

# LEEDS DOCTORAL COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2019

Leeds Doctoral College incorporates all seven Faculty Graduate Schools and the central Doctoral College Operations team. We also have a base on Level 12 of the Marjorie and Arnold Ziff building, where you can find the Doctoral College Seminar Room (12.21) – which holds up to 15 people and is available for booking by/for PGRs, free of charge – and the Dean of the Doctoral College’s office (12.22b).

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The Leeds Doctoral College Newsletter is emailed to all postgraduate researchers (PGRs) and members of the Doctoral College, and is published as an announcement on the Leeds Doctoral College Organisation on [Minerva](#). Past editions can also be found on the [University website](#). Click on the web-links provided to find out more about the events and news that interests you.

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## DOCTORAL COLLEGE NEWS

**Registration.** Please remember to re-register as PGR with the University each year. All continuing PGRs must re-register each year within four weeks of the anniversary of their starting date. Re-registration can be completed by logging in to Minerva. Please contact your Graduate School if you encounter any issues.

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**Brexit.** Key Brexit information and advice for PGRs concerning your experience at the University will be updated regularly and appropriately [here](#). Please refer to this page for information in the first instance.

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**Key Travel.** We are aware that many PGRs have been affected by the changes to the University’s travel policy whereby staff and PGRs must use the University’s nominated partner, Key Travel, for all travel arrangements. This change was introduced at short notice and, although some concessions to the situation of PGRs have been made, we know that some PGRs are still experiencing difficulties. Simon Sandison, the LUU’s Postgraduate Engagement Manager is keen to ensure that LUU is able to feed back appropriately to the University on these issues. If you have been affected, please take your time to fill out this short information gathering [questionnaire](#) or email Simon directly at [S.R.Sandison@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:S.R.Sandison@leeds.ac.uk).

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**University: New principles to tackle the climate crisis.** This week the University announced its commitment to [bold climate crisis action](#), including a drive to achieve no direct carbon emissions by 2050. We’ve also withdrawn investment from significant fossil fuel extractors Total, BP and Shell, and set out [seven key principles](#) to help tackle the climate crisis.

## UPCOMING EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

**Doctoral College Induction, featuring Doctorientation.** If you are a new PGR at the University then you are welcome to attend our induction event, featuring a self-guided campus discovery tour – ‘Doctorientation’! If you missed the main induction on Monday 7 October, you can contact [doctoralcollege@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:doctoralcollege@leeds.ac.uk) to ask to be put on the waiting list for the follow up date on **Thursday 14 November**. Please find more information [here](#).



### LEEDS DOCTORAL COLLEGE

#### *Induction and Doctorientation*

A welcome and campus orientation event for new postgraduate researchers.



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**Research Nights.** Our next Research Nights event will be on **Thursday 24 October** from 18:00 – 20:00 in Pyramid Canteen, LUU. Check out our [Twitter](#) and [Facebook page](#) for updates. The bar will be open and the event also features a Pub Quiz! We have filled our speaker slots for our October and November dates but please [email](#) if you are interested in presenting at our Research Nights events continuing in 2020 – training provided!

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**ReproducibiliTea.** Join in at an early-career researcher-led journal (and tea-drinking) club that focuses on generating a space for transdisciplinary discussion of cutting-edge, and sometimes controversial, meta-research articles. Its goal is to facilitate and deepen the conversation about open research across all fields of study represented at Leeds, from Medieval History to Data Science. Third week of the month, alternating Tuesdays and Thursdays (1-2pm) in Research Meeting Room 2 (Level 13, Edward Boyle library). Please contact [Kelly Lloyd](#) or view the [Facebook post](#) or [Minerva announcement](#) for the timetable.

