

Welcome to our Summer Term 2024

Before you explore what our sessions are all about, here is some information on who we are, what we do and how we plan on offering you the best support throughout your studies at Warwick.

What is the Researcher Development Programme?

It is a training programme provided by the [Doctoral College](#) to help you get the best out of your time at Warwick and the best out of yourself. It offers a wide range of workshops designed especially to support you in your research journey, in your personal and your professional development. Our approach to PGR development is holistic, which acknowledges that PGRs are researchers and academics, and also multifaceted individuals with diverse needs. We offer a comprehensive and integrative curriculum that supports your intellectual development and also your wellbeing throughout the year.

This Summer Term our programme will be focusing on three main themes for support:

- **Planning your Career Path** – a variety of sessions to support how you plan your professional development, decide what to do after your PhD, and how to filter your choices and preferences through career planning strategies. We will also have practical workshops such as CV writing, developing your LinkedIn profile, preparing for interviews, networking with employers, etc.
- **Conference Season** – we will be taking you through all the stages of potential interactions, writing and presenting your first conference paper, research poster design, how to network and deal with social anxiety at conferences, through to being a conference chair.
- **PhD Transitions** – to support you as you move from one stage to another in your PhD. It also covers transitions in how you approach your research, digging deeper into ethics and integrity, what is trusted research, research planning for the first year, discussing how your relationship with your supervisor changes during your PhD, and finally 7 Steps to PhD completion.

How do we run our sessions?

We run an online programme (RDO) with sessions of support and training throughout the year including evenings, weekends and vacation periods; so hopefully you will find an event which suits your timing. Our sessions are coaching, and development focused. We do share knowledge, but we aim to help you find the answers for yourselves. The sessions are interactive, and you are fully in charge of your own learning and development. We hold all our online events on our [RDO Teams channel](#), where we also publicise any research related events that we hear about.

How do you book a workshop?

Doctoral students (PhD, EngD, Professional Doctorate, EdD, PhD by publication) or Masters by Research (MRes, MPhil) can book via [Warwick SkillsForge](#). Participants that have booked via SkillsForge will receive a Microsoft Teams booking link 24hrs before the session (but we encourage you to save the event in your own calendar as reminder). All online sessions are run on Microsoft Teams.

Who are we?

Researcher Development is offered by a team who have experienced the highs and lows of research, are active researchers or lecturers or both; and most importantly, skilled facilitators. We are Michele, Kate, Frane, Luana, Anna and Saadia. You can meet the team [here](#).

