

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/



As we reach the summer months, your Doctoral Academy hub will move to summer opening hours of 10am-12pm and 1-3pm. You can still contact the Doctoral Academy team by [email and by phone](#).

We hope that you are able to take a break during the summer. For those who continue to work on campus, please see [Student support this summer | The University of Manchester](#) for information on what support is available.

Whether you are going on fieldwork, speaking at a conference or taking some well earned annual leave, have a great summer!

As always, if you would like to feature anything in the newsletter, please let us know. The next edition will be September when we welcome our new cohort of PGRs!

The Doctoral Academy Team

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

[DA Spotify Podcast](#)

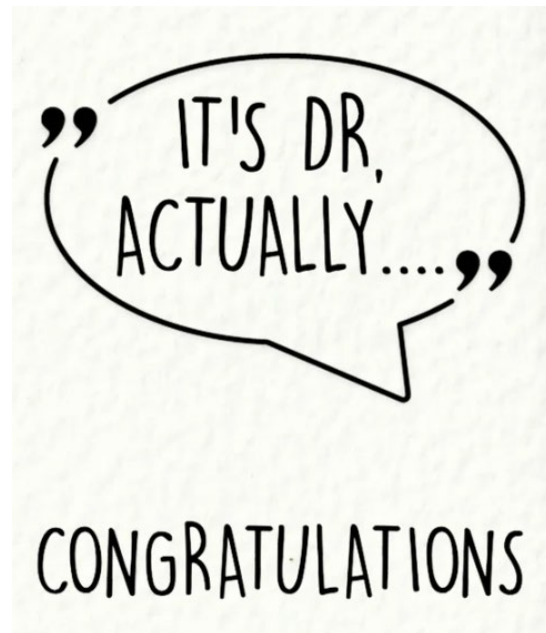
Congratulations Graduates!

You did it!

This summer many of you will graduate after a successful time here at Manchester.

We received you here as trainee researchers and you leave as highly qualified researchers ready to deploy your skills and knowledge to the world's challenges.

For some of you, we received you during the Covid-19 pandemic. You settled in well and over the years contributed in various way to creating a vibrant and stimulating research environment for all researchers.



Some of you travelled around the world, expanded their horizons joined or started research networks to sustain a lifetime in research. Others published their first paper or landed their first small grant here! After years demonstrating immense resilience, patience, perseverance and dogged determination you have achieved the pinnacle of academic success.

Congratulations on officially earning your doctorate! You graduate at a time when the world needs your expertise, your critical thinking skills, and your relentless pursuit of the truth now more than ever. Challenges and opportunities that need your skills and knowledge are many and waiting but I also want you to take a moment to breathe, look around at the people who supported you- family, supervisors, friends- and be proud of what you have achieved. Congratulations to all of you, and congratulations, Doctors.

As you plan your next move I want to encourage you to take advantage of opportunities to remain connected to Manchester. You can do so by joining our alumnus network [here](#). We want to continue to be a part of your future journey so do stay in touch!

Dr Admos Chimhowu

Associate Dean for PGR, Faculty of Humanities

Meet the Team

Dr Hannah Helm

Hi! I'm Hannah: the new AHRC Northern Hub Manager, and I recently joined the University in May 2026.

I am based in the Faculty of Humanities Doctoral Academy at the University of Manchester and work with nine other Universities in the North of England.



Prior to my appointment at the University of Manchester, I worked at the University of Salford for five years, and I have also acted as EDI Advocate within the North West Consortium Doctoral Training Partnership (NWCDTP) since 2023.

In all aspects of my work, I am passionate about developing a positive research culture and community that values and supports everybody from all backgrounds and experiences, working to challenge inequalities in Higher Education, celebrate student representation, and improve access to opportunity for Arts and Humanities postgraduate researchers. As AHRC Northern Hub Manager, I lead the operational delivery of the Hub across all partner institutions, devising training and development opportunities and managing the Hub's communications and website.

In my spare time, I love to hike, read, and go on adventures with my fun (and very tiring!) toddler!

If you would like to have a chat about my work or just say hello, please feel free to contact me any time (hannah.helm@manchester.ac.uk).

Early Career Prison Researchers and International Scholars Organised Network

The Early Career Prison Researchers and International Scholars Organised Network (ECR-PRISON)

is an international community for emerging scholars working on prisons and carceral studies.



Early Career
Prison Researchers
and International
Scholars Organised
Network

PGRs in Criminology have launched the network to bring together doctoral researchers, postdoctoral scholars, and early career academics to share research, build connections, and support one another across disciplines and borders.

If you are looking for a welcoming space for collaboration, professional development, and meaningful scholarly exchange, we invite you to join us and be part of a growing global network committed to advancing prison research.

Join the network [here](#)!

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Summer School Review

We had a fantastic Summer School this year, which once again took place during one of the hottest weeks of the year. Not only did this test our infrastructure, but it also challenged attendees' perceptions of Manchester weather! Across four courses, we welcomed around 70 participants from more than 10 countries, with an even wider range of nationalities represented. The week was packed with learning, discussion and networking, and we're delighted to share some highlights.

Read the blog [here](#)!

Your School Representatives

This month, we hear from our AMBS School Representative Chinaza Duke Nwosu, and our SoSS School Representative Kumru Akdogan.

Hello everyone! My name is Chinaza Duke Nwosu, and I am the AMBS Postgraduate Research (PGR) Representative on the Doctoral Academy.

My research explores the platform economy in Nigeria, with a particular interest in how digital labour platforms shape work, worker experience, regulation, and worker rights in the informal economy.

I am passionate about building strong academic communities where students feel supported, connected and represented.