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**Automation in Life.** As part of the Economic and Social Research Council Festival of Social Science, on **Friday 8 November** this one-day event will bring together expert speakers from different fields and departments at Leeds: Institute for Transport Studies (ITS), Business School, Law School, Psychology and Engineering. The day will consist of talks, a tour of VirtuoCity (a world leading facility in city simulation and transport research) including demonstrations, free lunch and networking and breakout groups to generate discussion around the theme of automation. This event is organised by PGRs from Robotics at Leeds and Institute of Transport Studies. More information and registration [here](#).

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Stay safe online and win a Microsoft Surface Go!



Information Security Week is **21 – 25 October**. There are presentations throughout the week, including a Scam Avoidance workshop run by Santander and daily quizzes where you can win reusable cups and aluminium water bottles. Sign up to the Information Security Pledge during the week for your chance to win a Microsoft Surface Go. Find out more on the [IT website](#) or [follow them on Twitter @ITServicesUoL](#)

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**PG Be Happy Hour.** This event is a chance for PGRs to reclaim the Old Bar for a few hours. Relax with drinks and snacks alongside other postgraduates. Thursday 17 October, 31 October, and 14 November. 17:00 – 19:00.

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**Black History Month.** October is Black History Month and LUU has a range of events aimed at more advanced students, including PGRs, including [Black & Books](#) which will start to revolutionise reading lists. The full list of activities is [here](#).

## WELLBEING AND COMMUNITY

**Student Art Pass.** The Student Art Pass is available to PGRs and allows you to get free or reduced prices access to art experiences all over the UK. The pass is now available for a limited time until **Sunday 15 December** to all full-time PGRs studying any subject. Membership costs £5 a year and you can get yourself one [here](#).

The pass is designed to support students in engaging with art & culture across the UK by offering:

- Free or reduced-price entry to over 240 museums, galleries and historic houses across the UK
- 50% off major exhibitions
- Regular creative competitions and paid opportunities in the arts
- Access to museum events where students can connect in person



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**Term 1 Wellbeing Workshops.** Student Counselling & Wellbeing Service workshops are open to PGRs and take place on Monday and Wednesday lunchtimes 12:00 – 13:30 in the Group Room at the Student Counselling and Wellbeing Service at 19 Clarendon Place. The programme of workshops available to sign up to can be viewed [here](#). Information about the sign-up procedure is outlined on the website.

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**Feeling at Home in Leeds group workshops and online guide.** Whether you've recently arrived in Leeds, or been here for some time, the University offers face-to-face support and online tools to help you feel at home and make the most of University life. The group workshops provide an opportunity to meet in a small group over five weeks to share your experience of culture change and develop useful strategies, focusing on:

- participating in academic groups
- making social conversation
- seeking help
- expressing disagreement and saying no

Workshops are held on Friday afternoons 14:00 – 16:15 from Friday 8 November to Friday 6 December. To take part, you should be available to attend at least 3 of the 5 workshop dates. Apply by 09:00 on **Monday 28 October** [here](#). You can also enrol in the Feeling at Home in Leeds Minerva organisation to explore the interactive online guides and hear other students' stories about their transition to living and studying in Leeds.

## RESEARCH SKILLS AND CAREERS

**The Scholars Programme.** The Scholars Programme is run by The Brilliant Club, an award-winning university access charity. They recruit and train doctoral and post-doctoral researchers to deliver programmes of university-style teaching to pupils in schools that serve under-represented communities. The University of Leeds works in partnership with The Brilliant Club to offer PGRs the opportunity to join The Brilliant Club's PhD tutor community in 2019-20. Why Become a Scholars Programme PhD Tutor?

- Support local pupils from underrepresented backgrounds to access university
- Get expert training and real experience to develop your teaching and other transferable skills
- Earn £500 per placement plus travel expenses

- Disseminate your research to small groups of school pupils
- Join a nationwide community of like-minded researchers making a huge impact on university access

The Brilliant Club will be running an information event on campus on **Wednesday 13 November**, 12:00 – 13:00 in the Wharfedale Room, Dales Building (next to the Careers Centre), which you are welcome to attend. If you are unable to make this information event, there are several webinars for you to find out more about becoming a PhD tutor. To sign up for an information webinar, [click here](#). You can find out more about The Brilliant Club and the tutoring opportunity [online](#). To apply please visit the [application form](#). If you have any queries please do not hesitate to email The Brilliant Club at [apply@thebrilliantclub.org](mailto:apply@thebrilliantclub.org).

