

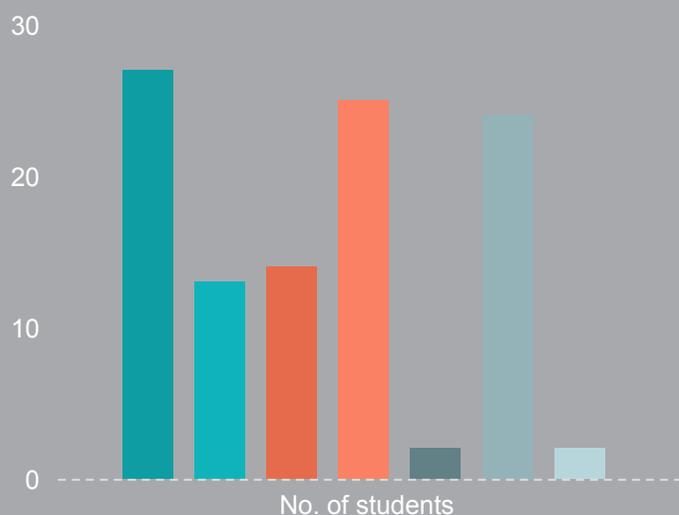
PGR SURVEY ABOUT LIBRARY TRAINING

In May 2018 we surveyed postgraduate researchers (PGRs) to find out what they wanted from Library training.

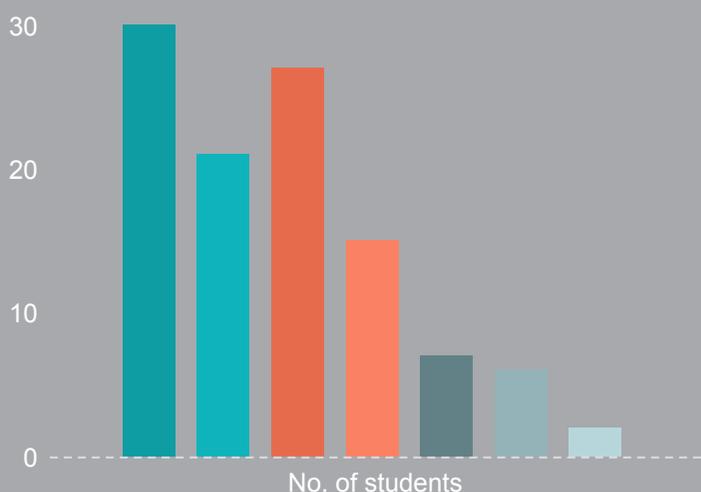
108 PGRs responded



Full-time (58.33%) Part-time (41.67%)



STEM FBL FASS WELS IET/LTI Academic
Affiliated Research Centre Don't know



First year Second year Third year Fourth year
Fifth year Sixth year Other



DLitt (0%) DSc (0%) EdD (18.52%)
MPhil (6.48%) PhD (74.07%) Other (0.93%)

