WELCOME TO PG RESEARCHERS

- The Doctoral College
- The Library
- Wellbeing Support Services
INTRODUCTION...

It is our pleasure to welcome you to postgraduate research study at Warwick. Our outstanding research profile is underpinned by the contribution of our postgraduate researchers. Our supportive environment will help you to achieve your research ambitions and excel in your chosen field. We hope that you will take full advantage of the range of opportunities you will have to connect with others, develop yourself as a researcher and for your future career, and enjoy the campus environment and facilities.

“Doing your PhD at Warwick is an amazing experience I couldn’t recommend enough! You’ll gain so much knowledge from renowned researchers in the best facilities with great support. Plus, there’s plenty of opportunities outside of your research to find other interests and develop soft skills, equipping you for a bright future.”

Rohini
PhD student
Life Sciences

Rhiannon Martyn
Head of the Doctoral College

Professor Daniel Branch
Academic Director of the Doctoral College (from 1st Oct 2021)
ABOUT THE DOCTORAL COLLEGE...

Who we are and what we do

The Doctoral College is a university-wide professional services team with responsibility for sustaining and improving the postgraduate research student (PGR) experience. We do this by setting and enhancing standards, providing support and training, and improving provision for postgraduate students across Warwick. We are a team of people working mostly behind the scenes to support you. Our team provides specific support relating to scholarships, supervision, assessment and examination, and the Researcher Development Programme. We also advise and support supervisors and other academic colleagues.

We work closely with other service providers such as the Library and Wellbeing services to ensure that you are aware of what is available to you, and to coordinate events so that there is a single source of information for you.

Our website

Our website is a portal to everything we can think of that you might need and want. Check in regularly to find out what events are on and keep up to date with relevant news:

warwick.ac.uk/dc

Contact us

If in doubt, please contact us – we exist to help you succeed in your research:

doctoralcollege@warwick.ac.uk
RESEARCHER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME...

Doing a PhD is a training ground – the knowledge and experiences you acquire will support you whatever career and personal path you choose. As a recent Postdoc said

‘The prime gain from doing a PhD is nothing to do with the subject. It is the life skills: surviving countless struggles, persisting through difficult times, becoming a resourceful problem solver and independent thinker, and knowing when to ask for help. Invaluable for any future role!!’

And that is where Researcher Development comes in - to support you as a new, and also developing researcher...

Whether it is getting the tools to do the job, understanding concepts of research practice, getting yourself organised, keeping yourself and life on track, or taking time to listen and understand other people’s research, the Researcher Development Programme is designed by you, for you. We use a Dynamic Development model which puts you in charge of your own learning, supports your creativity and curiosity and works to your strengths and needs. Importantly, the delivery team are all active researchers, lecturers or both; and skilled facilitators.

We developed a new online programme in May 2020, not just in response to Covid-19, but primarily because it reflects our position as globalised researchers; that we need to be able to connect to colleagues across the world, interacting with new and different research; and also that we need to connect at different times of the day, around fieldwork, jobs, caring responsibilities, lab commitments.

Most of our online sessions are 60-90 minutes and are coaching and development focussed where we may share knowledge and help you find the answers for yourselves.

More of what to expect can be found on this Researcher Development Presentation, the Researcher Development Online (on Microsoft Teams) and the Researcher Development Webpage.

Looking forward to meeting you soon!
THE LIBRARY...

Connecting you with Information, Support and Your Community

As a postgraduate researcher, you can access a wide range of services and resources from the Library, both to support you with your research and to help you make the most of your time at Warwick.

Location and resources

The University of Warwick Library is located at the heart of campus. The Wolfson Research Exchange, on Floor 3, is our dedicated space for researchers where you can connect with others and explore potential collaboration opportunities, work independently, and host your own research-led events. But we’re more than just a building. We also provide electronic access to over a million journals, e-books and other resources, and a growing number of online courses, some specifically aimed at postgraduates.

The Library Team

Your Academic Support Librarian can provide specialist advice on finding and organising the information you need for your research, carrying out an effective literature review and managing your references.

