Doctoral College Newsletter January 2021

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](https://minerva.leeds.ac.uk/) and [leeds.ac.uk](https://students.leeds.ac.uk/info/10112/research_degrees/1103/doctoral_college_newsletters) Past editions can be requested via email.

# **UPDATES**

For the latest general advice, please check the latest news on our dedicated [coronavirus website](https://coronavirus.leeds.ac.uk/) and [PGR FAQs](https://coronavirus.leeds.ac.uk/student-advice/postgraduate-researcher-faqs/). There is also an [archive of the coronavirus updates](https://coronavirus.leeds.ac.uk/student-advice/student-communications/) sent to students.

## Update on funding allocation for extensions for UKRI and University-funded final year PGRs

I emailed you on the 17 December regarding the additional funding allocation from UKRI to support further extensions for final year research council funded PGRs, as well as additional University funding to match the UKRI level of support for our University-funded PGRs.

Since that email I have been working with senior colleagues to establish our governance plan, as well as the internal administrative processes. I’m pleased to say that those plans are now being finalised and we aim to release details of eligibility and the application process, as well as how the applications will be evaluated, on Monday 1 Feb. This information will be emailed to all PGRs.

For any PGRs who are not funded by UKRI or the University but are experiencing financial difficulties, please consider applying to the alternative sources of support available:

[Leeds Hardship Fund (UK and EU)](https://students.leeds.ac.uk/info/10231/leeds_hardship_fund)

[International Leeds Hardship Fund](https://students.leeds.ac.uk/info/10230/university_scholarships_and_funds/1212/international_leeds_hardship_fund)

[LUU Coronavirus Hardship Fund](https://www.luu.org.uk/news/2020/06/02/luu-coronavirus-hardship-fund-how-were-helping-students/)

## Free parking on campus

The University is offering free parking on campus for staff, PGRs and students at any time of the day until the end of February. If parking on campus is required, PGRs should register by emailing their vehicle registration details, from their University account, to [CarParking@Leeds.ac.uk](mailto:CarParking@Leeds.ac.uk)

## Asymptomatic testing

We are providing lateral flow testing for University staff, PGRs and students who have remained on, or are coming back to campus, followed by ongoing weekly tests, to ensure we can identify asymptomatic cases quickly and effectively. Since the start of the January, we’ve carried out more than 6,000 tests already and this service continues. [Book a test now](https://outlook.office365.com/owa/calendar/CovidTests@leeds365.onmicrosoft.com/bookings/)

## New information security system coming soon

To improve security and help you protect your account, we are introducing Duo Security, a two-factor authentication system for all staff and students. If you haven’t already been enrolled, look out for your enrolment email over the next couple of months. Duo is the same kind of system that is used by online banking and online shopping sites. This means that even if someone knows your password you’ll be alerted right away if they try to log in as you. Initially Duo will protect Microsoft Office 365 and the Virtual Windows Desktop, but will cover other systems in the future. You can [find out more on the IT website](https://it.leeds.ac.uk/it?id=kb_article&sysparm_article=KB0014537).

## Software you need, wherever you need it

The new version of AppsAnywhere is now live, giving you easy access to a wide range of software. You can access it through [the Academic Virtual Windows Desktop](https://it.leeds.ac.uk/it?id=kb_article&sysparm_article=KB0014548), or through your own Windows device. For more information, including [how to install AppsAnywhere visit the IT website](https://it.leeds.ac.uk/it?id=kb_article&sysparm_article=KB0014827).

## Desktop Anywhere being retired

Desktop Anywhere will soon be retired and most people should already be using [the Virtual Windows Desktop](https://it.leeds.ac.uk/it?id=kb_article&sysparm_article=KB0014480) to access on campus services. A few users still have access to Desktop Anywhere as the VWD does not yet provide the specific access they need. If you cannot access something that you need for your research via the VWD, please submit a request to the IT Service Desk as soon as possible, including the details of the resources you need to access.

## Support for PGRs who are self-isolating

If you are self-isolating but able to continue with research:

There is no requirement to inform the University, however, we encourage you to contact your Graduate School so that they can offer you some support.

If you are self-isolating/unwell and unable to continue with research:

You should request an authorised absence through GRAD. Your Graduate School will then contact you to make sure that you are ok and that you have everything you need. We can help you with information on how to access food and essential supplies during self-isolation.