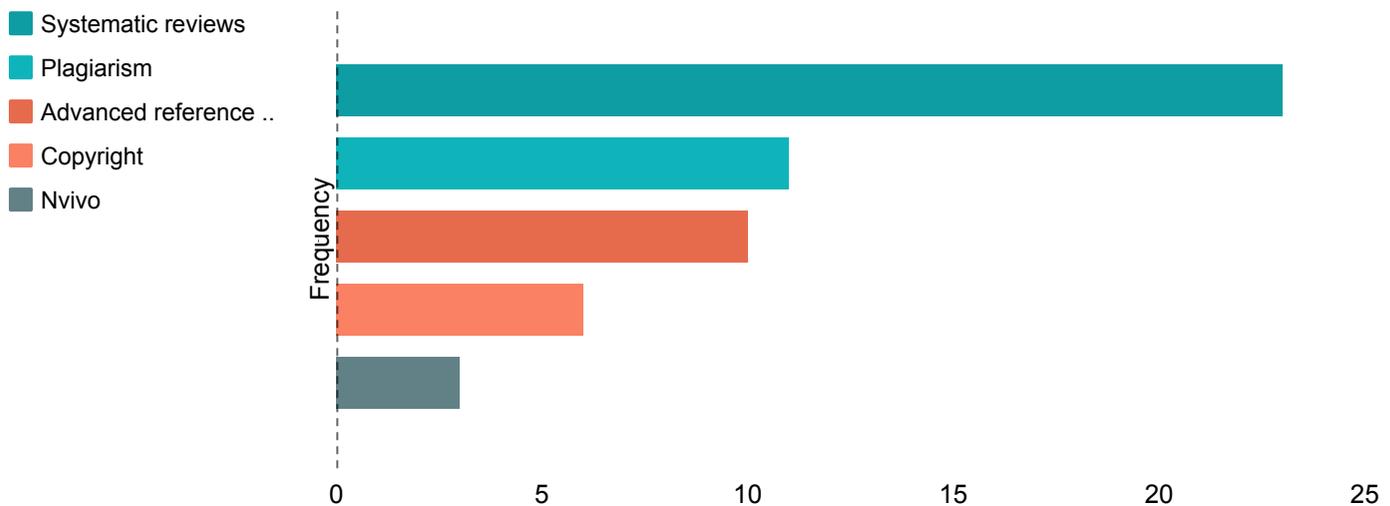
“Advanced literature searching” and “introduction to reference management software” were deemed the most useful training topics

As a result of these findings, we are developing a plan regarding Library training for PGRs. This plan aims to deliver training on the topics deemed most useful wherever possible.

Even the lowest ranked session listed in this question, “Bibliometrics/quantitative research indicators” was still deemed quite useful by respondents. We will continue to deliver this session as part of the APD (Academic Professional Development) programme, labelling it as potentially more useful for people with an existing publication record whilst still making it clear that anyone who hasn't published is welcome along.



Other training requested included systematic reviews, plagiarism, advanced reference management and copyright



Unfortunately, the wording of this question seems to have biased responses. It provided examples of other topics we could potentially deliver teaching on "e.g. plagiarism, copyright, systematic literature reviews, advanced reference management training". This was done to help avoid people asking for training we could not deliver (a common problem with our other research in this area) but it meant responses focused largely on these examples.

However, the results do tally with our anecdotal experience regarding other training sessions that PGRs want and we will investigate delivering training on these topics.

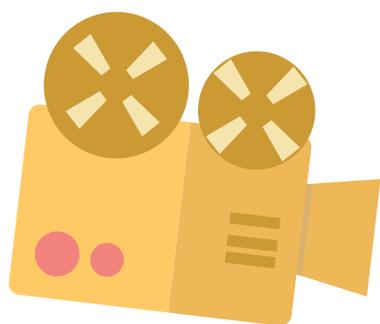
Beyond the most popular responses to this question, as listed above, there was a long tail of other responses each given by only one or two people.

Video recordings are the most valued means of delivering training

We asked about the value of three means of delivering training - online training sessions (delivered live as webinars); face to face training sessions at Walton Hall; video recordings of training sessions.

All three were highly valued by respondents but video recordings of training sessions were the most popular. In response to this, we will place greater emphasis on providing and promoting video recordings of training sessions and purpose-made training videos for asynchronous use. However, we will continue to provide face to face training and synchronous online training as it is clear there is still demand for these means of delivery.

Part-time students were proportionally less enthusiastic about synchronous online training sessions and video recordings but more enthusiastic than full-time students about face-to-face sessions. This may merit further discussion – perhaps these part-time students feel more isolated and value face-to-face contact?