Our Scholarly Communications Team can support you with creating a data management plan, identifying the best way to look after your research data for the long-term, and planning your publication strategy. We can also help you to make your work Open Access and deposit your thesis to the Warwick Research Archive Portal (WRAP), so it’s available for your research community to download and read for free, forever.

The Library’s Postgraduate Community Engagement Team provide you with support, facilities and development opportunities. We’ll connect you to the postgraduate research community through social, cultural and research-focused events to help with your personal and professional development. We also deliver online and virtual events on a weekly basis, so you can stay in touch with your PGR Community even if you aren’t on campus.
WELLBEING SUPPORT SERVICES...

We listen, we support, we enable you to thrive

Wellbeing Support Services provide a range of services that can help you to develop the personal resources and skills you need to navigate the challenges and opportunities of student life. To contact us, please visit our Wellbeing Portal.

Practical support with:
- Accommodation (including accessible accommodation)
- Crime
- Complaints
- Family
- Harassment
- Health
- Sexual misconduct
- Time out from study

And emotional support for a wide range of issues, including but not limited to:
- Anxiety
- Depression or low mood
- Bereavement
- Disordered eating
- Gender identity and self-identity
- Relationships
- Self-harm
- Sexual abuse
- Stress
- Substance misuse
- Suicidal ideation
- Trauma
- And any other difficulties

- Disabled Student Allowances
- Liaising with departments
- Reasonable adjustments
- Specialist study skills and mentoring
- And anything else that’s troubling you
IT SERVICES AND TRAINING...

Warwick’s IT Services can support your research and studies in many ways

- Use your ITS Account to connect to the hotspot-secure Wi-Fi network while studying.
- About 30 minutes after you register for your ITS Account, you can access your Warwick email account on your computer, iPhone or Android phone.
- Get ready for your studies with your free licence of Microsoft Office 365, available to you while you’re a student at Warwick.
- Gain access to many other useful software applications, including SPSS, Nvivo and Stata. Many of these can also be installed, free-of-charge, on your own personal computer.
- Print from ITS work areas from your Windows desktop/laptop, Mac or mobile device.
- Get everything in one place in the My Warwick app, available at the Apple App Store and Google Play Store.

Warwick’s IT Services also offer free training courses:

- Attend free live IT training sessions.
- You can also obtain a free Microsoft Office Specialist qualification to enhance your CV and help you be more efficient with your studies.
- See our Guide to IT Services for new students for more information.

Guides on IT services and tools for:
PREPARING TO TEACH IN HIGHER EDUCATION...

The University values the efforts of its wide and active community of postgraduate tutors. It also considers teaching as a core skill needed for postgraduates to develop into well rounded members of the academic community. Therefore, Warwick requires that all PhD students complete a teaching skills development course by the end of their first year of registration.

Preparing to Teach in Higher Education has been created by the Academic Development Centre to provide an introduction to the core skills and techniques that promote active, student-centred learning in the higher education environment. Delivered in conjunction with departments and research centres from across the University, Preparing to Teach in Higher Education balances fundamental aspects of good teaching practice with discipline-specific perspectives. For more information, please go here.

A fully online version of Preparing to Teach in Higher Education is now available.

POSTGRADUATE RESEARCHERS WHO TEACH (APP PGR)...

Postgraduate researchers often have additional teaching duties, which can be really enjoyable but also potentially daunting! The APP PGR offers students insight, knowledge, skills and context in teaching in Higher Education, challenging perceptions, providing a dynamic learning environment and adding value to the work participants are doing at Warwick.

For more information, please go here.
The Careers Team of Student Opportunity exists to help all Warwick students with their career planning, and that includes PhD students. Every one of our team of Senior Careers Consultants has a professional career guidance qualification and several years of experience.

The sorts of things which the Careers Team can assist with include:

- helping you to get your career thoughts in order
- choosing between competing options, getting to know more about sectors of interest
- finding out which sectors might suit you
- getting guidance or feedback on specific applications

You can arrange a one-to-one appointment through our booking system [here](#).

