

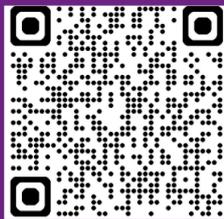
## Doctoral Academy Updates

### 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/](http://www.humanities-pgr-handbook.manchester.ac.uk/)



It's a jam-packed newsletter this month!

There are some important reminders regarding fieldwork, annual leave and the ethics process as well as details of all upcoming PGR workshops from the Library and the Researcher Development Team.

There is also news of a fantastic new Methods NW Lab event 'Listening to the non-speaking experience' so do sign up!

We also remind you of where to find details of your 2025-26 Student Representative plus, how to apply to be a School PGR Rep.

As always, if you would like to feature anything in the newsletter, please let us know.

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](#)

## Meet the Doctoral Academy Team

This month's 'Meet the Doctoral Academy Team' feature comes from your **Student Experience Team!**

Hello, I'm **Anusarin Lowe**, and I lead the Doctoral Academy's Progression, Welfare and Experience team. Within this, the Experience team, led by **Jo Marsh**, plays a vital role in ensuring our postgraduate researchers (PGRs) have the best possible experience throughout their research journey.



**Anusarin**

**Jo**

**Camila**

**Jordan**

We manage key communications with you, including the **online PGR handbook**, **monthly newsletter**, **email updates**, and the **weekly digest**—all designed to keep you informed and engaged.

Throughout the year, you'll hear from us with updates on events and opportunities that complement your studies. These include **post-induction workshops**, **PGR conferences**, **award schemes** such as the Distinguished Achievement Award (PGR of the Year) and the Manchester Doctoral College Excellence Awards, as well as **funding opportunities**, **student surveys**, and other calls to action.

We also oversee our flagship initiative, [methods@manchester](#), which offers a year-round programme showcasing the University's expertise, innovation, and skills in social science research methods.

Finally, we serve as a key liaison for **PGR representation**, and we always welcome direct feedback from you.

If you have thoughts, ideas, or concerns, please don't hesitate to get in touch with the Experience team—we're here to support you.

With best wishes

**Anusarin, Jo, Camila and Jordan**

(please follow us on [Bluesky](#) and join us on [LinkedIn!](#)).

## Meet your Student Representatives!



Your PGR Student Representatives are there to provide both positive and negative feedback to the DA and act as a communication channel between staff and PGRs.

If you have any comments or questions or feedback for the Doctoral Academy, please feed these back through your Rep for the appropriate team to address.

You can find out who our departmental or cohort rep is in your handbook [here](#).

We're also just reminding you that you can become a School PGR Rep!

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 **Friday 14 November 2025**.

For full details of the roles see the [HUMs PGR Handbook](#) or contact the Doctoral Academy at [hums.doctoralacademy@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:hums.doctoralacademy@manchester.ac.uk)

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

## Fieldwork and Annual Leave - Important Reminders

If you're planning a period of study away such as fieldwork, placements, institutional visits, or conference attendance, please ensure you consult your supervisory team and refer to the relevant sections of the online handbook. It's important to apply for any planned leave as early as possible to allow adequate time for approval and preparation.



### **Study Away and Fieldwork**

For guidance on fieldwork or study away, please see the [Fieldwork and Study Away Approval](#) section of the handbook. Preparation typically involves several key steps, including ethics approval, risk assessments, and travel arrangements. We recommend beginning your application at least three months before your proposed start date.

### **Annual Leave**

Postgraduate Researchers (PGRs) are entitled to up to **32 working days of annual leave per year**, in addition to public holidays and University closure days. While you do not need to formally apply for annual leave, it is essential that you:

1. Discuss and agree on your leave dates with your supervisory team, and
2. Record your leave via the online form in the [Attendance and Engagement](#) section of the handbook.

Please refer to the [University PGR Annual Leave Policy](#) for more information.

## **Reminder: Research Ethics Guidance and Approval Process**

All postgraduate researchers (PGRs) planning to apply for research ethics approval are reminded that comprehensive guidance is available on [www.staffnet.manchester.ac.uk/rbe/ethics-integrity/ethics](http://www.staffnet.manchester.ac.uk/rbe/ethics-integrity/ethics).

