

# Faculty of Humanities Researcher Development Bulletin

## February 2014

Inside this bulletin you will find information and events of interest to postgraduate researchers and research staff within the Faculty of Humanities. This bulletin and previous issues can also be downloaded from the [bulletins](#) page of the Researcher Development website.

For all regular researcher development updates please follow our [Twitter page](#).



### Useful links

[Researcher Development site](#) [PGR Development Calendar](#) [PGR Resources](#) [methods@manchester](#) [artsmethods@manchester](#) [eProg](#) [Vitae](#)

## Introducing the Researcher Development Team

Dear Researcher's

As another semester begins I would like to say a brief hello to you all and welcome to those who have just joined the University on behalf of the Researcher Development Team. Behind the scenes there have been a number of changes to the team over the last few months and so we thought it would be a good idea to use this bulletin to introduce ourselves and our roles. Each month this



section will focus on one member of the team, starting with myself. Dr Ian Fairweather. My role is to oversee the range of professional development opportunities provided to researchers. I work closely with our partners in [methods@manchester](#) and [artsmethods@manchester](#) and with external providers to offer a wide range of training and development activities and in the coming months I hope to be able to offer a greater range of online resources to support these. My team is here to support all researchers,

whether they are postgraduate students or research staff and it is my aim to make as wide a range of opportunities available to you as possible at whatever stage you are in your research career, whilst recognising the specific needs of researchers at different stages.

## Making the most of your PhD

### The Researcher Development Form

Those of you who are in the first year of your PhD may have noticed a deadline approaching in Eprog for the Researcher Development Form. This is not a progress monitoring form, it is designed to help you to make the most of your time as a PhD student by identifying what skills and competencies you hope to develop and discussing with your supervisors what training and development activities you might undertake. The Researcher Development Framework (RDF), which is a national framework, endorsed by the Research Councils is useful as a guide. This is intended to be a reflective exercise to get you thinking about your research training needs. Although completion of this form is not compulsory I would like to encourage you to complete it for two reasons. Most importantly it will provide an opportunity to reflect upon what you hope to get from your time as a PhD student and how you can make the most of it. Secondly, as researcher development manager, I will be studying the responses to the form carefully in order to inform the planning of next year's researcher development programme, so it is an opportunity to articulate your views and get them heard.

Please note that if the form is not submitted the milestone will become 'red'. You should inform your supervisor if you do not wish to complete the form and your supervisors can then submit the form without completion and then authorise it. Students will also need to authorise the form so that the milestone will become 'green.'

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**Researcher Development Bulletin****February 2014****Researcher Development Programme 2014/15**

It is fast approaching the time of year when we have to start putting together the programme of researcher development sessions for next academic year. The popular core workshops will be repeated of course, but this year we have introduced some new sessions and discussed ideas for others. So it seemed like a good idea to try to get your views on what you, as researchers would like to see on the programme. To that end we have created a short informal survey (only three questions). If you would like to have your say you can find it [here](#)

**Tips for making the most of PGR and GTA experience**

Final year Phd students attending artsmethods sessions were asked to share tips they would provide to new students for making the most of their time at Manchester. The resulting tips sheets (covering a range of topics from teaching undergraduates and attending conferences, to networking and planning your career beyond the PhD) can be found [here](#)

**Postgraduate development workshops****February workshops**

[Re-activating Your Writing Skills](#) 04/02/2014

[Planning your Research](#) 04/02/2014 and 05/02/14

[Transitioning out of doctoral study](#) 05/02/2014

[Academic Writing 1](#) 11/02/2014

[Writing Your Literature Review](#) 11, 12, 18/02/2014

[Academic Writing 2](#) 18/02/2014

[Speed Reading and Managing Information for Your Research](#) 19/02/2014

[Open Access: The Book Challenge](#) 19/02/2014

[Academic Writing 3](#) 25/02/2014

[Preparing for Your Review Panel](#) 26/02/2014

[GTA Training](#) various dates

[History and the Archive Part I: Digital and Electronic Resources for Postgraduate Researchers](#)  
03/02/2014 – final places available on this artsmethods workshop

For all Researcher Development workshops please go to the [PGR Development Calendar](#) – please click on the course you want to attend and book through eProg. You can check the status of your bookings, register and cancel workshops through [eProg](#). Please see the information on our website about [assessing your professional needs](#).

