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| Postgraduate Research StudentsCore Training 2020-21 |
| About this training programme |
| This programme of events is aimed at providing postgraduate research students across the University with a broad range of training and networking opportunities. It is co-ordinated by the Graduate School, staffed by academics from across the university, and is open to all postgraduate research students (PGRs) registered at the Open University and our Affiliated Research Centres. All our sessions are live-streamed to a moderated chat room and recorded for later access. Most students prefer to attend sessions in person if possible, and we hope to make this option available as usual this year, depending on the COVID-19 restrictions in force at any given time.Full details of all these sessions, including learning objectives, session content, downloads, facilitators, and venues, are on the Graduate School Network <http://www.open.ac.uk/students/research/events>Planning your training and booking sessionsYou should select the sessions that you and your supervisors agree are relevant to your training needs and skills development plan. Please email events-gradschool@open.ac.uk to book onto these training sessions, telling us whether you’ll be attending in person or online. You’ll receive an Outlook invitation for your calendar which will enable us to ensure that any relevant session changes are communicated to you. PACE sessions (marked \*) should be booked via My Learning Centre- <https://thelearningcentre.learningpool.com/totara/dashboard/> Part-time students and February startersKey sessions in the *‘Getting Started’* and *‘Academic Writing’* series will be delivered twice, In October and February, for the benefit of part-time students and February starters. Don’t forget that you can also access recordings of all our previous training sessions.CancellationsWe understand that If you can’t attend a session that you’ve booked, please cancel your booking by email at least 3 full working days prior to the event. We can then offer your place to another student and minimise costs. Non-attendance (booking and not turning up, without giving notice) is recorded and may be communicated to your supervisors.Any questions?Please email events-gradschool@open.ac.uk  |

# Sessions in chronological order:

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| **Semester 1: Sep 2020 - Jan 2021** |
| **Date** | **Title of Session** |
| 22nd September | Socially-distanced lab work (**mandatory** for returning PGRs who are lab-based) |
| 1st October | PACE Postgraduate Writing Circle – Phase 1 |
| 8th October | STEM Health and Safety: Basic COSHH (**mandatory** for new lab-based PGRs) |
| 13th October | How to get started on your research degree |
| Planning your research project |
| 20th October | Academic writing at doctoral level |
| Getting started on your literature review |
| 21st October | PACE Block 1 – Academic Reading: Written academic genres and reading for research |
| 22nd October | STEM Health and Safety: SEVRON (**mandatory** for new lab-based PGRs) |
| 3rd November | Planning your skills development |
| Managing the personal and emotional journey of a research degree |
| 4th November | PACE Block 1 – Academic Reading: Critical reading - practice |
| 5th November | PACE Postgraduate Writing Circle – Phase 1 |
| 10th November | Getting the most out of the OU |
| Managing professional relationships |
| 16th November | Skills for HE teaching 1 (for returning students) |
| 17th November | Research integrity, ethics and GDPR |
| Intellectual property and copyright in your research |
| 18th November | PACE Block 1 – Academic Reading: Critical reading - understanding |
| 23rd November | Conducting a systematic literature review |
| 24th November | Introduction to research philosophy |
| 1st December | Introduction to quantitative research design |
| Introduction to qualitative research design |
| 2nd December | PACE Block 1 – Academic Reading: From reading to writing |
| 3rd December | PACE Postgraduate Writing Circle – Phase 1 |
| 8th December | Designing a mixed-methods project |
| 14th December | Skills for HE teaching 2 (for returning students) |
| 7th January  | PACE Postgraduate Writing Circle – Phase 2 |
| 12th January | Introduction to quality management in the laboratory |
| All your own work? Avoiding accidental plagiarism |
| 13th January | PACE Block 2 – Academic Writing: Commitment, risk, and viewpoint |
| 14th January | Planning for research data management |
| 19th January | Researching sensitive issues  |
| Safety and integrity in fieldwork |
| 20th January | PACE Block 2 – Academic Writing: Writing long documents, sections, paragraphs, and sentences |
| 26th January | Interdisciplinary research collaborations |
| 27th January | PACE Block 2 – Academic Writing: Drafting an argument |
| **Semester 2: Feb - June 2021** |
| 3rd February | How to get started on your research degree |
| Planning your research project |
| 3rd February | PACE Block 2 – Academic Writing: Dialogue with the reader |
| 4th February | Academic writing at doctoral level |
| Getting started on your literature review |
| 4th February | PACE Postgraduate Writing Circle – Phase 2 |
| 5th February | Planning your skills development |
| Managing the personal and emotional journey of a research degree |
| 8th February | STEM Health and Safety: Basic COSHH (**mandatory** for new lab-based PGRs) |
| 9th February | Getting the most out of the OU |
| Managing professional relationships |
| 22nd February | STEM Health and Safety: SEVRON (**mandatory** for new lab-based PGRs) |
| 23rd February  | Preparing for upgrade - core session |
| Preparing for upgrade – Faculty sessions |
| 24th February | PACE Block 3 – Academic Presentation Skills: Structuring an academic conference presentation |
| **Semester 2, continued****February - June 2021** |
| **Date** | **Title of Session** |
| 2nd March | Internships for PGRs |
| How to make money from your research: identifying and commercialising intellectual property |
| 3rd March | PACE Block 3 – Academic Presentation Skills: Strategies for connecting with your audience |
| 4th March | PACE Postgraduate Writing Circle – Phase 2 |
| 9th March | Approaches to qualitative data collection |
| 16th March | Approaches to qualitative data analysis |
| Do I need NVivo? |
| 17th March | PACE Block 3 – Academic Presentation Skills: Use of technology |
| 22nd March | Statistics made simple 1 |
| 23rd March | Surviving quantitative data analysis |
| 31st March | PACE Block 3 – Academic Presentation Skills: Mini conference (extended session) |
| 1st April | PACE Postgraduate Writing Circle – Phase 3 |
| 13th April | Data visualisation and infographics for research communication |
| Photography skills for research communication |
| 19th April | Statistics made simple 2 |
| 20th April | Preparing conference presentations |
| Successful poster presentations |
| 27th April | Early publication opportunities |
| Publishing with OpenLearn |
| 4th May | Science busking (using performance for research communication) |
| 6th May | PACE Postgraduate Writing Circle – Phase 3 |
| 11th May | Using video for research communication 1 |
| 18th May | Using video for research communication 2 |
| 25th May | Using video for research communication 3 |
| 3rd June | PACE Postgraduate Writing Circle – Phase 3 |
| 8th June | Working with long documents in Word |
| 15th June | Creative thinking for research problem-solving |

