

Postgraduate Research Students Core Training and PACE Programmes 2023-24

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# PGR Student Training

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, as well as to students from our Doctoral Training Partnership (DTP) institutions.

Training is delivered face-to-face on campus, and most via simultaneous livestream via MS Teams; we expect full-time students based on the Milton Keynes campus to attend training sessions in person so they can benefit from the on-campus PGR community. Please note that PACE workshops take place either online or in person – full details on [Postgraduate Research Manager](https://doctoral-research-system.open.ac.uk/do/phd-event-navigation/listing). If you can’t make a live event, you should be able to access an AV recording of the event afterwards - on the [Graduate School Training Teams site](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/channel/19%3A1722457f1fc344ac9b1e8ec981eb0eb3%40thread.tacv2/Training%2520%28for%2520GS%2520events%29?groupId=f1a6a408-91d8-496d-8d5c-e153d8710877&tenantId=0e2ed455-96af-4100-bed3-a8e5fd981685) [Training recordings](https://openuniv.sharepoint.com/%3Af%3A/r/sites/Graduate-School-Network-team/Shared%20Documents/Training/Recordings?csf=1&web=1&e=dcTJeS).

# Professional Academic Communication in English

Professional Academic Communication in English (PACE) is our flagship training programme in academic communication, and provides training in academic reading, writing, and presenting for students at all stages of their research degrees. PACE is managed by Dr Julia Molinari, an experienced writer and facilitator who completed her PhD on academic writing at Nottingham University. Also, Julia has recently authored ‘[What Makes Writing Academic: Rethinking Theory for Practice’](https://library-search.open.ac.uk/permalink/44OPN_INST/la9sg5/alma9952877101602316) (Bloomsbury 2022). PACE consists of: three blocks of taught workshops; a writing circle for sharing work in progress; and 1-1 consultations to discuss your specific research communication needs. Students can register for all PACE events via PGR Manager and all links to training and latest information are available on the [PACE Space](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/channel/19%3A190bb82f9720430aa00b34de5e6ae397%40thread.tacv2/PACE%2520Space?groupId=f1a6a408-91d8-496d-8d5c-e153d8710877&tenantId=0e2ed455-96af-4100-bed3-a8e5fd981685).

## Planning your training and booking your place

You should select the sessions that you and your supervisors agree meet your training needs and skills development plan, to find the best training to match your plan. The ‘Skills’ section is a useful guide.

[PGR Manager](https://doctoral-research-system.open.ac.uk/do/ou-auth/login) contains a full training calendar, learning objectives, training description, facilitator(s), and locations. It allows you to book your place on any training session and students are advised to do this so their training attendance is accurate. If you can’t book for any reason please contact the Graduate School or access the [relevant training session Teams link](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/channel/19%3A1722457f1fc344ac9b1e8ec981eb0eb3%40thread.tacv2/Training%2520%28for%2520GS%2520events%29?groupId=f1a6a408-91d8-496d-8d5c-e153d8710877&tenantId=0e2ed455-96af-4100-bed3-a8e5fd981685) (use the Location link field in PGRM or go to the [GS Training Teams site](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/team/19%3Ab8230efeae704e53897048af0da0a349%40thread.tacv2/conversations?groupId=f1a6a408-91d8-496d-8d5c-e153d8710877&tenantId=0e2ed455-96af-4100-bed3-a8e5fd981685)). [PGR Manager: Training and Development guide for students.](https://www.open.ac.uk/students/research/system/files/documents/PGR%20Manager%20Guide%20to%20Training%20and%20Events%20v2.pdf%22%20%5Co%20%22Link%20to%20PGR%20Manager%3A%20Training%20and%20Development%20Guide%20for%20Students)

## Part-time students and February 2024 starters

Key sessions in the [Getting Started](https://doctoral-research-system.open.ac.uk/86x1x/graduate-school-getting-started-) 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](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/channel/19%3A1722457f1fc344ac9b1e8ec981eb0eb3%40thread.tacv2/tab%3A%3A9bb8305f-211a-42e0-bcbd-b3dd7dfed756?groupId=f1a6a408-91d8-496d-8d5c-e153d8710877&tenantId=0e2ed455-96af-4100-bed3-a8e5fd981685&allowXTenantAccess=false) of all our previous training sessions.

## Cancellations and changes

If you book but then can’t attend a session, please cancel on [PGR Manager](https://doctoral-research-system.open.ac.uk/do/ou-auth/login) as soon as possible. Non-attendance (booking and not turning up) is recorded on PGR Manager and will be apparent to your supervisors.

