Supporting part time and distance PGR students

Conference or Workshop Item

How to cite:


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Top Resources

- Research Degree Regulations
- Core research training
- Affiliated Research Centres
- Online doctoral training
- PACE
- Supervisor training
Events

To view events by training programme, please see Face-to-face training. If you would like to see your event(s) here then please contact webmaster@open.ac.uk.

While we try to keep the event list up to date, it is worth checking details with the organiser prior to attending; please can organisers let us know if there are any changes to an event by emailing webmaster@open.ac.uk.

Upcoming events

Tuesday, December 11, 2018 - 10:30 to 16:00
Library Seminar Room 7

Part Time PGRs Getting Started Day School
Appears in listing: Core research training

Tuesday, December 11, 2018 - 16:00 to 20:00
PGR Common Room, Weacham 1st Floor

Grad School Christmas Party
Appears in listing: Social events

Wednesday, December 12, 2018 - 12:30 to 15:15
Meet outside Horlock building (entrance nearest the Hub)

Monthly Walking Group
Appears in listing: Social events

Wednesday, December 12, 2018 - 14:00 to 16:00
Perry Building Presentation Room

Applying theories in your own research
Appears in listing: Development policy and practice

Monday, December 17, 2018 - 14:00 to 15:30
Online via the Research Support Online training room

Systematic reviews
Part Time PGRs Getting Started Day School (Helen Bowes-Catton, Judith Taylor, Sarah Jane Mukherjee)

Appears in listings: Core research training

Date: Tuesday, December 11, 2018 - 10:30 to 16:00 (Library Seminar Room 7)

Details

This day school for part-time PGRs is a concentrated learning opportunity covering some of the main Core training events from this academic year so far.

Our objective is to give our part-time PGRs the key learnings from our face-to-face sessions along with the opportunity to meet other students, share experiences and ask questions. A simple networking lunch will be provided. This event coincides with an early evening Christmas party in the PGR Common Room to which all PGRs are cordially invited.

Schedule

10:30 - 12:30 Introduction. Project planning (HR), Skills audits & Development planning (JAT), Wellbeing management (JAT)/HR

12:30 - 13:45 Networking lunch (soup and sandwiches)

14:00 - 16:00 Academic writing and Literature reviews (JAM), Questions and close

Skills development

This will help you to develop skills in the following area(s):

- A1: Knowledge base
- B1: Personal qualities
- B2: Self-management
- C2: Communication and dissemination

If you missed this...

The materials presented in this Day School session have already been recorded as Adobe connect sessions from earlier this year. You can access them in the Doctoral training room here

https://learn2.open.ac.uk/mod/connecthosted/viewrecordings.php?id=1209289

How to register:

Please email events-gradschool@open.ac.uk to book onto this event.
Wednesday, December 5, 2018 - 14:00 to 16:00
Gardiner Building 1, 017
**Governance and Development**
Appears in listing: Development policy and practice

Wednesday, December 5, 2018 - 10:30 to 12:30
Seminar Room 7, 2nd floor Library
**From reading to writing (PACE Block 1)**
Appears in listing: PACE

Tuesday, December 4, 2018 - 14:00 to 16:00
Library Seminar Room 7
**Science Communication and the media – communicating your work to an open audience**
Appears in listing: Core research training

Thursday, November 29, 2018 - 14:30 to 16:30
CMR 07
**Citizenship, Gender and Sexuality**
Appears in listing: Citizenship studies

Thursday, November 29, 2018 - 13:00 to 15:30
The Presentation Room, Michael Young Building
**Foundations and Practice of Management and Business Research - Research Impact and engagement**
Appears in listing: Foundations and Practice of Management and Business Research

Thursday, November 29, 2018 - 09:30 to 13:00
Stuart Hall Building, ground floor, room 3
**Health and Wellbeing PRA Seminar Series: NIHR Themed calls workshop**
Appears in listing: Health & Wellbeing PRA 18-19
Training

Welcome to the GSN Training Zone. This section of the website provides you with the information and tools that you need in order to take responsibility for your professional development as a research student. Researcher development gives you information on the development processes that you need to undertake as a research student and introduces you to the Researcher Development Framework (RDF) – a key tool in assessing your current skills and planning future development. You can then browse or search the catalogue of face-to-face and online training options available to you.

There is no single right set of training that you should undertake as every student’s needs will differ depending on their own skills audit and development plan. However, if you are looking for some suggestions, you could have a look at the workshops within the core research training or the topics available within the online doctoral training.

We have provided training that we feel will meet the professional development needs of most research students. We recognise that there may be needs that we have not yet catered for. If you feel that there is something that you would like to see in the catalogue then please have your say in the forum and we will be sure to consider every suggestion.
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![Researcher development at the OU](image1)

![Supervisor training](image2)

![Face-to-face training programmes](image3)

![Online doctoral training](image4)
Online doctoral training

The learning topics have been developed as part of overall themes, designed to teach you about a key aspect related to being a research student. Topics within themes can be studied as a sequence or independently. Many of the topics are available via Research Skills, the OU's skills website that is companion to the Graduate School Network.
Literature review

These topics will help you to get going with an important part of your project report: the literature review.