RESEARCHER DEVELOPMENT – SUMMER TERM 2024

Day	Date	Time	Session	Booking Link
Mon	10/06/2024	10.30-12.00	Conferences: making the most of the event	RD24-76
Mon	10/06/2024	13.00-14.30	Research Planning for your First Year	RD24-70
Tue	11/06/2024	11.00-12.30	Writing an Article for Publication	RD24-22
Tue	11/06/2024	13.30-14.30	Trusted Research Training	RD24-106
Tue	11/06/2024	15.00-16.30	Deconstructing Job Adverts	RD24-110
Wed	12/06/2024	14.00-15.30	Marketing your Skills - CV Building	RD24-111
Thu	13/06/2024	13.00-14.00	Using SkillsForge for your Professional Development	RD24.47
Thu	13/06/2024	18.00-19.30	Research Poster Design	RD24-54
Mon	17/06/2024	10.30-12.00	Presenting your Research	RD24-65
Mon	17/06/2024	12.30-14.00	Making your Thesis Easier to Read for your Examiner	RD24-73
Mon	17/06/2024	14.30-16.00	Increasing your Self-Confidence	RD24-62
Tue	18/06/2024	11.00-12.30	What Role do You Want? Searching for a Career that is Best for <i>You</i>	RD24-95
Tue	18/06/2024	14.00-15.30	What do Employers Want? Selling PhD to Employers Outside Academia	RD24-97
Wed	19/06/2024	10.00-11.30	Writing and Giving Conference Papers	RD24-20
Wed	19/06/2024	14.00-15.30	Networking with Employers During your PhD	RD24-108
Thu	20/06/2024	11.00-12.30	Preparing for your Upgrade	RD24-52
Fri	21/06/2024	11:00-12:30	Dealing with Rejection in Academia	RD24-109
Mon	24/06/2024	11.00-12.30	PhD Middle years – Preparing for the next 18 months	RD24-67
Mon	24/06/2024	13.00-14.30	Dealing with Social Anxiety (particularly in conference season)	RD24-103
Mon	24/06/2024	15.00-16.30	Problem-Solving Practical Worries and Challenges	RD24-105
Tue	25/06/2024	11.00-12.30	Supervisor & PGRs: Building Successful Practice	RD24-41
Tue	25/06/2024	13.30-15.00	Developing your LinkedIn Profile	RD24-112
Wed	26/06/2024	10.00-11.30	Writing Proposals and Abstracts	RD24-19
Wed	26/06/2024	13.00-14.30	Academic Interviews - Making an Impact	RD24-99
Sat	29/06/2024	10.30-12.00	Creating a Networking Strategy for Conferences and Events	RD24-102
Mon	01/07/2024	10.30-12.00	Preparing for your Viva	RD24-69
Mon	01/07/2024	14.00-15.30	PhD in a 2nd Language: Conferences & Networking	RD24-34
Tue	02/07/2024	11.00-12.30	Develop your Career Strategy to Get the Job you Want	RD24-96
Tue	02/07/2024	12.30-14.00	What can you do with your Research Degree?	RD24-100
Tue	02/07/2024	14.00-15.30	Research Ethics & Integrity	RD24-75
Wed	03/07/2024	13.00-14.30	Being a Conference Chair	RD24-104
Wed	03/07/2024	15.00-16.30	Finding Research Funding	RD24-113
Thu	04/07/2024	11.00-12.30	Goal Setting	RD24-74
Mon	08/07/2024	11.00-12.30	Using Storytelling to Communicate your Research	RD24-64
Tue	09/07/2024	11.00-12.30	7 Steps to PhD Completion	RD24-107
Tue	09/07/2024	13.00-14.30	Preparing for Leadership - Building teams and producing results	RD24-98
Wed	10/07/2024	13.00-14.30	Research Grant Applications	RD24-101
Thu	11/07/2024	11.00-12.30	Research Planning for your First Year	RD24-72
Thu	11/07/2024	13.00-14.30	PhD in a 2nd Language: Presenting with Confidence	RD24-35

NSC Planning your Career Path

Using SkillsForge for your Professional Development

Are you uncertain if you are using SkillsForge to its full capability? Did you know that you can use it for working on your professional development and looking at what skills/abilities you have, and those that you would like to develop? Do you know about the reporting & recording structure that you can utilise to keep an effective record of your professional development including sessions that you attend externally? Explore in this 60-minute session the full functionality of Skills Forge, how to find information and how to focus on the development you want at the right time.

What Role do You Want? Searching for a Career that is Best for You

When we begin searching for a career (in or outside of academia), we can easily fall into a whirlwind of doubts and expectations with the many job adverts, career possibilities, and inputs from colleagues, friends and family. Internal and external pressures begin to pile up and we may forget to actively search for a career that serves ourselves. In this workshop we will explore what are the motivations, the values, and the skills you have that may help propel your search for a career that is right for you. If you can identify what it is that drives you, what you value in terms of your career, then you can create a career development plan that will help you to achieve your goals.

Develop your Career Strategy to Get the Job you Want

Your PhD is nearly finished and now is time to focus on those last few moves to get the role that you want. Treat your career strategy the same way as you treated your research degree. We will consider: What resources do you have (prepare for action); What do you want (focus on your needs/ wants); Research Stage (review the options available to you/that you can create); Sell to stakeholders (market yourself to your future employer). This strategy development workshop will take you through the planning stages of getting your career on path and finding the role you want.

What do Employers Want? Selling your PhD to Future Employers Outside of Academia

Do you know what potential employers like best about people with a PhD? Do you know what they think we are weak in? This session reports back on information sought from employers about our strengths and weaknesses. We take this information and compare it to what we have done and gained during our PhD and examine how we can talk about our PhD in a language that employers out of academia understand better.

Networking with Employers during your PhD

Searching for employment opportunities does not have to begin towards the end of your PhD. Effective networking with recruiters in your chosen career path can be completed much earlier, which can get you ahead of the competition! In this session, our colleague Dr Chris Thompson will speak about the different types of networking, identifying relevant employers, networking etiquette, and how networking can lead to post-PhD employment. Chris will be sharing real-life examples of networking success and provide a framework to get you started with your own networking.