**methods@manchester** [What is...? Talks](#). A regular series of lunch-time talks which provide short, accessible introductory guides to key research methods. These talks are ideal for research students — or their supervisors — who want to find out what the method does and whether it might be useful in their research. They will also be of interest to any member of staff who is curious to find out about a new method.

[methods@manchester workshops](#) These events focus on particular methods or resources and provide an opportunity for discussion and exchange. Booking is essential – click here for full details.

[artsmethods@manchester](#) is a programme of talks, workshops and events running throughout the year that explore approaches to arts research and the breadth of methodological expertise in arts and languages at the University of Manchester. artsmethods also works closely with cultural partners across Manchester and the North West to enhance the

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impact and dissemination of arts and languages research. The website contains useful resources both at the University of Manchester and nationwide. Workshops are available to book through eProg.

**Before booking onto a course please make sure that you can abide by our code of professional etiquette.**

Please **only** attend sessions when you have booked a place. We keep track of numbers to make sure classes are not too full, and attending without registering is also unfair to those who have booked or are on a waiting list. Contact [Humanities-training@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:Humanities-training@manchester.ac.uk) to cancel a place on workshop.

Please also make sure you can arrive to the session on time and that you can attend the whole session: late arrivals and people leaving halfway through the session create disruption.

**Research Staff**

Information about research staff events is sent out in an e-mail bulletin. If you would like to be added to the list of recipients please contact [Humanities-training@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:Humanities-training@manchester.ac.uk). Alternatively you can visit the [Research Staff blog](#).

**University-Wide Development Opportunities****The University of Manchester Library**

The Library offers a range of information skills sessions throughout the year to help you with your research. Courses cover literature searching, citation analysis, reference management, keeping up-to-date and a range of workshops on specialist resources and research information issues.

**Training Courses for Research Computing**

IT Services is running a series of courses aimed at staff and postgraduates undertaking or interested in computational research. The courses are staged to lead you from understanding basic principles such as accessing high performance computing facilities to programming using parallel languages/extensions. Understanding the masses of data we collect is also covered via a selection of visualization courses.

**New to teaching languages event**

A Higher education Academy 'New to Teaching Languages' event is taking place on 28 March at Manchester Metropolitan University. It is open to staff and Doctoral students involved in GTA or other teaching work from all UK universities, and is free to attend, but registration is required online.

**Student Team Working Awards**

The Annual Student Team Working Awards, sponsored by PricewaterhouseCoopers recognises the work by students who have excelled on a project working as part of a group. If you have been involved in a team project, as part of your course or in your free time then take a look below to see if you could win up to £500. Further information is available from [lisa.cullen@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:lisa.cullen@manchester.ac.uk)

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**Researcher Development Bulletin****February 2014****Manchester GRADschool: Research Impact: Personal, Group and Societal 29 April-2 May 2014**

For many UK grant and fellowship applications, the ability to consider and demonstrate how you will make an impact with your research is an essential criteria. But impact is more than just research excellence, and making an impact inside and outside of academia is an important skill for today's effective researcher.

In this 3.5 day, interactive, non-residential GRADschool, hosted by The University of Manchester, we'll explore impact from three perspectives - personal, group and societal. You'll be inspired by shared insights, take part in challenges that stretch your skills and imagination, and reflect on your own experiences and ambitions for making an impact.

Places on the Manchester GRADschool are highly sought after. Before applying, please ensure that you can commit to the full 3.5 days and that your Supervisor is aware of your intentions. To apply for a place on the Manchester GRADschool 2013, please complete an [Application of Interest](#) no later than Thursday 17 April 2014.

If you have any queries please contact [eps-grads@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:eps-grads@manchester.ac.uk) or tel: 0161 306 4188

**Faculty Seminars**

To keep updated about what's going on in the Faculty check out the [Humnet Seminars and Events](#) web page. You can also use the online form to submit details of discipline specific seminars which you are organising.

Don't forget to check out [Vitae events in the North-West](#).