

ISSUE E12

# GRADUATE COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

The newsletter for the research student community



## Back with a bang!

*Showcasing postgraduate research*



# NEWS

## The Graduate College Exhibition is back with a bang!

The 19<sup>th</sup> April 2023 saw the welcome return of the Graduate College Annual Exhibition – back with a bang after an enforced break because of Covid. The Exhibition is an unmissable opportunity for



all of our research students to showcase the amazing and super high-quality research that they are doing; also to network (and enjoy a free lunch!) and to potentially win a cash prize. We had almost forty exhibits, a mixture of posters, physical displays and installations that covered the extraordinary diversity of our research – from cancer biology, to smart buildings, to dragons, to serial killers. The exhibits were prominently displayed in the John Henry Brookes Building Forum, and the atmosphere was buzzing. As well as there being the opportunity to network with researchers and academics from across the University, our amazing research – and our incredible research students – were very visibly on display to visitors to the campus, and, hopefully, inspired some of our un-

dergraduates to consider studying for a research degree.

As one of the judges of the main prizes – the others were Professor Nicole Pohl, Senior Postgraduate Tutor in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS), and Professor Nigel Crook, Associate Dean for Research and Knowledge Exchange in the Faculty of Technology Design and Environment (TDE) – I was overwhelmed by the enthusiasm of the exhibitors and their ability to talk confidently, knowledgably and engagingly about their work. The judges had a really hard time trying to decide who ultimately should be the winners, because the standard was so high. For the first time, in addition to the main prizes, there were also prizes for Open Research, presented by Professor David Foxcroft.

The main prize winners were Daniel Bardey from the Faculty of Health and Life Sciences, Simon



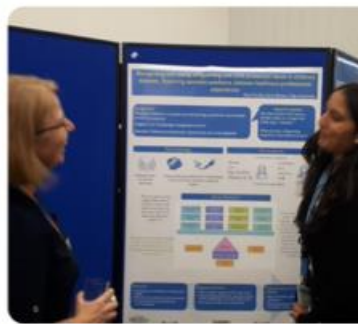
McFadden from TDE, and Michael Power from HSS. Leah Fitzpatrick from HSS and Ali Alsaied from TDE were highly commended. The Open Research prizes which were awarded to Leah Fitzpatrick and Robert Williamson from TDE.

Susan Brooks

Director of Researcher Development



# NEWS



## Postgraduate Research Student Symposium

On Thursday 12 January the HLS research community gathered together for the first in-person Postgraduate Research Symposium since 2020. During the symposium students and staff were able to see an array of oral and poster presentations from HLS research students and could speak to industry representatives who sponsored the event.

There were several awards: Poster Presentations: First prize: Joanna Cull (BMS), Second prize: Dianna Yardley (OSNM). Oral presentations: First prizes: Jay Hands (BMS) and Grace Blakeley (BMS), Second Prizes: Amber Ridgeway (BMS) and Jamie Cooper (BMS). Three Minute Thesis: Sophie Harris (PhPD). The Bioimaging Awards: Molly Hair, Lex Van Es, Amber Ridgeway and Nadine Field (All BMS). Congratulations to Eric Carron and Georgia



Young who were commended by the judges for their presentations.

The symposium was also captured on social media throughout the day by [Alara Erenel](#) (BMS) who joined HLS in September 2022 as a PhD student.

## Taking your research even further

Sam Burden, a Sport Science PhD student at HLS presented his research to a cross-party group of politicians and a panel of leading academics after being shortlisted from hundreds of applicants in a competition open to early career researchers.

The 'STEM for BRITAIN' national poster competition is designed to give young UK researchers the chance to showcase their work and is organised by the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee.

Speaking before his appearance, Sam said: "What an amazing opportunity this is to present three-years of PhD work to the people that can help make changes in how children perform physical activity.

"It would be great to plant the idea in politicians' and leading scientists' minds that child and adolescent physical activity guidelines may need to be altered to prevent cardiovascular disease in the young. Hopefully this work, and that of others, can lead to change in the future." In July of last year, Sam appeared on CBS News Miami to discuss his research which shows that children can improve their health and fitness by spending as little as 20 minutes per day performing high intensity exercise.



## Fahr's disease charity founder to receive prestigious people's honour at the House of Lords

Adam Tate, PhD student in the Faculty of Education received a prestigious national award for establishing the world's first charity that helps to raise awareness of a 'one in a million' disease.

