

The Graduate School

Postgraduate Researcher Development Programme 2009/10

These are an essential part of your research training and are designed to develop research skills in your specific discipline, and the wider, transferable skills which will assist in your future employment, whether within or outside academia. It provides an insight into the broader research environment and ensures good practice in research activity. Some topics will be more appropriate to early stages of your PhD whilst others are more relevant to later milestones. These programmes will enable you to enhance your abilities in areas which are not necessarily discipline-specific and provide an opportunity to engage in discussion with researchers from other academic centres. All students will gain from this wider experience and new perspectives. Please ensure you consult the website for latest details. ***Prior booking required***

AUTUMN TERM

7 October	Research Degrees: the first steps		
9.30-11.00	Getting started! An insight into the uniqueness and structure of postgraduate research; what makes a PhD/MPhil and getting started by identifying the research aims and objectives	Marian Matthews Dr Fiona Knight	PG22
11.00-12.00	Some personal experiences The hopes, fears and dreams versus the reality.	PGR's	PG22
12.00-12.30	Avoiding Pitfalls: Plagiarism and other Issues	Marian Matthews Dr Fiona Knight	PG22
13.30-14.30	Research skills and using Endnote An introduction to <i>Endnote</i> , a Personal Bibliographic Software (PBS) package designed to manage bibliographic references to all kinds of information	Emma Crowley	PG22
14.30-15.30	Securing your ideas: IPR and copyright A guide to the elements of Intellectual Property and Copyright Law, including the issues of confidentiality, current and future trends.	Dr Lingling Wei	PG22
15.30-16.30	International PGR's	Caroline Howlett	PG22
8 October	Research Degrees: the IT essentials		
9.30-10.30 11.00-12.00	An introduction to the myBUILD monitoring system and myBU virtual learning environment	Richard Sandiford	DL117
9 October	Research Degrees: the IT essentials		
9.30-10.30 11.00-12.00	An introduction to the myBUILD monitoring system and myBU virtual learning environment	Richard Sandiford	S102
14 October	Rapid Reading		
14 October	Improving reading skills and retention	Kathryn Redway (Redway Consultants)	PG22
28 October	Philosophical & Ideological Perspectives		
10.00 -12.00	Conceptual aspects of research A consideration of the alternative philosophies of research (paradigm), and reality and truth (ontology) objectivity and subjectivity (epistemology).	Dr Paul Freedman	PG22

13.00 – 16.00	Methodological adequacy: theory, evidence & text - how to work them together An understanding of the differing philosophical assumptions and documentary traditions relevant to quantitative and qualitative methods. How to work theories, evidence and the text together to ensure a comprehensive approach.	Dr Stephen Wallace	PG22
4 November	Research Management		
10.00 -11.00	Undertaking your Literature Review The role of the literature review in the research degree recording the literature, writing the literature review, some practicalities.	Marian Matthews	PG22
11.00-12.00	Organising your research Hints on time management; keeping records of your research; the benefits of maintaining diaries and the use of reflection in your studies and research.	Marian Matthews	PG22
14.00-15.00	Initial review preparation Guidance on the preparing your Initial Review document	Dr Julia Kiely	PG22
15.00-16.00	Managing your supervisors Provides an understanding of your supervisor's role; what to expect from the Student-Supervisor relationship and how to get the most out of your Supervisory meetings.	Prof John Fletcher	PG22
Thurs 19 & 26 November	Managing your Thesis		
9:30-12:00	Managing your thesis – a guide to document management using Microsoft Word (Part 1 & 2)	Su Kensley	MG08
25 November	Research Methods		
12.00 -14.00	Understanding qualitative methods Understanding of meaning of qualitative approaches and the generation of theory. The search for insider's view and the analytic, exhaustive description that is derived from the data.	Prof Immy Holloway	PG22
14.00 -16.00	Understanding quantitative methods Understanding the philosophy and approach to the variety of quantitative methods in research.	Dr Adrian Newton	PG22
15 December	Time Management		
12.00-15.00	Time Management Practical tools for improving time management and balancing workloads.	Dr Margaret Collins	PG22
7-11 & 14-18 December	Quantitative Data Analysis using SPSS		
10:00 -13:00	Designed to equip you with some fundamental concepts in applied statistics. Types of variables; graphs; histograms; numerical summaries; Sampling; parametric/non-parametric tests; regression analysis; correlation.	Dr John Beavis	tbc
Tues 15 & 22 December	Managing your Thesis		
9:30-12:00	Managing your thesis – a guide to document management using Microsoft Word (Part 1 & 2)	Su Kensley	MG08