 – 13:30

- [Sharing research with confidence: developing your public speaking skills (on campus)](#) - Tue 28 Oct 2025, 10:00 - 11:30

- [Sharing research with confidence: developing your public speaking skills (on campus)](#) - Tue 28 Oct 2025, 10:00 - 11:30

- [Introduction to FAIR data principles (online)](#) - Wed 29 Oct 2025, 14:00 - 16:00

- [Introduction to FAIR data principles (online)](#) - Wed 29 Oct 2025, 14:00 - 16:00

- [Shut up and write (online)](#) - Thu 30 Oct, 10:00 - 12:00

- [Shut up and write (online)](#) - Thu 30 Oct, 10:00 - 12:00

artsmethods@manchester

Research methods in the arts

Explore approaches to arts research, its methods and dissemination.

More about artsmethods ›

artsmethods@manchester is an academic programme of talks, workshops and events which explore approaches to arts research methods and their dissemination.

Its aim is to promote and facilitate methodological excellence and expertise, encourage dialogue, innovation and inter-disciplinarity work in collaboration with cultural partners from the University and across the North West to enhance the impact of arts and languages research and contribute to the creative economy of the North West.

The programme for 2025-26 has now been released and can be booked via the Training Catalogue. Full details of what is on offer in semester 1 (all in-person) are below:

- 6 October 2025, 11am - 1pm: Theoretical Frameworks
- 13 October 2025, 11am - 1pm: Textual Analysis
- 20 October 2025, 11am - 1pm: Introduction to Post-colonial Theory
- 3 November 2025, 11am - 1pm: Narrative as Research Method
- 10 November 2025, 11am - 1pm: Using World Literature
- 17 November 2025, 11am - 1pm: Thematic Analysis
- 24 November 2025, 11am - 1pm: Researching Human Rights
- 1 December 2025, 11am - 1pm: Discourse Analysis
- 8 December 2025, 11am - 1pm: Discourse Analysis and Language
- 15 December 2025, 11am - 1pm: Discourse Analysis - Terminology and Methods

methods@manchester

methods@manchester is flagship initiative in the Faculty of Humanities, which highlights University of Manchester's strengths in research methods/ approaches in the humanities and social sciences. Each year there are a programme of events and activities, most notably the annual Methods Fair and Summer School.

methods aims to highlight the range of research expertise and skills within the Faculty, promote interdisciplinary and innovative methodological developments and support further developments of researchers through training and collaboration.

Visit their website here for more information and details on upcoming events, and look out for their monthly newsletter!

University News

Researcher Development

Counselling Services

Research IT

PGR News