Adam, aged 31, established the 'Fahr Beyond' charity in 2016, after being diagnosed with the very rare neurodegenerative Fahr's Disease in 2014. Adam was told that he could lose all movement within two years, with a predicted life expectancy of only eight years. However, Adam defiantly went on to establish the charity after noticing the lack of support or information available to those diagnosed with the disease; and has now been recognised with a British Citizen Award for Services to Healthcare, (BCAc).

On Thursday 26 January, Adam, who lives in Nottinghamshire, was rewarded for his exceptional services to healthcare at the BCA Honours in London at the House of Lords, along with 28 other individuals who have also positively impacted communities across the country. Adam was presented with his 'Medal of Honour' by Rhiannon Whelan, Head of Retail Operations from BCA, and TV presenter and BCA Patron, Nick Knowles.

After receiving the award, Adam said: "It is incredibly humbling to receive such an honour, to be among so many inspirational people. I set out on a mission to help provide a bit more information about Fahr's, now Fahr Beyond is the global advocate for the Fahr's community and has supported the creation of the only dedicated NHS Fahr's referral service. "I am so grateful to everyone who has supported me and Fahr Beyond, and I look forward to furthering Fahr's research and care standards."

Fahr Beyond is the only recognised charity in the world to support and give a voice to those with the disease, which affects one in a million people. Fahr's disease is a rare neurodegenerative disease, characterised by abnormal deposits of calcium in the brain that affects movement, and can cause poor articulation of speech, tremors and muscle rigidity. It is a progressive disease which currently has no known cure.

Adam is a Senior Lecturer in Academic Practice at Nottingham Trent University. He is also studying for a part-time PhD in Education at Oxford Brookes University, where he is researching how full-time undergraduate behaviours and interactions are shaped by the soft power of the state.

The British Citizen Award is now in its ninth year of recognising individuals across the UK for their outstanding contributions to their communities. The award ceremonies take place in January and July each year.

BCA Co-Founder, Mark Faulkner, said of Adam's work: "What Adam has achieved by forming this new and informative charity is life-changing for the estimated 80,000 affected by Fahr's Disease globally. To inspire the medical profession to pull together and create a UK diagnostic framework and a management framework for this rare neurological disorder is an amazing achievement. Adam's humility is also to be admired, personally helping 10 families who have lost loved-ones to Fahr's is a difficult undertaking. "His selection to receive the British Citizen Award for Services to Healthcare is a token of the gratitude that the nation owes him for giving a voice to those diagnosed with Fahr's. We wish Adam Tate BCAH every success in his ongoing endeavours to enlighten the world about this disease."



Image (from left to right): Nick Knowles, Adam Tate, Rhiannon Whelan. Credited to British Citizen Awards.

# NEWS

## Changing our views on dragons

Kamram Zeb PhD student at the Faculty of English and Modern Foreign Languages presented a paper entitled 'Draconic Humans and Posthuman Dragons: Fluidic Ontologies, The Anthropocene and Posthuman Futures in Beowulf, Dragon's Dogma, Dragon Age, and The Elder Scrolls: Skyrim' at the Once and Future Fantasies Conferences in July 2022 at the University of Glasgow. This paper looked at how dragons and humans share bodily-natures and how these are particularly present in our literary heroes like Boewulf and Siegfried the Dragon slayer and in modern video games. It was also argued that Beowulf and Siegfried as well as the characters we create/play in the three mentioned videogames (Dragon Age, Dragon's Dogma and Skyrim) are 'draconic-humans', since they take the qualities of the dragon. Finally, I looked at the implications of accepting the importance of dragons to humanity's relationship with earth and how it can help us tackle the concerns of the Anthropocene. In July, Kam will be presenting on Posthumanist readings and reconstructions of the Ur-Dragon Myth at the International storytelling conference at the University of Suffolk.



## Inspiring young people



PhD student Leah Fitzpatrick from the Faculty of Social Sciences has been busy talking about her research in some local schools. Leah ran on 12 January a skull workshop for years 9 and 10 science classes at Burford School and then in March she gave a lunchtime talk about her venomous mammal research at Sydenham High School. Leah also made an appearance in March on BBC Radio West Midlands chatting about spiders with Caroline Martin on behalf of the British Arachnological Society.

## Murder onboard: tragedy and drama on the high seas

PhD student Angela Buckley from the School of History, Philosophy and Culture was invited as guest speaker for Seabourn Cruises. On Sunday 7 May while the guests sipped their cocktails, Angela told them some tragic tales of murder and mayhem some of which took place at sea.