Online topics

Reviewing academic literature
- Appears in listing: Literature review
  - Launch (in a new tab)

Writing a literature review
- Appears in listing: Literature review
  - Launch (in a new tab)

Developing academic literacy
- Appears in listing: Literature review
  - Launch (in a new tab)

Reading skills by Sarah Needs, STEM
- Appears in listing: Literature review, Student-led learning materials
  - Launch (in a new tab)
Literature review

Reviewing academic literature

Writing a literature review

Developing academic literacy

Summary

Reviewing academic literature

Summary

Working through the topic will help you to get some confidence in searching for, assessing and organizing literature for a literature review. Such a review is a requirement for your dissertation report and being able to review literature is an essential research skill.

There are three activities, which will help you learn more about literature review: analysing an existing literature review, thinking through what you will use literature review for in your work, and practising tracking down interesting references on a specialist database.

There are also links to the OU Library Services’ resources on searching, and the first and last activities in particular will help you to introduce you to some of the facilities available to you at your finger tips.
These research training videos, from the series for research students by Angel Productions, will help students and academics understand some of the crucial stages in the research student's career. They can also be viewed on the Research Skills website.

- Good Presentation
- Good Supervision
- PhD Survival
- The Good Doctorate
- The Good Networking Video
- The Good Upgrade
- The Good Viva
- The Outstanding Supervisor

More videos include:
- Research training videos
  - Good Presentation
  - Good Supervision
  - Research Impact Video
  - The Good Doctorate
  - The Good Upgrade
  - The Good Viva
  - Good Networking Video
  - PhD Survival

- Supervisor training

More videos include:
- What is a PhD?
- Starting your Research
- Organising your Research
- Research Methodologies
- Literature review
- PACE online
- Professional Conduct
- Teaching skills
- Intellectual property
- Career Development
- Professional Skills for Research Leaders
- Information and Digital Literacy
- Business Skills

- Online doctoral training
Student-led learning materials

Advice authored by Open University research students for use by their peers. If you have an idea for a learning module you’d like to author, please get in touch with research@open.ac.uk.

Online topics

Hardware and software by Hannah Chinnery, STEM
Appears in listing: Student-led learning materials

Launch (in a new tab)

Wellbeing and mental health by Jo Vincetti, FBL
Appears in listing: Student-led learning materials

Launch (in a new tab)

Employability and job-hunting by Emilie Giles, STEM
Appears in listing: Career Development | Student-led learning materials

Launch (in a new tab)

Practical advice on the supervisory relationship by Anita Khadka, Patricia Pali and Eleni Wood, STEM
Appears in listing: Student-led learning materials | What is a PhD?

Launch (in a new tab)

Research hygiene by Lindsey Stewart, FASS

Launch (in a new tab)
Reading skills

Written by Sarah Needs, research student in the OU’s Faculty of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), in July 2017.

The following presentation introduces you to reading skills for postgraduate students: how to find sources for a literature review and how to decide if they’re appropriate. It is best viewed using the full screen option, indicated with the icon.

Writing and Research

Writing is for reading, academic text are meant to be read by others and express your ideas in a clear way and helps you develop your research ideas.

Here we will go through how to find sources and how to make judgements on their quality.
Supervisor training

In addition to the resources for supervisor training linked to on this page, Research Career Development runs a series of Research Supervisor Workshops and Forums (for supervisors at all stages to share best practice) as part of the Academic Professional Development Programme.
Supervising doctoral studies

This programme is designed to help both new and experienced research supervisors to develop their ability to effectively mentor doctoral candidates.

If you have a doctorate then an individual, or individuals, will have supervised your research project. How did they do? Did you think they were successful as supervisors?

The nine units in this programme contain a range of features designed to help you learn and apply the content to your own situation. Familiarity with these features will help you get the most out of this programme.
Face-to-face training programmes

Within this section you will find information on the face-to-face workshop programmes that may be of benefit to research students. In particular, Core research training focuses on giving pre-probationary students what they need to meet their first-year goals, and the Research Career Development Programme is aimed at developing students who have passed probation. All training can also be found in the Events listings.

There are also programmes focussed on a specific subject area, such as the Professional Academic Communication in English (PACE) programme.
Affiliated Research Centres

We are proud to work with Affiliated Research Centres to offer a high quality research degree programme to our students.

The ARC zone brings together in one place all the resources currently available from us here at The Open University to support students during registration, to assist supervisors, and research degree coordinators. We are developing new resources all the time and will make them available to you as they come on stream.

Please click on the relevant box below to explore what's available.
ARC Events

ARC Conference 2014
ARC conference 2016
Milan PhD student meeting
ARC Community

- Fondazione IRCCS Istituto Nazionale dei Tumori
- International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology
- IRCCS Istituto di Ricerche Farmacologiche Mario Negri
- KEMRI - Wellcome Trust Research Programme, Kenya
- Mahidol - Oxford University Tropical Medicine Research Unit
- MRC Mammalian Genetics Unit
- MRC Unit The Gambia
- Stazione Zoologica Anton Dohrn