Postgraduate Researcher (PGR)

Research Skills Programme

Research Office

Est.
1841

**YORK
ST JOHN
UNIVERSITY**

Our approach to research development at YSJ.

YSJ is a small university with big aspirations for research. Our approach to supporting research recognises that there is key set of personal and professional skills that underpins all successful research careers, but beyond that the development needs of staff vary depending on their discipline and career stage. The programme is coordinated by the Research Office and delivered by YSJ School Research and Knowledge Transfer Leads who are responsible for strategically guiding research within each school, as well as our professoriate who are our most senior and experienced researchers. It is an exciting programme and offers an array of development opportunities to our academic community.

Professor Andrew Hill – Head of Postgraduate Research

Our aim

To ensure that we provide professional development opportunities to equip all PGRs with the knowledge and skills required to conduct high-quality research and successfully complete their research degree. We achieve this by drawing on the strengths of researchers from across the university and inviting high-quality external contributors to share their expertise with us. There is a core set of sessions and then a range of optional sessions. All of the CPD activities outlined in this booklet align with the Vitae Researcher Development Framework (RDF), which aims to guide the development of world-leading researchers.

Meet the team

PGR Leads:

Dr Claire Hind
School of the Arts

Dr Rob Vaughan
School of Education,
Language and Psychology

Dr Robert Edgar
School of Humanities

Dr Adam Odell
School of Science
Technology and Health

Dr Rosie Binfield-Smith
York Business School

Research Office:

**Elizabeth
Goodwin-
Andersson**
Head of
Research Office

**Richard
Bracknellin**
PGR Training and
Development

Emma Sunley
Projects &
Events

Emily Smith
Postgraduate
School Manager

Victoria Lain
PGR
Co-ordinator

Amy Langton
Research Office
Administrator

Session Details

For full session details, including dates, times and venues, please visit the YSJ PGR Development – PGR Research Skills Programme online to view development sessions, events and book your place.

All sessions are delivered using a blended approach alternating between in-person and online formats.

Recorded content can be accessed via the Virtual Graduate Centre on Moodle. The first time you visit, you will need to enter the enrolment key: **virtualgrad** to enter the course.

Our programme is delivered in a series of study days to maximise convenience and so you can plan ahead.

2022/2023 PGR Research Skills Programme Study Days

Tuesday 11th October 2022
Monday 31st October 2022
Wednesday 9th November 2022
Thursday 8th December 2022
Tuesday 10th January 2023
Tuesday 28th February 2023
Wednesday 29th March 2023
Thursday 27th April 2023
Tuesday 9th May 2023
Monday 19th June 2023

All sessions will take place at either 9:30am, 11am, 12:30pm, 2pm or 3:30pm.

Vitae Researcher Development Framework (RDF)

The RDF is a professional development framework for planning, promoting, and supporting the personal, professional and career development of researchers in higher education. It articulates the knowledge, behaviours and attributes of successful researchers and encourages them to realise their potential.

It has key four domains: Knowledge and Intellectual Abilities; Personal Effectiveness; Research Governance and Organisation; and Engagement, Influence, and Impact. The RDF supports the implementation of the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers – on which YSJ is a signatory - and the QAA Code of practice for research degree programmes.

The Vitae Researcher Development Framework (RDF) Planner is available for you to access. This valuable tool enables you to identify potential gaps in your skills, plan your career, and record your achievements. By using the planner, you can create a realistic action plan to assist you in your development and use this as evidence within your reviews and supervision meetings.

Access the planner: https://rdfplanner.vitae.ac.uk If you have not accessed the RDF before, please get in touch with ResearchOffice@yorksj.ac.uk

Knowledge and intellectual abilities (A)

The knowledge, intellectual abilities and techniques to do research

A1 Knowledge base

A2 Cognitive abilities

A3 Creativity

Personal effectiveness (B)

The personal qualities and approach to be an effective researcher

B1 Personal qualities

B2 Self-management

B3 Professional and career development

Research governance and organisation (C)

The knowledge of the standards, requirements and professionalism to do research

C1 Professional conduct

C2 Research management

C3 Finance, funding, and resources

Engagement, influence and impact (D)

The knowledge and skills to work with others and ensure the wider impact of research