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**Individual Writing Consultations.** Now available to book through the training catalogue. 30-45 minute individual consultations are available, to discuss with a tutor ways for you to develop your doctoral writing. This is not a proofreading/correction service: the focus is on helping you to help yourself resolve a specific writing issue, which you will need to outline when you make the booking. PGRs will not normally be able to make more than 2 bookings per semester. Appointments are currently available from 13:00 – 15:00 on Tuesdays and 10:00 – 12:00 on Thursdays – a specific time will be confirmed once your booking request has been accepted. Please click on this [link](#) to take you through to the booking system.

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**PGR Placements.** The Leeds Social Sciences Institute offers a fantastic opportunity for PGRs to undertake part-time research projects within local and national organisations. PGRs can put forth a project idea that includes working in a research capacity with an external partner. The PGR will have an opportunity to engage with the needs of the external organisation and to build the knowledge gained from the placement into their future research plans. The time commitment for the PGR is estimated at about 130 hours in total, with weekly hours to be agreed with the organisation. Please [see here](#) for full details. Closing dates for applications is **Wednesday 13 November**, applications can be [found here](#).

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**PGR Internship.** Fixed Term (for 3 months). The Alumni & Development Team are looking to work with a skilled individual on a short-term project, to help them use business intelligence & software functionality to capture, draw out and use more efficiently, information on who our alumni are, what they do and how they can support the University. Application deadline **Sunday 3 November**. For further information and to apply please see the [job advert](#).

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**OD&PL workshops.** Workshops, Courses and One-to-one consultations to help you develop your research writing and communication abilities will be available through both the Language Centre and OD&PL from the beginning of October. Please use the training catalogue to identify suitable provision to match your needs. Highlights include:

**Courageous Conversations Workshop.** This workshop is aimed at PGRs from all disciplines. **Monday 11 November**, 13:30 – 16:30. More information and book your place [here](#).

**Taking Ownership of your personal and professional development.** This workshop is aimed at PGRs from all disciplines at any stage of their research degree. **Thursday 14 November**, 09:30 – 11:00. More information and book your place [here](#).

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**Library workshops.** The following are now available to book for PGRs:

- [Literature Searching for your Research Project](#)
- [Increasing the Visibility of your Research](#)
- [Safeguarding Confidential/Sensitive/ Restricted Research Data for your research degree](#)
- [Shut Up and Write!](#) (sessions are released every two weeks)

Browse all currently available library workshops for researchers and book onto sessions using the University [course search engine](#). Further support for researchers is on the [Library website](#), or please email [research@library.leeds.ac.uk](mailto:research@library.leeds.ac.uk)

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**LinkedIn Learning.** Providing access to a wealth of online self-paced learning materials, LinkedIn Learning is free to use and provides a great opportunity to gain some new skills or brush up on your existing ones - from professional skills that can enhance your employability to IT skills that can support your research or teaching skills for working with students – all at a time and in a place that works for you. You can search over 14000 courses by topic or select from a wide range of channels curated by experts: look out for resources recommended by colleagues here at Leeds which will be released throughout the year. You don't need a LinkedIn account to access, simply login with your University of Leeds credentials [here](#) or see the link available in Minerva.

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**Open Access week.** Nobody left behind: Exploring the role of Open Research in equitable scholarly communication. To celebrate Open Access week 2019, the Library are hosting a lunchtime session on the role of open research in providing more equitable scholarly communication. Hear from researchers, authors, editors and publishers about their experiences of open research. This will be followed by a panel discussion and Q&A. This session will be of interest to anyone creating, supporting and disseminating research. Thursday 24 October 12:00-14:00, Edward Boyle Library, Conference Room level 7. For itinerary and to register please follow the link [here](#).