Monday–Friday, 9-5 is the time respondents are most likely to attend training

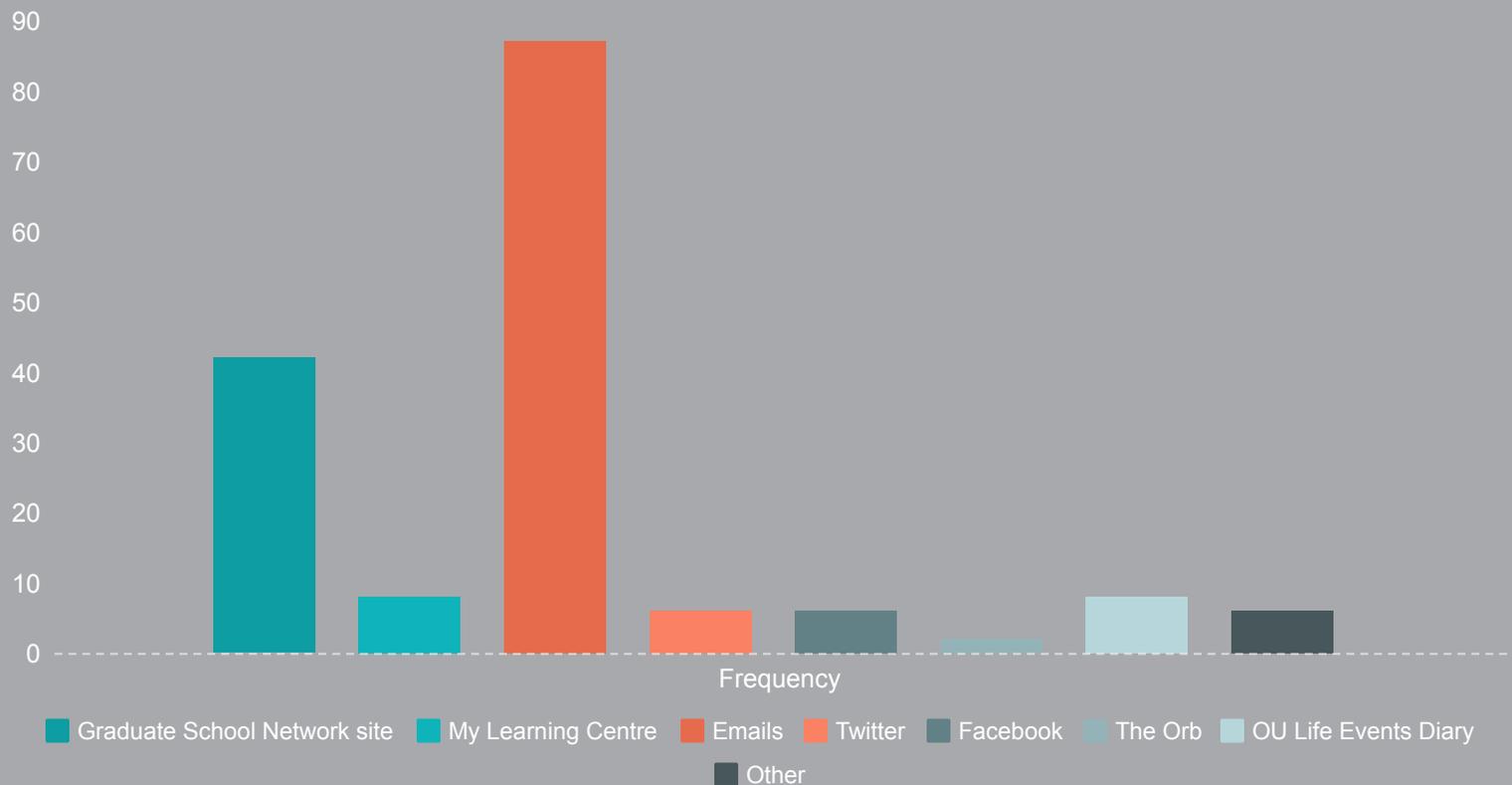


This was a clear trend, with the idea of attending training during evenings or weekends being largely unpopular.

However, it is interesting to note that this trend was largely driven by full-time students. Part-time students' responses were more mixed (although they could be said to follow broadly similar trends).

As a result, we aim to use the aforementioned video recordings of training sessions and purpose-made training videos to allow PGRs to engage with training flexibly. However, we will continue to deliver synchronous online training and face to face training between Monday-Friday, 9-5.

Email is the most common way respondents find out about training



This was a clear trend but use of the Graduate School Network website was also significant. We will ensure Library training is promoted consistently and effectively via email and the Graduate School Network website in order to reach PGRs.

Interestingly, there was a stronger reliance on email from part-time students, with a smaller proportion of them using social media or the OU Life Events Diary to find out about training.

Contact us

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