D1 Working with others

D2 Communication and dissemination

D3 Engagement and Impact

Core Research Training Programme

Stage 1 Core Research Skills

① **Theme:** Induction
Title: Induction to your research degree
Facilitators: Research Office
RDF Indicator: A1, B, C, D

① **Theme:** Academic Skills
Title: Academic writing skills
Facilitators: Study Development
RDF Indicator: A1

① **Theme:** Academic Skills
Title: Library and Learning Services for PGRs
Facilitators: Library and Learning Services
RDF Indicator: B2, C1

① **Theme:** Research Ethics & Integrity
Title: Haplo Ethics Monitor, form and process
Facilitators: Research Office
RDF Indicator: C1

① **Theme:** Research Ethics & Integrity
Title: GDPR for researchers
Facilitators: Liam Wilkinson
RDF Indicator: C1

① **Theme:** Research Ethics & Integrity
Title: Data management for researchers
Facilitators: Chloe Beswick
RDF Indicator: B2, C1, D2

Stage 2 Core Research Skills

② **Theme:** Induction
Title: Induction to the mid-point of your degree
Facilitators: Research Office
RDF Indicator: A1, B, C, D

② **Theme:** Academic Skills
Title: Academic presentation skills (preparation and speaking)
Facilitators: Study Development
RDF Indicator: B1, B3, D2

② **Theme:** Academic Skills
Title: Writing structured abstracts
Facilitators: PVC Research and Knowledge Transfer
RDF Indicator: A3, B2, D2

② **Theme:** Career Development
Title: Career planning for PGRs
Facilitators: Careers
RDF Indicator: B3

② **Theme:** Publication
Title: Open Research for Researchers
Facilitators: Chloe Beswick
RDF Indicator: B2, D2

② **Theme:** Publication
Title: Introduction to RaY - YSJ's research repository
Facilitator: Ruth Mardall
RDF Indicator: B2, C2, D2

Stage 3 Core Research Skills

③ **Theme:** Induction
Title: Induction to the examination stage of your research degree
Facilitators: Research Office
RDF Indicator: D2

③ **Theme:** Examination
Title: Preparing for your viva
Facilitators: TBC
RDF Indicator: A, B, C, D

③ **Theme:** Academic Skills
Title: Creating your thesis
Facilitators: Digital Training
RDF Indicator: B2

③ **Theme:** Academic Skills
Title: Academic skills for editing and proofreading
Facilitators: Study Development
RDF Indicator: A1, A2, A3

③ **Theme:** Career Development
Title: Using the RDF for your career progression
Facilitators: Dr Charlotte Haines-Lyon
RDF Indicator: B3

③ **Theme: Publication**
Title: Copyright and Intellectual Property
Facilitators: Chloe Beswick
RDF Indicator: B2, C1

Key Information

Sessions marked with a ① are recommended for 1st stage PGRs

Sessions marked with a ② are recommended for 2nd stage PGRs (2nd year FT, 3rd and 4th year PT)

Sessions marked with a ③ are recommended for 3rd stage PGRs (3rd year FT, 5th and 6th year PT)

Sessions marked with a ④ are optional at any stage for PGRs

Session links for booking and pre-recorded sessions will be available on the Virtual Graduate Centre and use virtualgrad to enrol.

Optional Research Training Sessions

Research Skills: Academic Skills

④ **Title:** Speaking & writing your thesis
Facilitators: Professor John Tribe
RDF Indicator: A1 ☐

④ **Title:** Reviewing academic literature
Facilitators: Study Development
RDF Indicator: A1, A2, A3 ☐

Research Skills: Career Development

④ **Title:** Postdoctoral research careers
Facilitators: ECRs
RDF Indicator: B2, B3, D1 ☐

② **Theme:** Career Development
Title: Careers session 2
Facilitators: Careers
RDF Indicator: B2, B3, D2 ☐

④ **Title:** Careers session 3
Facilitators: Careers
RDF Indicator: B1, B3 ☐

Research Skills: Equality, Diversity & Inclusion

④ **Title:** EDI & your research
Facilitators: Marije Davidson
RDF Indicator: D1 ☐

④ **Title:** Research 'with', not 'on' communities: Engaging seldom-heard groups in the research process
Facilitators: Maria Fernandes Jesus
RDF Indicator: A1 ☐

