The Leeds Doctoral College Newsletter will appear monthly and, as well as being emailed to all PGRs, will be available via Minerva and on the Leeds Doctoral College website. If there are any issues you’d like future newsletters to cover or if you have any PGR-related news you’d like us to share, please let us know by emailing doctoralcollege@leeds.ac.uk. Due to a few technical issues, this month’s edition is being sent out a little later than will normally be the case. Normal service will be resumed in November!

Leeds Doctoral College Launch
The Leeds Doctoral College was formally launched by the Vice-Chancellor on 5th October, at an event attended not only by the Vice-Chancellor, but by both Deputy Vice-Chancellors, most of the Faculty Executive Deans and many of those involved with the support of PGR activities from across the University. There were speeches by Professor Lisa Roberts, Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Research and Innovation and by the Vice-Chancellor, but also by two PGR speakers, Devesh Mistry, Runner-Up in this year’s PGR of the Year competition, and Marta Giannichi, winner of this year’s Leeds Three-Minute Thesis competition. There was also a rather stunning cake!
Following the formal launch of the Doctoral College, we held an open afternoon for anyone interested in coming to find out more about our work. Around 60 PGRs from around the University attended the open afternoon and helped us to finish off the cake.

Did you miss the launch? Come and visit us on Level 12 of the Marjorie and Arnold Ziff Building. Come to one of our lunchtime drop-in sessions (see below), or just pop in and say ‘hello’. We have a comfy waiting/seating area which provides a nice quiet place to have a coffee, read or just think.

**Introducing James Mason**

James Mason is the newly-appointed Doctoral College Administrative and Communications Assistant. His role includes staffing the Doctoral College Reception Office (Ziff 12.22a), supporting the Doctoral College’s activities, managing bookings for the Doctoral College seminar room (Ziff 12.21), and generally being the face of the Doctoral College on campus. James is also one of the main people behind the Doctoral College’s [Twitter](https://twitter.com) and [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com) pages. If James looks familiar to some of you, this may be because he was, until recently, a Leeds PGR himself, and a PGR rep for the School of Media and Communication – experience which makes him ideally suited for his current role enhancing the PGR experience.

**Intern update**

Many thanks to everyone who applied for the recently-advertised intern roles in the Doctoral College. Information about interviews will be forthcoming shortly.

**Doctoral Drop-Ins**

Don’t forget our drop-in sessions for PGRs, which are continuing to run on a daily basis. If you have a question but are not sure where to go to get it answered, come and talk to us. If you need advice on training, study skills, finding resources, getting published, career development, English-language skills, practical and social matters, on managing your workload or your supervisor, or if you just want to come and say ‘hello’, our dedicated PGR experts will be available in the Doctoral College Seminar Room every day from 12.30 till 1.30. See the flyer below for more details, and do email us if there are additional topics you’d like to see covered by the lunchtime drop-in sessions and we will try to help.
Congratulations

The Doctoral College would like to congratulate Daniel Hurdiss, a final-year PGR on the Wellcome PhD programme in the Faculty of Biological Sciences who has recently been named as the Microbiology Society’s Young Microbiologist of the Year 2017. Daniel can be seen below (centre), with the two runners-up in the competition.

The prize recognises and rewards excellence in science communication by a Microbiology Society member who is a PGR or postdoctoral researcher. It was awarded to Daniel on the basis of the presentation of his research, entitled ‘High-resolution cryo-EM as a tool to study virion assembly and cellular entry of BK polyomavirus, a major cause of kidney transplant rejection’. Daniel was nominated for the prize on the basis of his presentation at a conference in Edinburgh and was then selected as one of the six finalists who presented their work at a special event in London.
Daniel’s work relies heavily on the use of the recently purchased Titan Krios microscopes funded jointly by the University and the Wellcome Trust for the Astbury Centre for Structural Molecular Biology. He says: ‘I would not have been able to do the research which enabled me to win this prize without the University’s investment in this state-of-the-art equipment. I am very grateful to Leeds for giving me this opportunity’.

His success in this competition follows hot on the heels of his receipt of the International Papillomavirus Society prize for the best talk at the DNA Tumour Virus meeting in Birmingham earlier in the year.

Our warmest congratulations go to Daniel and to his supervisors, Dr Andrew Macdonald and Prof. Neil Ranson, and we wish him every success in the future.

Have you had a notable success? We would love to hear about it. Email doctoralcollege@leeds.ac.uk and let us know.

Leeds Doctoral College presents… Research Nights

We are delighted and excited to announce that our first PGR-led Doctoral College event will be taking place on Tuesday November 14th between 6pm and 8pm in the Pyramid Canteen in Leeds University Union. Three PGR speakers will introduce their research in an accessible and fun way with lots of time for discussion

Our first three speakers will be speaking on Disney, Disease, and Driving. Intrigued? Come and support your fellow-PGRs and find out more about what they are doing by coming along to the event. Bring your friends: the event is open to all. Food and drinks are also available from the Pyramid Canteen. It’s going to be a great night!

We will be organising Research Nights every two months, so if you’d like to take part in January or at some time in the future, please email doctoralcollege@leeds.ac.uk and let us know what you’d like to talk about. Training and support for speakers is provided. We can’t wait to hear from you.
Leeds Doctoral College presents... Two dates for your diaries

The next Leeds Doctoral College event will be taking place on Monday 11th December, 5pm-6.30pm in the Research Hub on Level 13 of the Edward Boyle Library. Entitled *Everything you always wanted to know about REF (but were afraid to ask)*, it will be led by Professor Nick Plant, Dean for Quality and Impact. His talk aims to explain the relevance of the forthcoming Research Excellence Framework for PGRs and to explain what REF is and why it matters. There will be ample time for questions and discussion, and the talk will be followed by soft drinks and nibbles. Look out for more information about this event nearer the time.

In December we will also be hosting an event specifically aimed at those PGRs doing a Masters by Research. This will take place on Thursday 14th December between 12.30pm and 2pm. We want those of you doing a Masters by Research to get as much as possible out of what the Doctoral College can offer, so we’d like to talk to you about the support that you need and how we can enhance it. Lunch will be provided. Look out for an invitation to this event.

**PGR Reps’ Forum**

The next PGR Reps’ Forum, held together with Leeds University Union, will be taking place on Tuesday 28th November, between 12.30pm and 2.30pm in the Pyramid Theatre. This event is open to all PGRs (not just reps, though reps are particularly encouraged to attend to represent the PGRs in their area) and represents a chance to meet me and ask me about anything at all relating to your experience as PGRs. LUU will be represented by Education Officer, Zaki Al-Ghazal. You can submit questions in advance or simply turn up and ask them on the day. Lunch is provided.

**Finally...**

October has been an exciting month for the Doctoral College. After so much planning and preparation it is wonderful to be fully launched, in our new space, and starting to organise events and activities aimed at enhancing the PGR experience. I hope that you will make the most of the opportunities that the Doctoral College offers, and I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible at our forthcoming events.

With my best wishes

Professor Claire Honess
Dean of the Doctoral College