You must [report a positive test result](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=qO3qvR3IzkWGPlIypTW3y1gRlLh4SK9Kt_RqquG-xNlUQVgwTEc5SDFDVUVZUEg5RkZLNzcyRzg4Ri4u) to the University. You can also access University support services, such as [counselling and mental health services](https://students.leeds.ac.uk/info/10720/mental_health), and there is lots of [self-isolation support](https://students.leeds.ac.uk/selfisolationsupport) available on the University’s website.

## Keep in touch

Please ensure that you are in regular contact with your supervisor/s and that your GRAD record is up to date. If your work is affected by the current circumstances in any way (eg lack of access to facilities, inability to carry out fieldwork, caring duties, etc) please record the details in a ‘supervision meeting’ record on GRAD so that your supervisors are aware and so that we can take this into account should we need to in future. If your circumstances change in any way, or you have any concerns, please contact your [Graduate School](http://www.leeds.ac.uk/info/130206/applying/124/graduate_school_contacts).

Please get in touch with the [Doctoral College](mailto:doctoralcollege@leeds.ac.uk) if there is anything more that you need to know. Your safety and wellbeing are our priority.

# **DOCTORAL COLLEGE GOOD NEWS**

We want to celebrate your successes, big or small. Please send any good news to [Doctoral College](mailto:doctoralcollege@leeds.ac.uk)

## BBSRC White Rose DTP virtual symposium

The annual BBSRC White Rose DTP (WRDTP) student-led symposium went virtual in 2020! The symposium is organised every December by WRDTP student representatives with the aim to highlight the cohort’s research milestones as well as foster student interactions across the cohort. Despite COVID-19 posing a new challenge to last year’s student representatives, they rose to the occasion by transferring research talks on Zoom. It was great to see that the level of engagement was just as high in the new virtual symposium format, with lots of questions and comments from participants. The symposium featured yoga exercises and stretches during breaks to keep everyone engaged and in good shape. Another aspect that stuck out was the high activity seen on social media coverage of the event. Highlighting individual talks and posters on Twitter (#WRDTP2020) generated a lot of engagement from both attendees and presenters, promoting networking. A real success story and a very well done to the organisers and competition winners!

## EPSRC Fluid Dynamics CDT Celebration and Prize Event

Congratulations to the CDT students and alumni who were awarded prizes at the annual celebration event on 15 December 2020. This year’s event took place online and details of the awards can be viewed [here](https://fluid-dynamics.leeds.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/43/2020/12/CDT-Prize-Slideshow-2020.pdf).

## PGR blog

Sherif Youssef (LUBS) has authored a blog for The Sociological Review. Blurb: “Fieldwork is considered to be a crucial step for developing scientific research. Why it is important to prepare a mitigation plan for your fieldwork? Is it important to understand the wider remits of place politics and issues surrounding privacy during your fieldwork?” Read the full blog [here](https://www.thesociologicalreview.com/doing-fieldwork-in-liquid-times/).

# **UPCOMING EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES**

## Research LIVE

Research LIVE is a new event from the Doctoral College; all of the good stuff about Research Nights, but now during the daytime. Our next event will be on 9 Feb from 1-2pm, featuring three talks from PGRs across the university:

* James Greenwood-Reeves "Justifying violent protest in democracies"
* Abbie Leggott "Phenotype-Directed Discovery of Antibacterials"
* Gabriel Jones “'Irrational Nuances': Interpreting Serial Piano Music”

The event will take place over Teams – please book your ticket and join us!

[More info and register online](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/research-live-feb-2021-tickets-137610333211)

## Research Culture Cafés: Discuss and share research culture experiences

[OD&PL](https://peopledevelopment.leeds.ac.uk/) are holding a series of regular café style conversations to promote a positive and inclusive research culture. These conversations will help to propose solutions for change and share experiences, and help to create a Research Culture Community network. An overview of the Cafés , how they run and some of the themes we will be addressing can be found on the [OD&PL Researcher Development and Culture website](https://researchersupport.leeds.ac.uk/research-culture-cafes/). The next café is taking place on Wednesday 17 February.