Research Skills: Publication

④ **Title:** Q&A with journal editors
Facilitators: Professor Andrew Hill, Professor Matthew Reason & Associate Professor Sarah Lawson-Welsh
RDF Indicator: B3, D2 ☐

④ **Title:** Reviewing for academic journals
Facilitators: Professor Andrew Hill
RDF Indicator: B3, C1 ☐

④ **Title:** Working on publication in the arts
Facilitators: Professor Matthew Reason
RDF Indicator: B3, D1, D2 ☐

③ **Title:** Publishing in academic journals
Facilitators: Professor Andrew Hill
RDF Indicator: B3, D1, D2 ☐

Research Skills: Research Ethics & Integrity

④ **Title:** Q&A with Chairs of School Ethics Committee
Facilitators: School Ethics Committee Leads
RDF Indicator: C1 ☐

④ **Title:** Research with vulnerable groups
Facilitators: Professor Divine Charura
RDF Indicator: C1, C2 ☐

④ **Title:** Informed consent, permissions and briefings to research participants
Facilitators: Dr Sarah Mallinson-Howard
RDF Indicator: C1 ☐

④ **Title:** The challenges and strategies in participation research
Facilitators: Associate Professor Nick Rowe
RDF Indicator: A1, C1 ☐

④ **Title:** Responsible Research Practices
Facilitators: Professor Garry Tew
RDF Indicator: A1, C1, C2 ☐

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Research Skills: Methodologies, Tools and Techniques

Title: Ethnographic fieldwork
Facilitators: Professor Lee Higgins
RDF Indicator: A1, C1, C2
④

Title: Using questionnaires for research
Facilitators: Rev. Professor Andrew Village
RDF Indicator: A1, C1, C2
④

Title: Introduction to comprehensive meta-analysis
Facilitators: Dr Daniel Madigan
RDF Indicator: A1
④

Title: Introduction to Randomised Trials
Facilitators: Professor Garry Tew
RDF Indicator: A1
④

Title: Transforming creative practice into a creative research project
Facilitators: Professor Vanessa Corby
RDF Indicator: A1, C2
④

Title: Using language corpora for research beyond linguistics
Facilitators: Professor Chris Hall
RDF Indicator: A1
④

Title: Pluralistic Research Design
Facilitators: Professor Lynne Gabriel
RDF Indicator: A1
④

Title: Qualitative research beyond the interview: creative and visual methods
Facilitators: Dr Dai O'Brien
RDF Indicator: A1, A2, A3
④

Title: Practice-based research in the arts and humanities
Facilitators: Dr Rob Edgar
RDF Indicator: A1, A3
④

Title: Field research - challenges and risk management
Facilitators: Dr Pauline Couper and Dr Olalekan Adekola
RDF Indicator: A1, C1, C2
④

Title: Feel the fear and do it anyway: innovation and intellectual risk taking
Facilitators: Associate Professor Sarah Lawson-Welsh
RDF Indicator: A3
④

Title: Practice-led Research: critical reflection with anecdotal evidence
Facilitators: Associate Professor Claire Hind
RDF Indicator: A3
④

Title: Introduction to Mplus
Facilitators: Dr Robert Vaughan
RDF Indicator: A1
④

PGR Wellbeing Programme of Events

Title: Research self-care
Facilitators: Professor Lynne Gabriel
RDF Indicator: B2
④

Title: Life, work & sustainable research practice
Facilitators: Professor Vanessa Corby
RDF Indicator: B2, B3
④

Title: Imposter syndrome
Facilitators: Careers
RDF Indicator: B1, B2
④

Institute for Social Justice

Title: Action Research PAD Clinic: A participatory approach to social justice
Facilitator: Dr Joan Walton
RDF Indicator: A1
④

Title: Being a reflexive researcher
Facilitator: Dr Joan Walton
RDF Indicator: A3, B1   ISJ
④

Title: Creative methods in research (PAD Clinic)
Facilitators: Professor Divine Charura, Professor Matthew Reason and Penn Smith
RDF Indicator: A1, A3
④

Title: Democratic methodologies: Whose voices are heard? (PAD clinic)
Facilitator: Dr Charlotte Haines-Lyon
RDF Indicator: A1
④

Title: Equality and diversity in research
Facilitator: Professor Matthew Reason and Divine Charura
RDF Indicator: D1
④

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PGR Voice and Representation

PGR Forums will occur three times over the academic year with PGRs welcome to attend in person or join online. All PGR Forums will take place at 12am and Outlook calendar invites will be sent for the following dates:

Thursday 12th January 2023

Thursday 20th April 2023

Thursday 22nd June 2023

The PGR Forums will be facilitated by your PGR Representatives, and you are invited to raise any issues or views to discuss in a friendly and collegiate environment. All PGRs are welcome to attend.