This page includes key resources to support you in navigating the ethics approval process, including:

- Application handbook – offering detailed guidance on ethical considerations across a range of methodologies, approaches to obtaining consent, and managing potential ethical risks.
- Requirements and processes – helping you determine whether your research requires ethics approval, application routes, and what steps you need to take to submit an application.
- Application resources – including templates for participant information sheets and consent forms, as well as guidance for using social media in research.
- What to do if your approved study needs changing

If you have any questions about the ethical dimensions of your research, please raise these with your supervisory team. You should also consult the resources available in your eProg Research Ethics milestone.

Being proactive about research ethics ensures your work is conducted with integrity and in line with University policies and codes of conduct.

## Researcher Development



The Researcher Development Team have released their schedule of workshops for November.

Please see the links below to book:

**06/11/2025:** [Practical Viva Preparation](#)

**13/11/2025:** [Working With Your Supervisor](#)

**18/11/2025:** [Writing a Literature Review in Humanities](#)

**19/11/2025:** [Monthly Career Conversations - CV Masterclass session](#)

**20/11/2025:** [Effective Research Presentation](#)

**25/11/2025:** [Editing and Proofreading your Thesis for PGRs in HUMS](#)

Remember, you find all the information on the support ResDev can provide on their new [Sharepoint site](#).

## Library PGR Workshops

The Library's My Research Essentials Workshop Programme is up and running for November.

Book by clicking the links below:

[Publishing Open Access \(online\)](#) - Mon 3 Nov 2025, 14:00 - 15:00

[Introduction to Research Data Management part two: Preparing research data for the end of your project \(online\)](#) - Tue 4 Nov 2025, 14:00 - 15:00

[MRE Writing Retreat \(on campus\)](#) - Fri 7 Nov 2025, 09:00 - 17:00

[Introduction to Research Data Stewards: A key role in modern research \(online\)](#) - Wed 12 Nov 2025, 10:00 - 11:00

[Creating and managing your ORCID \(online\)](#) - Thu 13 Nov 2025, 13:00 - 14:00

[Introduction to Research Data Management part one: Starting your research journey \(online\)](#) - Thu 20 Nov 2025 14:00 - 15:00

[Resilience for PGRs: Managing the challenges of research \(on campus\)](#) - Fri 21 Nov 2025, 10:00 - 12:00

[Writing your Data Management Plan - a QA Session \(online\)](#) - Wed 26 Nov 2025, 12:00 - 13:00

Don't forget to take the [10-minute survey](#) about your experience of using The University of Manchester Library and you could win a £100 Amazon voucher.

Your feedback informs how improvements are made to facilities and services, so let us know what you think!

## Methods NW: New Lab Event!

**METHODS** | **MANCHESTER**  
@ manchester

**METHODSLAB: LISTENING TO THE NON-SPEAKING EXPERIENCE**

**MANCHESTER**  
1824  
The University of Manchester

**7 November | 11-4:30pm**  
**Alliance Manchester Business School**

Bringing together academics, practitioners, parents, and autistic young adults (18+) to develop ethical and effective qualitative methods for including non-speaking neurodiverse young people in research.

Featuring talks, posters, and hands-on activities to explore and test different approaches.

**METHODS** | **NORTH WEST**

## Methods NW presents a new MethodsLab for November: **Listening to the non-speaking experience**

Bringing together academics, practitioners, parents, and autistic adults to develop ethical and effective methods for including non-speaking neurodiverse young people in research.

This full-day event will include lightning talks, small group work, and workshops to explore and test different approaches. Co-created with neurodiverse participants, the event will produce inclusive research guidelines and foster a collaborative community of practice.

Speakers are Dr Holly Sutherland (Cambridge), Dr Verity Ward (Leeds Beckett), Dr Jill Bradshaw (Consultant Speech and Language Therapist), and Freddie Jones (Manchester).

The event takes place on Friday 7 November, 11.00-4:30pm in the Alliance Manchester Business School.

Sign up [here!](#)

### University News

[Researcher Development](#)

[Counselling Services](#)

[Research IT](#)

[PGR News](#)



The University Of Manchester, Faculty of Humanities, Doctoral Academy

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