



## 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/)



In the first DA newsletter of the new year, book your place on the popular 'Being a Leader' course - back (again!) by popular demand!

There is also a new programme of PGR workshops from our Researcher Development Team, a reminder to ensure your mid-year review is on schedule and some wellbeing support from the Mental Health Support Team - please do take a look at their new programme of sessions.

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-humdocacad.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 **Funding Team!**



**Neil**



**Jake**



**Kimberley**

Hello! I'm Neil Sanderson, representing the HUMS DA Funding Team. Our role is to assist Postgraduate Researchers in accessing their studentships and awards. We do our best to ensure fees are posted, stipends are received and funding for conferences and fieldwork are distributed. We provide guidance and advice on funding applications and issues. Other functions include:

- Processing of fees and expenses claim forms
- Creating and updating records on the UKRI system
- Administration of awards
- Reporting on budgets and expenditure for PGR Directors
- Providing support to School and Faculty Finance teams.

We enjoy helping our diverse PGRs navigate the often complicated funding processes within the University and elsewhere, and we're always happy to receive feedback to assist in continually improving our services.

With best wishes

**Jake, Neil and Kimberley**

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

**Back by popular demand, the Being a Leader and the Effective Exercise of Leadership Course is back for 2026!**

The course will run from February to June, and will be led by Susie Miles (right), Professor Emerita in the Manchester Institute of Education, and Nicholas Merton, an Independent Consultant.



**The Being a Leader Course is unlike most leadership programmes. It will leave you with the power to actually shape the future.**

Based on a foundation of integrity, authenticity, being up to something bigger than yourself, and being cause in the matter of your life, this course will support you in discovering, practising, and mastering a unique and powerful Conversational Domain which enables you to produce breakthroughs in your confidence, effectiveness and power as a leader. The Course is offered annually at UCLA and in universities as diverse as Canada, Kenya, Switzerland and Vietnam and The University of Manchester is pioneering this refreshing and powerful leadership training in the UK.

The course is offered to all PGRs in the Faculty of Humanities. For more information please see [here](#) and click below to apply for a place (Deadline 12 February).

[Apply for Being a Leader](#)

**Mid-year Review Reminder!**

**We are now approaching the period where many of you will be having your Mid-Year Review.**

This is a key milestone in your studies each year, and is an interim review to discuss any issues and to prepare for the Annual Review.

Your [PGR Handbook](#) will provide guidance in addition to any other specific details your School may provide. If you haven't already done so, please start discussions with your supervisory teams with regard to planning for and organising a date for your Review.

In addition, we appreciate that some of you may have a different timeline for your studies (e.g. if you have previously interrupted your studies or joined the programme outside of

September) and so your Review may take place outside of this period. If you are in any doubt when your Review is due, please check the Progression page of your eProg record.

## Respectful Behaviour



As members of our Doctoral Academy community, we all share the responsibility to maintain a positive and respectful environment. This includes how we communicate—both in person and via email—with staff, fellow PGRs, and other students.

Please remember:

- Be courteous and professional in all interactions.
- Respect others' time and perspectives, even when discussing challenging issues.
- Constructive dialogue helps us work together effectively and supports a welcoming community for everyone

The Doctoral Academy is committed to creating a supportive, welcoming, and inclusive environment for all PGRs. If you have feedback or suggestions on how we can improve, please use our [Teams feedback form](#).

Thank you for helping us uphold these values and for contributing to a collaborative research environment.

## Researcher Development



Welcome to Researcher Development

RESEARCHER  
DEVELOPMENT  
@MANCHESTER

The Researcher Development Team have a great programme of workshops for PGRs coming up this February.

Please click on the links below to book:

**10/02/2026 Tuesday 10:00 - 12:30**

[Practical Viva Preparation](#)

**10/02/2026 Tuesday 14:30 - 16:00**

[An Introduction to Researcher Development for PGRs and Research Staff in Humanities](#)

**11/02/2026 Wednesday 14:00 - 16:00**

[Writing a Literature Review in Humanities](#)

**11/02/2026 Wednesday 13:00 - 15:30**

[Maintaining Momentum: Project, Time and Self-Management](#)

**23/02/2026 Monday 10:00 - 12:00**

[Academic Writing for PGRs in HUMS Critical Literacy](#)

**25/02/2026 Wednesday 11:00 - 12:30**

[Planning and Writing your Thesis](#)

**25/02/2026 Wednesday 13:00 - 15:30**

[Getting Started with Public Engagement](#)

Mental Health and Wellbeing Support Programme

## THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT TEAM

### GROUP AND WORKSHOP PROGRAMME FOR STUDENTS AND STAFF

Scan the QR code to view January – March 2026 sessions ▶



Please visit our website for more information about the sessions:  
[www.counsellingservice.manchester.ac.uk/workshops](http://www.counsellingservice.manchester.ac.uk/workshops)

The Mental Health Support Team have released their new schedule of workshops for January to March.

The weekly workshops can help support your wellbeing with sessions including Mindfulness, Challenging Anxiety, Understanding Low Self Esteem and Managing Ongoing Stress.

Scan the QR code above for more information, or visit their website [here](#).

#### Library workshops

Please see below for the latest PGR workshops from the Library Team. Click on the links to book!

**Thursday 29 January 2026, 14:00 - 16:00**

[Resilience for PGRs: Managing the challenges of research \(on campus\)](#)

**Friday 30 January 2026, 10:00 - 11:30**

[Sharing research with confidence: developing your public speaking skills \(on campus\)](#)

**Thursday 5 February 2026, 14:00 - 16:00**

[Shut up and write \(online\)](#)

**Thursday 12 February 2026, 14:00 - 15:30**

[Reference management with EndNote desktop for researchers \(on campus\)](#)

**Thursday 19 February 2026, 14:00 - 16:00**

[Resilience for PGRs: Managing the challenges of research \(on campus\)](#)

**Friday 20 February 2026, 10:00 - 12:00**

[Shut up and write \(on campus\)](#)

## PGR Parents and Carers



The Parents, Carers and Guardian's Network's Christmas Extravaganza brought families together for a festive lunch and inclusive, family-friendly activities!

Drawing on traditional celebrations from home, the event created a welcoming space for families to connect, celebrate the season and strengthen community bonds.

Highlights included table-by-table carol singing, festive games and creative activities for all ages, with enthusiastic participation from both adults and children. The event concluded with Santa awarding prizes for the best-designed festive craft bags, celebrating creativity across the community.

The Network at the is committed to fostering an inclusive, supportive and connected environment for staff and students who balance caring responsibilities alongside their academic and professional lives. If you would like to know more, or join, please contact [uom-parentcarerguardiannetwork@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:uom-parentcarerguardiannetwork@manchester.ac.uk)

## University News

[Researcher Development](#)

[Counselling Services](#)

[Research IT](#)

[PGR News](#)



The University Of Manchester, Faculty of Humanities, Doctoral Academy

[Contact Us](#) | Tel: +44 (0) 161 306 6000 | Web: [www.manchester.ac.uk](http://www.manchester.ac.uk)

Registered Office: The University of Manchester, Oxford Rd, Manchester, M13 9PL. Royal Charter Number: RC000797

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