Details of your PGR Representatives are available here:

https://blog.yorksj.ac.uk/ysjuro/2022/11/29/your-new-pgr-representatives

They are active members of the Research Degree Committee and University Research Committee. You can contact your PGR Representatives via email at: PGRrep@yorksj.ac.uk

PGR Induction

Our PGR Induction is held twice per year and is compulsory for all new starters. The programme spans three days in total. The sessions are aimed to welcome all new PGRs, introduce you to the support services and resources available. The Research Office will provide you with a comprehensive programme prior to your start date.

2022/2023 PGR Induction

3 – 5 October 2022
6 – 9 February 2023

Annual PGR Conference: Eat. Sleep. Research. Repeat.

Our annual one-day PGR conference is an essential part of your experience. You will have the opportunity to network and present your research to PGRs and academics from across the University in an interdisciplinary and collegiate setting.

Friday 7th October 2022

Full details can be found here, including call for contributions and ticket booking:

https://www.yorksj.ac.uk/research/events/eat-sleep-research-repeat-conference/

PGR Opportunities

School Research Seminars

Each school provides regular opportunities to attend research seminars which include expert visiting speakers, as well as research presentations from staff, and PGRs. School research seminars provide a perfect setting for collaborating, sharing, and disseminating current research, and engaging in academic discussions. Details of each School Research Seminar series can be found online at the YSJ Academic Development Programme.

The Brilliant Club

The Brilliant Club is an award-winning university access charity. They work closely with PhD and post-doctoral researchers, training them as university access professionals and placing them as tutors in schools. Here they deliver academically rigorous programmes to small groups of high potential pupils from low higher education-participation backgrounds.

The charity works in partnership with universities and schools across the UK; to date nearly 2000 researchers have worked as PhD tutors.

This year The Brilliant Club are running two programmes for researchers to get involved with: The Scholars Programme and The Brilliant Tutoring Programme.

York St John works in partnership with The Brilliant Club to offer you the opportunity to join The Brilliant Club's PhD tutor community in 2021-22.

What does it offer PhD researchers and post-doctoral researchers?

The Researcher Development Programme develops competencies which can be mapped onto the Vitae framework.

Our tutor outcomes framework outlines our 4 key competencies:

I.   Teaching and pedagogy
II. Communication and Public Engagement
III. Professional and Career Development
IV. Fair Access

Remuneration

Tutors get paid £500 per placement, plus an additional £100 for designing a new Scholars Programme course, and travel expenses.

Application

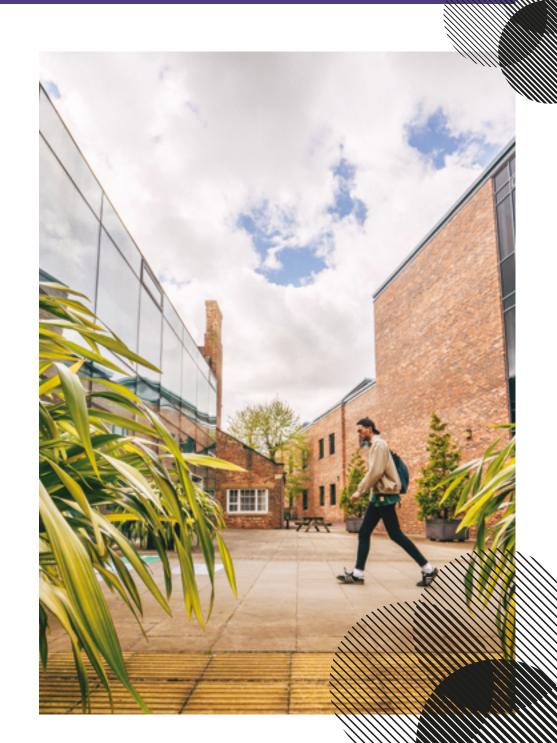Applications are available all year round and can be accessed here:

The Scholars Programme Application: https://thebrilliantclub.org/the-scholars-programme/for-researchers/application/

The Brilliant Tutoring Programme Application: https://thebrilliantclub.org/brilliant-tutoring/for-researchers/btp-tutor-application/

Brilliant Club information events available here: https://thebrilliantclub.org/the-scholars-programme/for-researchers/information-events

University of East Anglia (UEA) Online Training

YSJU subscribes to an Online Training Series provided by UEA that offers research and professional skills training to all PGRs delivered via a virtual classroom. The training is delivered by Dr Simon Watts, PGR Training Coordinator and will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings between 7pm – 9pm.

The training spans across five modules, each focussed on a specific area. You can pick and choose which sessions you would like to attend.

Sessions can be booked here via the UEA Online Training Series webpage three weeks before it is due to run.

For any further information and queries, please contact Dr Simon Watts: simon.d.watts@uea.ac.uk

1

**Module 1
Academic Writing**

(1) What Should a Literature Review Do?
(2) Writing Effectively
(3) Academic Publishing
(4) Writing & Structuring an Effective Thesis

2

**Module 2
Qualitative Research Skills**

(1) A Comparison of Qualitative Methods
(2) Qualitative Interviewing
(3) Analysing Qualitative Data
(4) Using NVivo for Qualitative Research

3

**Module 3
Finishing your PhD**

(1) Preparing for your Viva
(2) Securing a First Academic Post
(3) Preparing Impactful Research Proposals & Grant Applications

4

**Module 4
Teaching Skills**

(1) Preparing & Delivering Lectures
(2) Assessment, Feedback, & Module Design

5

**Module 5
Quantitative Research Skills**

(1) Quantitative Research: A Basic Guide
(2) An Introduction to Scale Development
(3) An Introduction to Structural Equation Modelling

Additional Training and Development Support

PGR and Higher Education Teaching

All PGRs who wish to gain teaching experience, can access HEA Fellowship Scheme and continuous professional development (CPD) programme. As part of your training and development you will be supported by the Teaching Excellence Support Office (TESO) and be able to access a range of courses designed to enhance your pedagogic style for your discipline via the online YSJ Academic Development Programme.

To find out more information and access the HEA Fellowship Scheme, please see here: https://blog.yorksj.ac.uk/fellowship/

Digital Training and Resources

The Digital Training team hold tutorial and group sessions for most of the software and systems used at the University. The University has a comprehensive list of software available to support all offer courses for all skill-levels and provide information for assistive technology to help you develop your academic skills.

www.yorksj.ac.uk/students/digital-resources

Vitae RDF Planner

The Vitae Researcher Development Framework (RDF) Planner is available for you to access. This valuable tool enables you to identify potential gaps in your skills, plan your career, and record your achievements. By using the planner, you can create a realistic action plan to assist you in your development and use this as evidence within your reviews and supervision meetings.

Access the planner: https://rdfplanner.vitae.ac.uk

Study Development

The Study Development team are available to support you with your academic development through one-to-one tutorials or small group bookings. The team can support you with your thesis and help you to improve your study skills, reflect on your planning progress and assist you with academic writing.

Academic Liaison Librarians

To assist you in accessing the resources necessary for your research, our Academic Liaison Librarians offer one-to-one appointments. The team provide you with specialist support to identify software for accessibility needs, reference management systems, and finding specialist resources, including access to archives and inter-library loans.

Insessional Support and Language Development (ISLD)

The ISLD team will be glad to help and support you with language, communication and academic skills for your university work. You can book individual tutorials and attend our workshops and events. Self-enrol on the Insessional Support and Language Development (ISLD) Moodle page for advice, resources and useful links, and join in some of our regular Academic Discussion Group sessions to practise discussing, defending and critically evaluating academic topics.

The Wellbeing Thesis

This is a free, open access information site from Student Minds, the University of Derby and King's College London. The Wellbeing Thesis challenges the myths around postgraduate research degrees and enables you to feel in control of your journey. The site is easily accessible, underpinned by current research with top tips, videos, and downloadable resources to support each stage of your programme.