## Botanical University Challenge – team members wanted

YOUR STARTER FOR TEN: What is Botanical University Challenge? It is a botanical quiz competition based on the popular TV format, but entirely focused on plant-based questions. The 4th Botanical University Challenge will be held online and organised by John Warren & Jonathan Mitchley of the Training and Education Committee of BSBI and chaired by Colin Clubbe (RBG Kew) on Wednesday 17 February. Rounds will include UK and world flora and ecology, botanical terminology, food plants, plants in world cultures – and will include picture rounds. Those interested should email [Sebastian Stroud](mailto:bs17sets@leeds.ac.uk).

## DiMeN Diversity: Brand new seminar series

DiMeN Diversity are back for 2021 with a brand new seminar series!  They will be holding seminars on the last Wednesday at 1pm of every other month and hope to cover a wide range of diversity- and equality-related topics throughout the year.

The seminar debut will begin with a session on ‘Being an Ally’, where Dr Jess Wade ([@jesswade](https://twitter.com/jesswade?ref_src=twsrc%5Egoogle%7Ctwcamp%5Eserp%7Ctwgr%5Eauthor)) will speak about identifying and approaching opportunities in order to become a more active ally. This event will be held on Wednesday 24 February, 1-2pm. [More info and sign up](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/dimen-diversity-presents-being-an-ally-with-dr-jessica-wade-tickets-137783262447)

## ECR International Network Development Series

[Session on Sustainable Development Goal 4: Quality Education](https://wun.ac.uk/files/newsletter_december_2020/ecr_program_sdg_4_pub.pdf). The Worldwide Universities Network (WUN) in collaboration with the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Education Section, is holding a series of virtual networking workshops, each thematically focused on a UN Sustainable Development Goal. The workshops are intended to bring together early career researchers (ECRs) from all around the world interested in establishing connections to colleagues in their field. Tuesday [2 February,](https://wun.ac.uk/files/newsletter_december_2020/ecr_program_sdg_13_pub.pdf) 7pm – 8.30pm. Register online [here](https://www.accelevents.com/e/WUNECRSDG4).

## 2021 Sustainable Development Goals conference Bergen

Motivated PhD students and postdoctoral researchers (from any disciplinary or cross-disciplinary field) addressing the [conference themes](https://www.uib.no/en/sdgconference/133577/sdgs-after-crisis-%E2%80%93-concept-note) are invited to present digital posters on your research and how it relates to the broad theme of [this year’s conference](https://www.uib.no/en/sdgconference).   
How to apply:

Each PhD student or postdoctoral researcher may submit a (maximum) two-minute videorecorded poster (in English) by 5 February 2021. The videorecorded poster could be you presenting orally into the camera your research, showing a presentation or other form of digital content using a combination of presentation techniques. This should be of fairly high digital quality but may very well be recorded with your smart phone, for instance. [Tips on how to record your poster](https://vimeo.com/456463255/f5f4da93bc).

The videorecorded poster is to be uploaded to vimeo.com  
Username: [joa@apriil.no](mailto:joa@apriil.no)Password: 100%posters  
Please name your video with your full name, and the title of the poster. Please also send a notification e-mail to [marianne.boge@apriil.no](mailto:marianne.boge@apriil.no) once you have uploaded your video.  
By 9 February 2021 you will receive notification about whether your poster is accepted.

If accepted, your poster videos will be showcased in the conference platform and available for all digital participants to view. For technical questions regarding uploading the recording, please contact [Marianne.Boge@apriil.no](mailto:Marianne.Boge@apriil.no) .

## Bright SCIdea Challenge

University teams with scientific ideas are being invited to apply for next year’s [Bright SCIdea Challenge](https://www.soci.org/careers-support/bright-scidea) – the final will be in March 2021. Teams who apply will get:

* a chance to win the £5,000 cash prize
* free business training to develop their business plan
* the chance to pitch their idea to our panel of expert judges!

Last year UCL’s team Metallogen won the £5,000 cash prize – more information on the winners can be found [here](https://www.soci.org/news/2020/11/bright-scidea-final-2020). To enter you must register a team by Sunday 31 January via the [online form](https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/DRQ8WXR).

## Careers Talk by Lucy Atkinson, Sustainability Manager for the City of York Council

Lucy Atkinson is the Sustainability Manager at the City of York council. She is part of a team looking at new and innovative forms of sustainable and active transport, and manages the council’s participation in the Department for Transport’s e-scooter trials. Additionally, she works with key city stakeholders such as the NHS and the Local Enterprise Partnerships, to address common issues, collaborate on projects and access funding. She previously worked at the government department Defra in their farming evidence team, engaging with farmers on policy proposals for a new domestic agricultural policy following EU exit and has an MSc in Sustainability and Business from the University of Leeds.

