

Doctoral College Guidance on Pastoral Support for PGRs

PGRs! Did you know you are entitled to pastoral support *in addition to* your supervisor?

(See paragraph d: [Management of Research Students \(warwick.ac.uk\)](#))

What pastoral support should my department provide for me?

- Your department should allocate you a member of academic staff **other** than your supervisor(s).
- Depending on your department, they will be allocated differently and may be given different titles ('personal tutor', 'advisor', 'mentor', 'non-academic supervisor', etc.). They will be either your Director of Graduate Studies (DGS) or another named member of academic staff within your department.
- If you are unsure who is responsible for your pastoral support, you should contact your DGS.

When should I utilise this pastoral support?

- You should try to meet with your allocated member of staff once a year, even if you have no specific concerns or issues to discuss.
- Other examples of when to reach out to them include, but are not limited to:
 - If a dispute or issue arises between you and your supervisor(s) and you need to discuss it with somebody
 - If you need advice or guidance about the non-research side of PhD life, e.g. teaching, professional development, extra-curricular activities
 - If you experience personal issues and are unsure where to seek advice or guidance

What other support can I access?

There are lots of situations in which you may feel like you need support. Many different support structures exist across the university which you are entitled to access when needed.

- 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](#)

If you don't know how to access the support you need, contact the Doctoral College:

doctoralcollege@warwick.ac.uk