Please note that all events are subject to updates and changes so please check [PGR Manager](https://doctoral-research-system.open.ac.uk/do/ou-auth/login) and the [GS Training Teams site](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/channel/19%3A1722457f1fc344ac9b1e8ec981eb0eb3%40thread.tacv2/Training%2520%28for%2520GS%2520events%29?groupId=f1a6a408-91d8-496d-8d5c-e153d8710877&tenantId=0e2ed455-96af-4100-bed3-a8e5fd981685) for the latest information.

Research skills training information is available on the [Graduate School Network](https://www.open.ac.uk/students/research/) and other useful sources of GS information include:

* [PGR Manager: Training and Development guide for students](https://www.open.ac.uk/students/research/system/files/documents/PGR%20Manager%20Guide%20to%20Training%20and%20Events%20v2.pdf)

[PGR Manager Advice](https://www.open.ac.uk/students/research/ou/services/pgr-manager-advice)

[GS Training Digest](https://doctoral-research-system.open.ac.uk/8602x/graduate-school-digest-10th-july) - upcoming training information emailed fortnightly

[PGR Community Team](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/team/19%3A49dd9ce20baf44cd981b6744772e607b%40thread.tacv2/conversations?groupId=4d44fd6f-1b29-4b4e-91e8-e96f26ec3948&tenantId=0e2ed455-96af-4100-bed3-a8e5fd981685" \o "Link to PGR Community Team)

[Graduate School Facebook page](https://www.facebook.com/OUGradSchool/)

[Graduate School Twitter](https://twitter.com/OUGradSch)

## Any questions?

Please email Graduate School Communications or post a message on the [GS Training Teams site](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/channel/19%3A1722457f1fc344ac9b1e8ec981eb0eb3%40thread.tacv2/Training%2520%28for%2520GS%2520events%29?groupId=f1a6a408-91d8-496d-8d5c-e153d8710877&tenantId=0e2ed455-96af-4100-bed3-a8e5fd981685).

**2023-24 training in chronological order**Events are subject to change so please check [PGR Manager](https://doctoral-research-system.open.ac.uk/do/ou-auth/login) for latest information.

| **Date** | **Title** |
| --- | --- |
| **October** |
| 09 | STEM Health and Safety: Basic COSHH (**mandatory** for new lab-based PGRs) |
| 10 | Getting started on your research degree |
| Planning your research |
| 16 | STEM Health and Safety: SEVRON (**mandatory** for new lab-based PGRs) |
| 17 | Getting started with academic writing at doctoral level |
| Getting started with your literature review |
| 18 | PACE Block 1-Academic genres (Reading for Doctoral Writing) |
| 25 | PACE Block 1-Reading strategies (Reading for Doctoral Writing) |
| 31 | Managing your mental health during your research degree |
| Planning your skills development  |
| **November** |
| 01 | PACE Block 1-Critical reading (Reading for Doctoral Writers) |
| 02 | PACE Writing Circle (Cycle I) |
| 07 | Getting the most out of the OU |
| Doing a PhD in the UK  |
| 08 | PACE Block 1-Reading to write (Reading for Doctoral Writers) |
| 14 | Introduction to teaching in the UK HE: Teaching Skills for HE 1 Day School |
|  | Principles of pedagogy for UK HE: Teaching Skills for HE 1 Day School |
| 15 | PACE Block 1 - Writing for science  |
| PACE Block 1 - Reading & Writing retreat  |
| 21 | Research Integrity and Ethics  |
|  | Research Ethics with Human Participants and your research |
| 15 | PACE Block 1-Writing for science and Writing retreat 1  |
| 28 | All your own work? Avoiding accidental plagiarism |
| Intellectual Property, GDPR and copyright |
| **December** |
| 05 | Conducting a systematic literature review |
| Introduction to quantitative research design |
| 07 | PACE Writing Circle (Cycle I) |
| 12 | Introduction to research philosophy |
| Introduction to qualitative research design |
| 19 | Designing a mixed-methods research project: Day School |
| **January** |  |
| 02 | Teaching in small groups; classroom management: Teaching skills for HE 2 Day School |
| Presentations: Teaching skills for HE 2 Day School |
| 04 | PACE Writing Circle (Cycle I) |
| 10 | PACE Block 2-Commitment Risk and Voice (Writing the Doctorate) |
| 16 | Safety and integrity in fieldwork |
|  | Do I need NVivo? |
| 17 | PACE Block 2-Signposting and metadiscourse  |
| 23 | Interdisciplinary research collaborations: Day School |
| 24 | PACE Block 2-Crafting an argument |
| 30 | Social media for impact 1: Day School |
| Social media for impact 2: Day School |
| 31 | PACE Block 2-Dialogue with the reader |
| **February** |
| 01 | PACE Writing Circle (Cycle II) |
| 07 | Writing in the Park: Day School |
| 12 | STEM/COSHH |
| 13 | Getting started on your research degree |
|  | Planning your research |
| 14 | Getting started with academic writing at doctoral level |
|  | Getting started with your literature review |
| 15 | Planning your skills development |
|  | Managing the personal and emotional journey of PGR Study |
| 26 | STEM/SEVRON |
| 27 | Getting the most out of the OU |
| Managing professional relationships |
| 28 | PACE Block 3- Structuring a conference abstract |
| **March** |  |
| 05 | Preparing for upgrade |
|  | Online interviewing |
| 06 | PACE Block 3- Connecting to your audience  |
| 07 | PACE Writing Circle (Cycle II) |
| 12 | Identifying and commercialising intellectual property and Addressing Employability after the PhD |
| Careers: Notes from industry |
| 13 | PACE Block 3- Communicating effectively  |
| 19 | Using story-telling methodologies in qualitative research |
| Qualitative data analysis: two contrasting approaches to the analysis of discourse |
| 20 | PACE block 3- PACE conference and preparing for the viva  |
| 26 | Statistics training for research students |
|  | Using Engaged Research Design to plan for, generate and evidence impact |
| **April** |  |
| 04 | PACE Writing Circle (Cycle II)  |
| 09 | Quantitative data analysis: Day school |
| 16 | Introduction to qualitative research design |
|  | Data visualisation and infographics for research communication |
| 23 | Preparing for conference presentations |
|  | Poster preparation |
| 30 | Creative methodologies: Using systems diagrams as learning devices in research  |
| Photography for research communication |
| **May** |  |
| 02 | PACE Writing Circle (Cycle III) |
| 07 | Early publication opportunities and Publishing with OpenLearn |
|  | Creative methods |
| 14 | Creative research methods |
| 21 | Social media 1 – Social rundown Day School |
|  | Social media 2 – Being part of the conversation Day School |
| **June** |  |
| 04 | Social media 3 – TikTok/Reels Day School |
|  | Social media 4 – Over to you Day School |
| 06 | PACE Writing Circle (Cycle III) |
| 11 | Working with Long Documents in Word |
|  | Creative thinking for research problem-solving |
| **July** |
| 04 | PACE Writing Circle (Cycle III) |