Monday 8 February, 1-2pm, [Sign up on MyCareer](https://mycareer.leeds.ac.uk/leap/event.html?id=8167&service=Careers+Service)

## Pint of Science – get involved

Alex Holmes is the [Pint of Science](https://pintofscience.co.uk/) City Coordinator for Leeds and is starting to put together plans for the 2021 Festival. Typically, Pint of Science is a three day in person Public Engagement event held in the pubs of Leeds, but of course next year is going to be a bit different with online live events instead. Here’s the [Leeds 2020 show](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b59YY6zTkSU&list=PL63P9-KNTDSyhTSpc5I50slNarZh6uksG&index=5&t=9s) to give you a sense of what the event is about.

They’re looking for volunteers to help us out with organising the Leeds events for the 17-21 May 2021 festival. If you’re interested in being involved, please either drop Alex an email on [bs14aomh@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:bs14aomh@leeds.ac.uk)

## Leeds Postgraduate Review

The Leeds Postgraduate Review is a student journal for postgraduates at the University of Leeds, established in 2020. Their aim is to bring together people from across the postgraduate community, giving them opportunities to collaborate and to provide students with the opportunity to publish in a supportive environment, to become familiar with the process, and to prepare them for an academic career if they wish. Most importantly, they believe students' work is there to be read and to facilitate knowledge exchange and discussion.

This year they will be looking to accept both research pieces and blog posts from postgraduate researchers across all disciplines at the University of Leeds.

If you’re interested, you can keep up to date with the Review on their [Facebook page](https://www.facebook.com/LeedsPgReview/).

# **WELLBEING AND COMMUNITY**

## Weekly Wellbeing Webinars

Weekly Wellbeing Webinars are brought to you by the Student Counselling and Wellbeing Service. They are open to PGRs and cover topics relevant to student life with the option for you to share your ideas via the keyboard. Sessions are not recorded and participants don’t join the webinar with personal audio and video. Signposting to further sources of support will be included in the webinar. The webinars take place on Wednesdays, 12-1pm. You can sign up for each webinar a week in advance until 12pm the day before the webinar takes place. For more information about topics covered each week and how to sign up, click [here](https://students.leeds.ac.uk/groupsandworkshops).

## LUU Update

The [Help and Support service](https://www.luu.org.uk/help-support/) remains open, and is accessible online, via the phone, and in the LUU foyer. They can help you with everything from housing to academic appeals and the Covid-19 Hardship Fund. There are also new study spaces in LUU, and new food and drink delivery services available.

# **RESEARCH SKILLS AND CAREERS**

## PGR Library Welcome Event (webinar)

Come along to this webinar to find out how the Library can support you throughout your research degree. You will have the opportunity to meet staff from the Library Research Support Team, Research Data Management Team, Customer Services Team and Special Collections Team. You will also find out about all the different types of spaces that are available to you in the Library, including silent study, group meeting rooms and bookable individual study rooms.

Wed, 17 February 2021, 10:00 – 11:30am

[Register online](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/pgr-library-welcome-event-webinar-tickets-135517958863?aff)

## Foundations in Teaching course

Are you new to teaching or new to teaching at Leeds? Then our online ['Foundations in Teaching (FiT)'](https://studenteddev.leeds.ac.uk/getting-started-in-se/) course is designed to provide you with all the necessary information to get you started! Please book to participate in the online course via the [training catalogue](https://uolr3.leeds.ac.uk/temcatsearch(bD1lbiZjPTUwMA==)/details.htm?gd_objid=50156602). Once signed up we will enrol participants on the course in Minerva and you can work through it at your own pace.

## **The most popular courses of 2020 on LinkedIn Learning**

Over 11,000 students and staff at the University logged on to LinkedIn Learning in 2020, we look at the most popular courses to help give you ideas of what to watch in 2021. Find out more and access your LinkedIn Learning account for free [here](https://peopledevelopment.leeds.ac.uk/news/the-most-popular-linkedin-learning-courses-of-2020/).

## Library updates

Edward Boyle level 13 has now reopened with bookable spaces for staff and postgrad study.

There are three sessions available per day: opening time (varies by day) to 1.30pm, 2pm to 6pm and 6.30pm until closing time (varies by day).

