

## **Doctoral College Guidance on Pastoral Support for PGRs – Staff Guidance**

### **Why do PGRs have pastoral support?**

- PGRs are entitled to a member of staff responsible for providing pastoral support *in addition to* their supervisor(s). See paragraph d: [Management of Research Students \(warwick.ac.uk\)](https://www.warwick.ac.uk/managementofresearchstudents)
- Depending on the department, pastoral support is allocated differently and staff involved may be given different titles ('personal tutor', 'advisor', 'mentor', 'non-academic supervisor', etc.). In some departments, staff are specifically allocated to PGRs, and in smaller departments the Director of Graduate Studies (DGS) provides pastoral support to all PGRs.
- If you are unsure how your department provides pastoral support to PGRs, please contact your department's DGS.

### **When should I contact the PGRs for whose pastoral support I am responsible?**

- You should try to meet individually with your allocated PGRs once a year, even if no specific concerns or issues have been raised by them.
- Email your PGRs at the start of the academic year to ensure they know you are their allocated pastoral support.

### **What might my allocated PGRs contact me about?**

- Examples of issues your allocated PGRs may wish to raise with you include, but are not limited to:
  - If a dispute or issue arises between them and their supervisor(s) and they need to discuss it
  - If they need advice or guidance about the non-research side of PhD life, e.g. teaching, professional development, extra-curricular activities
  - If they experience personal issues for which they need support (mainly in the form of signposting – you are not expected to be counsellors)

### **What other support can I signpost my allocated PGRs towards?**

There will be situations where you don't feel able to help your allocated PGRs yourself. This is perfectly normal, and it is ok to be honest with them about this. There is a whole range of support available to PGRs and we encourage you to signpost them towards these when necessary.

- Formal support:
  - [Wellbeing Support Services](#)
  - [Disability Services](#)
  - [University Careers Service](#)
  - [Nightline](#)
- Informal support:
  - [Researcher Development Online](#) – professional development and skills training for PGRs
  - [The Library networking events](#) – PG Tips (Tuesday, 15.00-16.00), Research Refresh (Thursday, 10.30-12.00), PGR(Tea)chers (first Wednesday of each month)
- Financial support:
  - [Covid-19 extensions](#)
  - [Hardship Fund](#)

You can find more information about supporting students on the university's [Wellbeing](#) webpages.