This is where you can book into any of the events which we run. There are a wide range of workshops (mainly on-line at present, needless to say) on all aspects of career planning and future options, some of which will be as useful to a PhD student as any other student. There is also a wealth of information on our website – start your investigations [here](#).
POSTGRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN TRANSFERABLE SKILLS IN SCIENCE (PGCTSS)...

The PGCTSS is an accredited qualification designed to enable you to:

• be a successful doctoral researcher undertaking world leading research
• improve your research effectiveness
• maximize your talents in your future career
• understand what you already know and how to use those skills to maximum effect

The Postgraduate Certificate is accredited by the Royal Society of Chemistry, the Royal Society of Biology and the Institute of Physics.

To pass the PGCTSS you need to successfully pass 6 modules. The modules should be made up of three Doctoral Skills modules and three optional modules. All modules are pass/fail only and to pass a module requires a pass on each component part of the module as summarised in the handbooks for each module. At the end of the Programme you need to submit a completed Portfolio.

Our facilitators are experts both in their academic fields and in student development. The training covers Centres for Doctoral Training and departments in the Faculty of Science, Engineering and Medicine.
WORLD AT WARWICK...

Warwick is home to students, researchers and staff from an incredibly diverse range of not just countries, but also cultural backgrounds. We believe this is one of the university’s greatest strengths, and to make the most of the opportunities this presents, the World at Warwick Team organise community spaces, workshops and activities, helping you hone your intercultural skills, meet other university members from around the world, or transition to life at a UK university if this is a new environment to you.

"At Warwick, our students are involved in a number of campaigns, initiatives and projects whose impact reaches around the world, making each of our students a global student."

Stuart Croft, Vice-Chancellor and President

Interested?
You will find some of our events on the Welcome Week Timetable, or take a look at our website.
WARWICK SPORT...

We exist to inspire and motivate University of Warwick students, staff and our wider community to engage in an active lifestyle. At the University of Warwick, we are very fortunate to have a fantastic campus that offers so many opportunities to participate in sport and physical activity. It doesn’t matter whether you’re an elite athlete, an absolute beginner or you just want to meet people and have fun; from leading sports facilities to hidden, quiet green spaces; from elite performance programmes to beginner taster sessions; from innovative short courses to inspiring independent activities – it’s all there for you.

To view your membership options, click here.

Active and Wellbeing

With a fantastic range of opportunities available to help you move in your own way, we are here to support you to be active and look after your wellbeing in your own way. Our programme offers social sport leagues in a variety of sports, over 40 casual Rock-Up and Play sessions every week, in a variety of sports, all led by volunteers and opportunities to learn a new skill in our sport courses. We care about your wellbeing and therefore offer a supportive health and wellbeing programme, which gives our students free access to outreach wellbeing classes in a variety of locations across campus. We also offer a comprehensive buddy scheme which is aimed at those who are new or returning to physical activity.

Club and Performance Sport

At Warwick we have 65 student-run sports clubs on offer ranging in activities from Aikido to Wakeboarding, and catering for all experience and ability levels. You can check out all the sports clubs on offer here.
STUDENTS’ UNION...

The Students’ Union (SU) represents the student body as a unified group. Warwick Students’ Union is one of the largest and most active in the country. Respected for its first class facilities, fair trade policy, entertainment programme and ‘safe space’ environment. The Union is run by students, for students, and takes into account every aspect of being a student.

As a student at Warwick University you are automatically enrolled as a member of Warwick Students Union and as such you can access all of our services and benefit from our support and guidance throughout your time here.

Find out more at the SU website:
warwicksu.com

There are also a number of Postgrad spaces for you to use across the campus, including the Graduate in the SU; the SU and the PG Hub team run a number of Postgrad-specific events throughout the academic year and we offer an independent advice centre should you need any support.

The Students’ Union Advice Centre is an independent Warwick Students’ Union-run service for all students. It offers free, confidential, non-judgmental advice and support on a whole range of issues.
CONTACTS

KEEP IN TOUCH

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@DC_Warwick

FOLLOW US...

@DC_Warwick
@warwickrssp
@ResearchEx

PhDLife blog

facebook.com/Warwickpghub
facebook.com/WarwickUniLibrary

warwick.ac.uk/dc