Bookings can be made through the [Eventbrite page](https://bit.ly/3qeYpYE). Staff or postgrad students will need to bring details of the booking, along with their ID, to gain entry. Level 13 card scanners are also in operation.

## Library workshops

The following webinars from the Library Research Support Team are now available to book:

[Shut Up and Write! for postgraduates and staff (webinar) Mon, 1 Feb 2021, 10am](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/shut-up-and-write-for-postgraduates-and-staff-webinar-tickets-135332572367?aff=)

[Literature Searching for Your Research Project (LUBS/ESSL/ARTS) Tue, 2 Feb 2021, 10am](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/literature-searching-for-your-research-project-lubsesslarts-tickets-135337298503?aff=)

[Literature Searching for Your Research Project (EngPS/Env/FBS) Thu, 4 Feb 2021, 1pm](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/literature-searching-for-your-research-project-engpsenvfbs-tickets-135363829859?aff=)

[Research Data Management Essentials webinar Thu, 4 Feb 2021, 2pm](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/research-data-management-essentials-webinar-tickets-135366632241?aff=)

[How Practising Open Research Can Benefit You (webinar) Wed, 10 Feb 2021, 10am](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/how-practising-open-research-can-benefit-you-webinar-tickets-135475020433?aff=)

[Shut Up and Write! for postgraduates and staff (webinar) Thu, 11 Feb 2021, 1pm](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/shut-up-and-write-for-postgraduates-and-staff-webinar-tickets-135477182901?aff=)

[Shut Up and Write! for postgraduates and staff (webinar) Mon, 15 Feb 2021, 1pm](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/shut-up-and-write-for-postgraduates-and-staff-webinar-tickets-135477499849?aff=)

[Research Data Management Essentials webinar Tue, 16 Feb 2021, 2pm](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/research-data-management-essentials-webinar-tickets-135477880989?aff=)

[PGR Library Welcome Event (webinar) Wed, 17 Feb 2021, 10am](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/pgr-library-welcome-event-webinar-tickets-135517958863?aff=)

[Where to Publish– for PGRs (webinar) Thu, 18 Feb 2021, 10am](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/where-to-publish-for-pgrs-webinar-tickets-135519116325?aff=)

[Shut Up and Write! for postgraduates and staff (webinar) Wed, 24 Feb 2021, 1pm](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/shut-up-and-write-for-postgraduates-and-staff-webinar-tickets-135519998965?aff=)

[Literature Searching for Your Research Project (Medicine and Health)](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/literature-searching-for-your-research-project-medicine-and-health-tickets-135521122325?aff=) Thu, 25 Feb 2021, 10am

# **HELP WANTED**

## Mental health survey

Do you have experience of trying to access mental health support during your time at university? You are invited to share your experiences as part of a study exploring student’s access to mental health support. For more information and to volunteer to be interviewed please fill out this short registration survey [here](https://leeds.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/your_story).

## Great Big Greenspace Survey

As our cities grow and develop, what do we need to do to transform our urban areas into healthy places for both wildlife and people to live? Biodiversity is declining globally but one option for helping to reverse this issue is to improve cities for wildlife. We at the University of Leeds are looking for people to take part in a short survey about the use of urban spaces, urban water, and nature-based solutions. Participants of this research will be randomly selected to receive one of three £50 amazon gift cards! Give your opinions on [online survey](https://leeds.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/greatbiggreenspacesurvey).

## Graduate Teaching Assistants’ experiences of teaching, training and support during Covid-19

A team at the University of York are seeking participants for an online survey to understand Graduate Teaching Assistants’ (GTA) experiences of teaching, training and support in the climate of the Covid-19 pandemic. The survey has received the ethics approval from the University of York and is partly funded by the University of York Graduate Students Association. As a thank you for completing the survey, you will be entered into a prize draw to win one of five Amazon vouchers (£10)! [GTA Teaching Experiences Survey](https://york.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9N3AcbBOkcuGieV)

If you have any questions please contact [irena.kuzborska@york.ac.uk](mailto:irena.kuzborska@york.ac.uk)

Don’t forget to follow us on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/LeedsDocCollege) and [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/LeedsDoctoralCollege/), and watch out for announcements on [Minerva](https://minerva.leeds.ac.uk/) to keep up with future developments and events!

Best wishes,

Professor Luke Windsor  
Dean of the Doctoral College

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Social: @LeedsDocCollege