# Sessions by topic area and title:

Our Core Training is organised into eight topic areas. Please see below for a handy guide to which sessions are allied to which topic area.

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| **Topic Area**  | **Session title:** |
| **Getting started on your research degree** | STEM Health and Safety: Basic COSHH (**mandatory** for new lab-based PGRs) |
| STEM Health and Safety: SEVRON (**mandatory** for new lab-based PGRs) |
| How to get started on your research degree |
| Planning your research project |
| Academic writing at doctoral level |
| Getting started with your literature review |
| Planning your skills development |
| Managing the personal and emotional journey of a research degree |
| Getting the most out of the OU |
| Managing professional relationships |
| Research integrity, ethics and GDPR |
| Intellectual property and copyright in your research |
| **Academic writing** | Academic writing at doctoral level |
| Getting started with your literature review |
| Conducting a systematic literature review |
| Working with long documents in Word |
| All your own work? Avoiding accidental plagiarism |
| Written academic genres and reading for research (PACE block 1, session 1)\* |
| Critical reading 1 (PACE block 1, session 2)\* |
| Critical reading 2 (PACE block 1, session 3)\* |
| From reading to writing (PACE block 1, session 4)\* |
| Writing long documents, paragraphs and sentences (PACE block 2, session 1)\* |
| The literature review (PACE block 2, session 2)\* |
| Commitment, risk and view point in academic writing (PACE block 2, session 3)\* |
| Dialogue with the reader (PACE block 2, session 4)\* |
| **Principles of research design** | Introduction to research philosophies |
| Introduction to social research design (quantitative) |
| Introduction to social research design (qualitative) |
| Designing a mixed-methods project |
| Planning for research data management |
| Researching sensitive issues |
| Creative thinking for research problem-solving |
| Interdisciplinary research collaborations |
| Safety and integrity in fieldwork |
| Introduction to quality management in the laboratory |
| **Approaches to data collection and analysis** | Statistics Surgery 1 |
| Statistics Surgery 2 |
| Surviving quantitative data analysis |
| Approaches to qualitative data collection |
| Approaches to qualitative data analysis |
| Do I need NVivo? |
| **Preparing for upgrade** | Preparing for upgrade day school  |
| **Communicating your research** | Data visualisation and infographics for research communication |
| Preparing conference presentations |
| Successful poster presentations |
| Early publication opportunities |
| Publishing with OpenLearn |
| Using photography for research communication |
| Using video for research communication 1 |
| Using video for research communication 2 |
| Using video for research communication 3 |
| Science busking (using performance for research communication) |
| Academic presentation skills (PACE block 3, session 1)\* |
| Academic presentation skills (PACE block 3, session 2)\* |
| Academic presentation skills (PACE block 3, session 3)\* |
| PACE mini-conference (PACE block 3, session 4)\* |
| **Career development** | How to make money from your research: identifying and commercialising intellectual property |
| Internships for PGRs |
| Teaching skills for HE day school 1- Introduction to teaching in HE |
| Teaching skills for HE day school 2- Teaching and learning in groups |
| **Sessions for returning students** | Socially-distanced lab work (**mandatory** for returning PGRs who are lab-based) |
| Teaching skills for HE day school 1- Introduction to teaching in HE |
| Teaching skills for HE day school 2- Teaching and learning in groups |

## Changes to the programme:

Please note that, while all details are correct at the time of going to press (Aug 2020), all events are subject to updates, changes of venue or cancellation. You will receive details of changes to the sessions that you have booked onto, via your Outlook invitation. You should always check the event listings page on the Graduate School Network (GSN) (<http://www.open.ac.uk/students/research/events>) for the most current information on any event. Any changes to events and additions to the programme will also be publicised on the Graduate School’s Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/OUGradSchool/>) and Twitter (<https://twitter.com/OUGradSch>) pages.