Angela is a crime historian and loves all things criminal, particularly the dark past of the Victorian world. On the left are some of the murder cases Angela will be sharing with guests as they visit several ports around the British Isles.

Follow Angela's research on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)

# NEWS



**Two special treats!** Visiting the Natural History Museum was absolutely great! Since moving here, it was my first time actually getting out and sight-seeing in Oxford. It was incredibly fun to do it with Maria, Susan and the other research students. It was a good opportunity to meet new people and deepen the connections made during induction with those both in my faculty and undertaking research degrees completely different from mine! I felt like we were treated like proper VIPs. While other visitors were browsing around looking at what's on display, we got to see all the hidden rooms – like the bird room, where what remains of the famous Dodo and the Cuckoo bird's tricky eggs were. We visited the insect room, with no doubt thousands

of conserved insect species, then we moved to geology, with many precious stones (like amethyst) and holding a part of the earth's crust, different types of meteors and a piece of Mars. We went behind-the-scenes with the conservator of the museum, who gave us a short talk about how to conserved works including an armadillo, Kingfisher bird, brain coral, and a snake to name a few. The tour of the Oxford Botanical Gardens with Dr Andrew Lack as our guide was brilliant! It was a great way of de-stressing after weeks of writing and lab experiments.

Not to mention the weather was good! The sun was out (mostly), everything was in bloom and Dr Lack's sense of humour and incredible wealth of knowledge made it all the more enjoyable. There were mandrakes, the birthwort plant, the handkerchief tree with its strange flowers, the "sacred" Yew tree that was several hundreds years old – a tree we learned was used to make tamoxifen (a drug still used today to treat breast cancer). My favourite part of the tour was definitely going into the different greenhouses with the carnivorous plants, the rain-forest plants and tropical plants that reminded me of home, and most importantly since it got a little cooler later in the afternoon– it was incredibly warm! It was the kind of tour that could go on for hours and you wouldn't really notice because you were enjoying it. I'd definitely go again! Thanks to Alara Erenel who took the photographs at the Botanical garden.



Ternisha Thompson PhD at HLS

## New and exciting!

**Research Degrees Placement Opportunities**  
Oxford Brookes University - Research Degrees Team, is excited to open up seven outstanding 1-3 month Placement opportunities for our Research Degrees Students.

This initiative will provide you with the chance to:

- Gain direct experience within industry and or other organisations, which does not have to be within your discipline
- Develop new and existing transferable skills
- Expand their network and professional horizons

A work placement will give you the opportunity to develop skills such as...

- Interpersonal skills and working as part of a team
- Liaising with staff in different roles, including senior staff
- Organisational skills, including project and event management, making effective use of resources and working to specific deadlines
- Engage with different audiences and interact with external stakeholders
- Data management and analysis
- IT skills (e.g. web-pages development) and many more.

All these exciting opportunities are fully funded by the university.

(Eligibility criteria apply - please contact [rdt-researchdegrees@brookes.ac.uk](mailto:rdt-researchdegrees@brookes.ac.uk) for more information)

We are looking forward to hearing from you!



# NEWS

## What lies behind the British Film Hero during World War II?

Robert Williamson PhD student in the School of Arts aims to offer new understandings of the complex relationship between Government and the British Film Studios relating to feature film content and production during the Second World War. His project will explore Government policy and institutional organisation and investigate the impact of underlying work processes and propaganda demands upon the representation of the hero figure in British feature films. This project's uniqueness lies in its practice of historical enquiry being explored, and exposed, in the consideration of government policies that relate to feature film narratives. It will open a dialogue with archival resources, to give a visibility and voice to an otherwise unarticulated aspect of British cinema history. Robert's thesis will contribute original research to current academic studies in propaganda and film, and will enable British Government film policies to be fully explored. In this study, we are focusing on the ministries activities in the area of British made feature films for the cinema.

Through a combination of primary and secondary sources, this study will examine if there is evidence of institutional causal links between British Government policies and film, and that indirectly the role of the hero was adapted and enhanced. Several academics have suggested the idea of a national identity being reframed via demands or propaganda, as war progressed and that a hero-figure was a significant element in that framework. He will expand on these findings and provide a new contribution to film history and stimulation for further studies. It will examine the hypothesis that these working practices were effective and analyse whether the relationships were collaborative or conflicted especially within propaganda demands of government. Within this framework, it will seek and analyse any correlation between other government departments, not only the MOI.