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**Minerva.** Personal and Professional Development in the Doctoral College Organisation in [Minerva](#). Highlights include:

- LinkedIn Learning: You now have access to over 15,000 online courses covering a wide range of topics, from personal and professional development through to software such as Python, NVivo, MATLAB, Adobe Creative Cloud etc. Try searching for something and it may surprise you what is in there!
- Giving effective seminar and conference presentations online course from OD&PL. This is a new initiative designed around the Dynamic Development Model and...
- The Dynamic Development Model is a new approach you can use for your personal and professional development explained in the Doctoral College organisation
- Rosetta Stone: The opportunity to learn a new language
- 'Espresso': A section full of personal and professional development ideas all of which should take you less than 30 minutes to look through.

## **SPOTLIGHT ON... Doctoral College PGR Showcase Conference 2019.**

Our Leeds Doctoral College Showcase celebrates the significant contribution that our researchers make to the



research profile and academic life of the University. We bring the research community from across our campus together to celebrate the excellence and diversity of work being done by our postgraduate researchers. The Showcase is taking place on **Tuesday 10 December**, 11:00 – 16:30 in the Great Hall on campus. Keep an eye on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) for more information and updates.

#Showcase2019

There will be the opportunity to enter competitions for the Showcase:

- Three Minute Thesis (3MT) - Participants have just three minutes and one PowerPoint slide to communicate their thesis to a non-specialist audience.
- Research Image of the Year.
- Postgraduate Researcher of the Year - One nominee from each of our 7 Faculties will be presenting their research (Note: this competition is by nomination only. If you are to be nominated, you will be contacted by your Faculty).

Cash prizes will be awarded for these competitions.

To find out the details of how to enter the competitions, head to the [Leeds Doctoral College Organisation on Minerva](#) and look for the announcement with competition details attached.

Registration for the Showcase is recommended to allow us to provide enough catering. Please register [here](#).

You can watch videos of 3MT and Postgraduate Researcher of the Year presentations from previous events on the [YouTube channel](#).

## HELP WANTED

**Survey.** Project title: The role of serendipity in the doctoral degree. Professor Alistair McCulloch is an academic who works as part of the Research Education Team in Research & Innovation Services at the University of South Australia and is currently engaged on a research project examining the role of serendipity in the doctoral research process. If you either possess or are currently studying for a PhD or other doctoral degree, you are invited to participate in a relatively short survey about your experience. More information and survey [here](#). Professor McCulloch will be presenting the results at next year's [QPR2020 conference](#) in Adelaide, Australia.

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**Intercultural Ambassadors volunteering programme.** Applications for the Intercultural Ambassadors Programme for 2019/20 are now open! Whether you're a PGR from the UK or another country, this volunteering scheme is the perfect opportunity for anyone looking for a new challenge in an intercultural setting. [Apply for a place on the programme](#) by 23:59 on **Sunday 20 October**.

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**Students into Schools Go Global volunteering opportunity.** Do you want to inspire enthusiasm in local school pupils to learn about our interconnected world? Students into Schools Go Global gives you the opportunity to volunteer as part of a team to create fun educational after school clubs in local schools. [Find out more and apply](#) before 23:59 on **Sunday 20 October**.

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**Volunteer at Leeds Abbey Dash.** On **Sunday 27 October** 10,000 runners will take part in the Leeds Abbey Dash 10km race to raise up to £280,000 to combat loneliness in older people. Students and researchers from University of Leeds will be volunteering at the finish line, handing out medals and congratulating runners. You will gain experience of supporting a large event, meet new people and enjoy a fantastic atmosphere. [Find out more and register](#).

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Don't forget to follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) and watch out for announcements on [Minerva](#) to keep up with future developments and events!

Best wishes,



Professor Claire Honess  
Dean of the Doctoral College

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