

Postgraduate Research Students Core Training and PACE Programmes 2023-24

Booking available from October 2023  
  
Graduate School

1 August 2023

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**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, 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 – all information is on Postgraduate Research Manager ([PGMR](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(for%2520GS%2520events)?groupId=f1a6a408-91d8-496d-8d5c-e153d8710877&tenantId=0e2ed455-96af-4100-bed3-a8e5fd981685) ([2022-23 Training recordings](https://openuniv.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/sites/Graduate-School-Network-team/Shared%20Documents/Training/Recordings?csf=1&web=1&e=dcTJeS)). Where possible we have avoided clashing with local school holidays but due to an expanding programme this has not always been possible.

**PACE (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 are relevant to your training needs and skills development plan. Once completed you can use PGR Manager to find training to match your plan.

You can book your place on any training session via [PGR Manager](https://doctoral-research-system.open.ac.uk/do/ou-auth/login) which contains: a full training calendar, learning objectives, content, facilitators, and venues (<https://doctoral-research-system.open.ac.uk>). Students are advised to register their place so their training attendance record can be added and is accurate. If you can’t book for any reason please contact [Graduate-School-Communications@open.ac.uk](mailto:Graduate-School-Communications@open.ac.uk) or access the relevant training session Teams link, 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).

**Part-time students and February 2024 starters**

Key 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.

**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 prior to the event so another student can attend. Non-attendance (booking and not turning up) is recorded on PGR Manager and will be apparent to your supervisors.

Please note that, while all details are correct at the time of going to press (Aug 2023), all events are subject to updates, changes of venue or cancellation. Always check PGR Manager and the [GS Training Teams site](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/channel/19%3a1722457f1fc344ac9b1e8ec981eb0eb3%40thread.tacv2/Training%2520(for%2520GS%2520events)?groupId=f1a6a408-91d8-496d-8d5c-e153d8710877&tenantId=0e2ed455-96af-4100-bed3-a8e5fd981685) for the latest information. Also, research skills training information is available on the [Graduate School Network | (open.ac.uk)](https://www.open.ac.uk/students/research/).

Other useful sources of GS information include:

* [PGR Manager Advice | Graduate School Network](https://www.open.ac.uk/students/research/ou/services/pgr-manager-advice)
* GS Training Digest - upcoming training emailed to all PGRs every fortnight
* [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)
* Graduate School Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/OUGradSchool/>)
* Graduate School Twitter (<https://twitter.com/OUGradSch>).

**Any questions?**

Please email [Graduate-School-Communications@open.ac.uk](mailto:Graduate-School-Communications@open.ac.uk) or post a message on the [GS Training Teams site](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/channel/19%3a1722457f1fc344ac9b1e8ec981eb0eb3%40thread.tacv2/Training%2520(for%2520GS%2520events)?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.**

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| --- | --- |
| **October 2023 - Jan 2024** | |
| **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 | Planning your skills development |
| Managing professional relationships |
| **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) |
| 09 | How to use the Library to be an open researcher |
| Researching sensitive issues |
| 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 |
| **Feb - June 2024** | |
| **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 |
| 19 | 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 | Photography |
| **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 |
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| **July** | |
| 04 | PACE Writing Circle (Cycle III) |

# Training by topic and title

**Training is organised into six topics, please see below for a guide to sessions in each.**

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| **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 |

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| **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) |

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| **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

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| PACE Consultations will be held on: |
| * + 18 October, 2-3pm and 3.30 to 4.30pm (Online only)   + 25 October, 2-3pm and 3.30 to 4.30pm (Online only)   + 01 November, 2-3pm and 3.30 to 4.30pm (Online only)   + 08 November, 2-3pm and 3.30 to 4.30pm (Online only)   + 14 November, 11.30-12.30, 2-3pm and 3.30-4.30pm (Campus only)   + 10 January, 2-3pm and 3.30-4.30pm (Online only)   + 17 January, 2-3pm and 3.30-4.30pm (Online only)   + 24 January, 2-3pm and 3.30-4.30pm (Online only)   + 31 January, 2-3pm and 3.30-4.30pm (Online only)   + 06 February, 11.30- 12.30pm; 2-3pm and 3.30-4.30pm (Campus only)   + 28 February, 2-3pm and 3.30 to 4.30pm (Online only)   + 06 March, 2-3pm and 3.30-4.30pm (Online only)   + 13 March , 2-3pm and 3.30 to 4.30pm (Online only) |

# PACE Writing Circle

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| The PACE Writing Circle will be held online only, 10.30-12.30 on: |
| * + 02 November   + 07 December   + 04 January   + 01 February   + 07 March   + 04 April |