The Ministry of Information (MOI) was established by the British government at the outbreak of the Second World War. It was responsible for issuing 'National Propaganda' at home and abroad, as well as controlling news and information deemed to be of military value. Robert's research will also consider the USA's involvement in propaganda policies, and determine whether this affected the changing role of the hero in British made wartime films.

Robert has a magnificent website with fully comprehensive resources for anyone interested in this area of research including a good number of old films. If you would like to know more about his research or just watch some good film visit [Robert's website](#).



## CAREERS TRAINING PROGRAMME

The Careers training programme for researchers is now live for bookings on [www.brookes.ac.uk/Students/Careers/Researchers/Events](http://www.brookes.ac.uk/Students/Careers/Researchers/Events)

# Building working relationships for research with local counterparts at different levels

Michael Wenborn and Dr Magdalena S Svensson, School of Social Sciences

We were pleased to publish a paper in 2022 on human-elephant conflict, in the Namibian Journal of Environment. The core part of the paper involved detailed analysis of reported incidents of human-elephant conflict in Orupupa Conservancy in northwest Namibia. The incidents are recorded in Event Books by the community game guards. This is one component of Michael's PhD research project on this interesting population of elephants in the mountains of Namibia.

Namibia is not the only country where local people sometimes complain that researchers come in, ask questions, and are never seen again. We have adopted an approach to make sure we go back to explain and discuss results. In fact, we have taken this a step further and included six community game guards as co-authors of the published paper. It was time-consuming to discuss this in advance with the game guards, particularly as they live in very remote areas. But they were very pleased with our approach. We printed colour copies of the paper and visited each game guard to present them with their copies. This has resulted in a very positive ongoing working relationship. Many research projects are already set up with local partners, and we would recommend that other research students adopt a similar approach, where possible.

Joshua, the Game Guard from Okazorongua village in Orupupa Conservancy, said he was so proud of being a co-author that he wanted to receive his printed copy standing up!



You can read this publication by going to the [Namibian Journal of Environment](https://www.nje.org.na/index.php/nje/article/view/vol4no1-wenborn)





# RESEARCH STUDENT PROFILES



**Angela Griffiths**  
Health & Social Care

**Thesis title:** Patient's quality of life, symptoms and experiences with a raised body mass index following catheter ablation for atrial fibrillation.

Atrial fibrillation (AF) is the most common arrhythmia seen in clinical practice. Previous studies have demonstrated that AF may result in high symptom burden and reduced quality of life (QoL). Rhythm control in the form of catheter ablation has become an established treatment option for AF. Certain risk factors are associated with the development and progression of AF, notably, an elevated body mass index (BMI). Emerging evidence suggests that risk factor modification in the management of AF is an important component of the patient pathway. Previous studies concerning the influence of a raised BMI on patient-reported outcomes after ablation have been contradictory. Qualitative research in this area has been limited.

This thesis aims to explore the quality of life, symptoms, and experiences in patients with an elevated BMI undergoing catheter ablation for AF. This was a single centre, mixed methods cohort observational study of patients with a BMI  $\geq 25$  who were eligible for first-time AF ablation. All eligible patients over an 9 month period were invited to take part. Quality of life and symptoms were assessed before ablation and at 3 and 6 months afterwards, using the SF-36 and Patient Perception Questionnaire, which are both validated tools previously used in this patient population. Multiple regression models were used to identify predictors for improvements in two of the QoL domains (vitality and general health) after ablation. Independent variables which included age, gender, BMI at baseline, classification of AF, left atrial volume index and rhythm control at 6 months were added to the regression model. At 6 months post-ablation semi-structured interviews were undertaken to establish the patient experiences in this context.

88 invited patients agreed to take part and 82 of those completed the study. The 6 that were excluded had left atrial appendage thrombus on the day of the ablation or did not complete follow-up. A significant improvement was seen in all domains of quality of life after ablation. Symptom burden also significantly improved at 3 and 6 months after ablation. Multiple regression analysis demonstrated the only predictor of improved vitality and general health in QoL measures was rhythm control at 6 months. Thematic analysis of participants experiences revealed 4 themes: personal well-being related to AF, care and treatments of AF, interplay of lifestyle and AF and living with AF in a pandemic.

This study has demonstrated that, despite a raised BMI, patients reported significant QoL and symptomatic improvements after AF ablation. Furthermore, in this cohort a multiple regression analysis demonstrated that it is rhythm control at 6 months that predicts improvements in vitality and general health components of the SF-36. Patient experiences commonly include personal well-being related to AF, care and treatments of AF, interplay of lifestyle and AF and living with AF in a pandemic. Overall, this study suggests that patients with a raised BMI have positive outcomes after catheter ablation for AF and that rhythm control is the most important factor of improved quality of life. Furthermore, patient experiences of the AF diagnosis are challenging, ablation treatment is positive and lifestyle factors play an important role in looking to the future.