# Training by topic and title

Training is organised into six topics, see below.

| **Topic**  | **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 PGR study |
| 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 viewpoint 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 |
| How to use the library to be an open researcher |
| Surviving quantitative data analysis |
| Approaches to qualitative data collection |
| Approaches to qualitative data analysis |
| Do I need NVivo? |
| Online interviewing |
| Using storytelling methodologies in qualitative research |
|  | Creative research methods 1-3 |
| **Preparing for upgrade** | Preparing for upgrade day school  |
| **Communicat-ing 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 |
| Social Media: Day school 1-4 |
| Social Media for Impact: Day School |
| 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** | Identifying and commercialising intellectual  |
| Addressing Employability after the PhD |
| Careers: Notes from Industry |
| Teaching skills for HE day school 1-4 |
| Addressing employability after the PhD |
| Careers: notes from industry |

# PACE 1:1 Writing Consultations

[Please book on PGR Manager](https://doctoral-research-system.open.ac.uk/do/phd-event-navigation/listing)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 18 October | 14.00-15.00 and 15.30-16.30 | Online only |
| 25 October | 14.00-15.00 and 15.30-16.30 | Online only |
| 01 November | 14.00-15.00 and 15.30-16.30 | Online only |
| 08 November | 14.00-15.00 and 15.30-16.30 | Online only |
| 14 November  | 11.30-12.30, 14.00-15.00 and 15.30-16.30 | Campus only |
| 10 January | 11.30-12.30 and 15.30-16.30 | Online only |
| 17 January | 11.30-12.30 and 15.30-16.30 | Online only |
| 24 January | 11.30-12.30 and 15.30-16.30 | Online only |
| 31 January | 11.30-12.30 and 15.30-16.30 | Online only |
| 06 February | 11.30-12.30, 14.00-15.00 and 15.30-16.30 | Campus only |
| 28 February | 14.00-15.00 and 15.30-16.30 | Online only |
| 06 March | 14.00-15.00 and 15.30-16.30 | Online only |
| 13 March | 14.00-15.00 and 15.30-16.30 | Online only |

# PACE Writing Circle

All 10.30-12.30 - [Please book on PGR Manager](https://doctoral-research-system.open.ac.uk/do/phd-event-navigation/listing)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 02 November  | Online |
| 07 December  | Online |
| 04 January  | Online |
| 01 February  | Online |
| 07 March | Online |
| 04 April | Online |