When I joined AMBS, I quickly realised that many students, including myself, found it difficult to understand the different representative roles and know who to approach for specific issues. One of my main priorities has therefore been to bring our representatives together. I have established a committee of AMBS representatives, and we have already held our first meeting. Going forward, we will meet every two months to share ideas, coordinate our efforts and ensure that students have a clearer and more unified point of contact. I also hope to support fellow representatives in their roles and amplify their voices where needed through my close engagement with the Doctoral Academy.

Another goal is to strengthen the sense of community within our doctoral programmes. I would like to encourage friendships and mentoring relationships between more experienced PhD researchers and those who are just beginning their journey. By creating opportunities for students to connect through shared activities and informal mentoring, I hope we can foster an environment where everyone feels welcomed, supported and able to thrive.

Hi everyone. I'm Kumru, and I'm a PhD researcher in Philosophy.

I came to philosophy because there were questions I couldn't stop thinking about. That still seems to me the most honest reason anyone ends up here.

Eventually you realise that what keeps you awake at night can also become your job.



My research sits somewhere between philosophy, fiction, and games. I work on questions about fictional characters, video games, virtual reality, and imagination because they give old philosophical questions a new place to live. What makes something real? What kind of things are fictional characters? Can virtual actions matter? How do rules create worlds? Games and fictions turn out to be remarkably good places for asking questions philosophers have been arguing about for centuries.

Before starting my PhD, I imagined the difficult part would be the reading, the conferences, the writing. Those are certainly difficult enough. What nobody quite tells you is that a doctorate is mostly just you, alone, with a question that refuses to behave. You spend weeks thinking you've almost understood something before discovering you've only found a better way of being confused. After a while you realise that the confusion isn't a detour around the work, it is the work. Philosophy is, to a surprising extent, learning how to live productively with not knowing.

When I'm not working, I walk. Usually it's just a way to clear my head and think things through. I also write, and I paint from time to time, although I couldn't tell you exactly why. I suspect it's for much the same reason I do philosophy: some thoughts seem to need forms that aren't arguments.

As your SoSS PGR representative, I'd like to be approachable, straightforward, and easy to find. Doctoral research has a strange tendency to convince people that whatever they're struggling with is either too small to mention or too complicated to explain. So people stay quiet, and nothing changes.

I'd rather hear about it.

Whether it's supervision, teaching, funding, training, workload, or simply the experience of trying to make sense of a PhD, you're always welcome to get in touch. I can't promise to solve every problem, but I can promise that your concerns won't disappear into silence. My job is to make sure they're heard by the people who can do something about them.

And if all you need is someone who understands what it's like to spend six months arguing with a single paragraph, I probably do.

Updates from the Library

Library Training and Support for PGRs

The Library's researcher training programme continues this Summer with a series of workshops aimed to support researchers at all stages of their research career and our online guides, which can be accessed any time.

Upcoming Workshops

Shut up and write (on campus):

[Wednesday 12 August 2026, 14:00 - 16:00](#)

[Tuesday 1 September 2026, 14:00 - 16:00](#)

Shut up and write (online):

[Thursday 20 August 2026, 14:00 - 16:00](#)

[Friday 11 September 2026, 10:00 - 12:00](#)

Communicating your research differently (on campus)

[Tuesday 4 August 2026, 10:00 - 11:30](#)

Resilience for PGRs: Managing the challenges of research (on campus)

[Tuesday 8 September 2026, 10:00 - 12:00](#)

Copyright essentials: using other people's stuff (on campus)

[Thursday 17 September 2026, 10:00 - 11:30](#)

Supplementing our existing digital resources: the National Theatre 4 Collection

The latest addition to the Library's Drama Online portfolio completes a collection sourced from over a decade of 'NT Live' broadcasts. Now comprising over 75 productions, the [National Theatre Collections](#) offer a compendium of high-quality full-length staged performances stretching from Sophocles to Shakespeare and beyond. In line with previous releases, [NT4](#) is readily available to all current UoM staff and students. Notable additions include [Nye](#), written by the University's [Tim Price](#), and a flamboyant [The Importance of Being Earnest](#), with Ncuti Gatwa and Sharon D. Clarke. To further discovery all new titles - which include '[Blues for An Alabama Sky](#),' '[The Boy With Two Hearts](#),' '[Kin](#)' and '[Ballet Shoes](#)' - are individually indexed on Library Search.

Update on Risk Assessments - SoSS PGRs

A Message from the School of Social Sciences

May we remind everyone in SoSS that all PGR travel should always be declared or risk assessed. This includes travel for fieldwork or research purposes, but also conference or travel for other PhD-related activities (whether organised with the help of the HUMS DA Funding team or independently).

Low and Moderate travel should be declared, and participants should read and agree with the declarations within this form: [Pre-Travel Risk Assessment Declaration \(UK & low/moderate risk overseas travel\)](#)

Low and moderate risk travel is defined by the AIG. It is a measure of the country only and not the activity. If you are undertaking a high-risk activity or are unsure of the risk of the activity, please email SOSS.Risk@Manchester.ac.uk. Some examples of this could be traveling to a low-risk country to Skydive or travelling to a moderate country to conduct politically sensitive research.

For high and extreme risk travel please fill out the high risk form and see the example Contingency plan attached to email sent to you by the SoSS PGR Director, Greig Charnock, on 21 July 2026. You will need to send this to Soss.Risk@Manchester.ac.uk for review and sign off. This process can take up to three months so please do it with your ethics application. There is also an example of a high-risk travel attached top the PGR Director's email for you to see what good mitigations look like.

All travel should be booked through Key Travel unless you have spoken specifically to SoSS.Risk@Manchester.ac.uk and have sought an alternative provision. Travel that has not engaged with the correct process is uninsured.

University News

[Researcher Development](#)

[Counselling Services](#)

[Research IT](#)

[PGR News](#)



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