**My best strategy for dealing with the challenges is exercise and the great outdoors.**

# RESEARCH STUDENT PROFILES

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Charlotte O'Neill

Humanities & Social Sciences

**Thesis title:** A comparison between the terrestrial behaviour of Sumatran orangutans (*Pongo abelli*) and Bornean orangutans (*Pongo pygmaeus*), to determine if this is a natural behaviour or caused by external factors.

Orangutans are the world's largest arboreal mammals, meaning they spend the majority of their time in the tree canopy. Though over the past decade research has highlighted that they are more terrestrial - spend time on the ground - than once thought. This research determined that in Bornean orangutans (*Pongo pygmaeus*) terrestriality is a natural behaviour, rather than disturbance driven, and they actually spent an equal amount of time on the floor as they did in the canopy. However, this research has not been conducted on Sumatran orangutans (*Pongo abelii*), therefore my research will aim to bridge this gap as I aim to compare the terrestrial behaviour of the two species.

Both Borneo and Sumatra have faced significant deforestation which has impacted the lives of their flora and fauna. The Bornean and Sumatran orangutans are Critically Endangered, with populations declining, therefore it is vital that research is carried out and conservation efforts are implemented.

I am particularly interested in learning about animal behaviour and external factors that may affect these behaviours. This led to the development of this project as the main aim of my research is to explore and compare the terrestrial behaviour of Bornean and Sumatran orangutans.

My PhD will be divided into various sections, including a literature review on 'Evolution and Orangutans' and the data collection section. I will explore evolutionary processes that influenced orangutan ancestors, for example climate change events including El Niño Southern Oscillation, global cooling and the Asian monsoon. My data collection will be divided into two sections, and I will use both primary and secondary forms of data. My secondary data will consist of analysing pre-existing camera trap data from various field sites across Borneo and Sumatra. I will look at all the images and gather data on external factors - for example, humans, deforestation or roads - that cause these animals descending to the ground. Information will be gathered on the location of the camera trap, the time, time spent on the ground and activity carried out while on the ground. My primary data will consist of gathering data at the field sites myself. I will gather data on the locations of the camera traps, for example what type of tree they are attached to and any noteworthy factors that may influence their terrestrial behaviour. In addition to this, there is a possibility that I will gather data from orangutans in captivity to determine whether any comparisons can be made surrounding terrestrial behaviour in the wild and in captivity.

My results will be important as the research will contribute to conservation knowledge, as the concept of terrestrial behaviour in orangutans is relatively new and currently restricted to Bornean orangutans, therefore I believe I am adding to conservation knowledge in a new and exciting way.

**I am particularly interested in learning about animal behaviour and external factors that may affect these behaviours.**



Kamram Zeb

English & Modern

Foreign Languages

**Thesis title:** Dragons and Posthumanism in mid-to-late nineteenth and early twentieth century literature.

My research focuses on scrutinising and reconsidering understandings of dragons in the extensive nineteenth and early twentieth century corpus of dragon literature through the lens of posthumanism.

Posthumanism is a philosophical perspective challenging anthropocentricity, speciesism, and human exceptionality. Posthumanism seeks new centres of knowledge production that do not prioritise humans or humancentric structures, or uphold traditional narratives that views the more-than-human world in its most expansive sense in thralldom to humanity. In giving a voice to animals (real and mythic), nature, plants and even earth itself, posthumanism seeks to illustrate in Nan Shepherd's terms that 'everything is connected to everything else'.

In suspending all humanist assumptions about dragons and making the dragon the centre of my thesis, I seek to demonstrate how a non-anthropocentric reading of the literature presents a markedly different understanding of the dragon's place in the history of the world.

The mid-to-late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries witnessed a wellspring of interest in dragons, dragon literature and dragon-lore. The period under study saw myriad translations of Beowulf, from Sharon Turner's 1805 translated extracts, to John Kemble's first full English prose translation in 1837 all the way to Ernest Kirtlan's 1913 translation, at least 27 translations were produced in English alone including by Russian American Zinaide A. Rigozin, the only female translator.

Other dragon texts also proliferated in the form of translations and new works like Edith Nesbitt's *Book of Dragons* (1899), Kenneth Grahame's *The Reluctant Dragon* (1900), Raymond Fuller Ayers 'The Incandescent Dragon' (1904) and so on. The period also saw an influx of dragon stories from around the world and the encyclopaedic practices of nineteenth century scholarship brought even obscure dragon tales into English for the first time like the girdling-dragon-serpent from al'Damiri's 'Ḥayāt alḥayawān al-kubrā' (1371, trans. Jayakar, 1906 as 'The Great Book on the Lives of Animals').

Scholarship also flourished concerning dragons with Grafton Elliot Smith's *The Evolution of the Dragon*. (1919) Ernest Ingersoll's *Dragons and Dragon Lore* (1924), and Marinus B. de Visser's still in print *The Dragon in China and Japan* (1913) etc.

Approaches to dragons however, have remained largely unchanged in the proceeding century. Dragons have been painted as evil, harbingers of death and destruction, hoarders of gold, and evil omens. My research therefore, through a new critical lens, reading against the humanist, established narratives of dragons, aims to rewrite the story of the dragon. My research is also the first study of dragons and Posthumanism.

I am fortunate to truly love my topic and researching it has increased my appreciation of the extensiveness of the dragon figure throughout human mytho-historical tradition.

# COMING UP

## The Three Minute Thesis Competition



It will be on **Tuesday 27 June 2023** at **Headington Hill Hall, 1pm to 3pm**

Present your thesis in three minutes using only a single static PowerPoint slide, no props, sound, moving images, poems or songs. There will be cash prizes for first place, runner up and for the people's choice winner.

The winner of this competition will be entered into the UK 3MT® online competition to be held in September. Deadline for video submissions will be on **Tuesday 13 June 2023**.

Find out what to do and register for this event or for the celebration on the [Graduate college events page](#)

## CONGRATULATIONS

### Latest student's publications

Ayres H, Schutz S and Kozłowska O (2023) Exploring mental health nurses' experiences of assault by patients in inpatient settings. *Mental Health Practice*. doi: 10.7748/mhp.2023.e1638

Fitzpatrick L L J, Nijman V, Ligabue-Braun, R and Nekaris, K A (2022) The Fast and the Furriest: Investigating the Rate of Selection on Mammalian Toxins. *Toxins*, 14(12), 842.

Let us know about your publications at [asa-gcnewsletter@brookes.ac.uk](mailto:asa-gcnewsletter@brookes.ac.uk)

### Research Degrees Team

You can contact us on:

[rdt-researchdegrees@brookes.ac.uk](mailto:rdt-researchdegrees@brookes.ac.uk)



Follow us on Twitter for all the latest research student news and events

### The Graduate College

The Graduate College organise and support a variety of events for research students, including training and social get-togethers.

Please visit: [The graduate college events page](#)

We are always looking for contributions for future editions of the newsletter and they are welcome from all sections of the University. If you would like to get involved please email:

[asa-gcnewsletter@brookes.ac.uk](mailto:asa-gcnewsletter@brookes.ac.uk)

# STAY CONECTED

## GRADUATE COLLEGE TRAINING

### Research Student Training Programme - Semester 2 - 2023

- Strategies for successful networking
- Research degrees - strategies for successful part-time study
- Introduction to publishing journal articles
- Research integrity at Brookes - a brief guide to general principles

Book your place at the [Graduate College Research Student Training Page](#)

### Supervisor Training Programme - Semester 2 - 2023

- Research and Research Management Training - Session 1 (repeat)
- Research and Research Management Training - Session 2 (repeat)

Book your place at the [Graduate College Research Staff Training Page](#)

### Write Space retreats

This year we are offering in-person writing retreats in the beautiful surroundings of Headington Hill Hall on 12 June. Monthly online retreats will resume between April and July, this time with no limit on numbers so you can put the **26 of each month** in your diary. All retreats take place from 9am- 4pm with an option for half-day attendance for the online retreats.

WRITING  
HUB

Whether face-to-face or online the format is the same: writers of any style and level create a sense of community containing plenty of quiet space to make progress with your writing. The group reflects together on the writing process at intervals, and there will be a Centre for Academic Development tutor available to talk your work through with.

In participants' words, Write Space is a *stimulating, calm, good-spirited, constructive and productive place to work; you might also get ideas for how to start a writing group yourself, as some have.*



#### Virtual retreats:

Friday 26 May, 9am-4pm

Monday 26 June, 9am-4pm

Wednesday 26 July, 9am-4pm

#### In-person retreats:

Wednesday 12 June, 9am-4pm

The retreats are open to all Brookes staff and students, book your place on the [writing hub pages](#).