Deconstructing Job Adverts

What do they actually want? Sometimes looking at job adverts, person specification and role description are more confusing than enlightening. Does your PhD or your journey as a researcher meet the requirements of what they are looking for? This session will work through adverts including those that you bring with you to demystify and clarify what it is they actually want. This session will be delivered by our colleague Alexandra Petre, Senior Teaching Fellow at WMG.

Preparing for Leadership - Building teams and producing results

How can we think about how we lead? Is there one way of leading more appropriate to our circumstances than another? In this session we will look at situational leadership examples of where we can lead according to the situation. But also we will question whether we actually do change our leadership model, or do we default back to one method because it has worked for us in the past? We will examine the implications of each model, what it means for us as a leader or us as a team member. By reflecting upon how we or others lead, we can question whether or how each method produces results. A timely reflective and planning session for those moving into new roles or roles with more leadership requirements. It is best suited to those in later stages of their PhD or with employment experience to reflect upon.

Academic Interviews - Making an Impact

Interviews are a chance to demonstrate our success in our research career so far and our potential to reach greater heights. Or they can reduce us to nervous individuals who've lost the capability to speak (yes that has happened to us). This session will focus on how to prepare for our interviews, going in with a positive mind set and giving well executed answers to questions. The second part of this workshop will focus on what questions we would be likely to receive in academic interviews.

Dealing with Rejection in Academia*

Whether it is a manuscript submission, funding proposals or job applications, rejection is commonplace in academic circles. In this session, our colleague Dr Chris Thompson will discuss different types of rejection, why rejection occurs, the normality of rejection in academia, and ways to minimise the chances of rejection in future endeavours. Chris will also discuss personal experiences of rejection inside and outside of academia, and how they developed greater resilience and efficiency. By the end of this session, you will have a greater understanding of the context behind rejection in academia, and further awareness of coping mechanisms when encountering rejection.

What can You do with your Research Degree? Identifying Achievements & Testing Assumptions

What assumptions are you making about your career choices? Do you think that you are only eligible to follow a particular route because of the Research Degree that you have done? Do you think that employers outside of academia will make assumptions about your abilities and skill set? Do you think those assumptions will be correct? Understanding what limiting factors we may be placing on ourselves and on others will allow us to unlock more potential in ourselves and the future range of our potential employers. But more, we need to recognise all of what we have achieved during our research degree and how every aspect of it can be valuable to different employers.

Marketing your Skills - CV Building

Our CV or job application is often our first contact between us and the role that we want; so getting it right and learning how to market our skills so we can show we are suited for the role we are applying for is crucial. Delivered by our colleague Ellie Wetherhill from the Career's Team, this workshop will cover the essentials that employers want from PhDs, in both academic and commercial sectors, and how to phrase (and sell) this on your CV.

Developing your LinkedIn Profile

LinkedIn is currently one of the world's most popular and largest professional networks on the internet. Learning how to create a profile that will showcase your research and/or inform potential employers the kind of professional roles you wish to pursue is crucial when planning a career (for inside or outside of academia). So, come join this session and get tips and insights from our colleague Ian Scrase from the Career's Team on how to make the platform work for you.

Finding Research Funding

A fantastic opportunity to hear from the Research & Impact Services team to solve that challenge of 'how to find funding'. The session will cover hints and tips on places to secure funding that is appropriate for your discipline and then how to avoid the common mistakes when bid writing.

Writing Proposals and Abstracts

A workshop that presents the main aspects of writing an abstract, as well as the common errors in conception and use. An abstract is a precise and concise overview of a larger piece of writing and is placed at the beginning of the article, essay or thesis it describes. It is often referred to as "summary" and even more often, it is misused in a variety of contexts to signify types of introductory writing which cannot, in fact, function as abstracts. Abstracts give the essential elements of the finished project rather than going into detail and describes rather than evaluates.

Writing Research Grant applications

Are you nervous about applying for grants, or worried that your skills won't shine through in a covering letter? This workshop will go through how to use evidence to successfully demonstrate strengths and potential; identify tips to be clear and succinct with your research proposal; and discuss common failings in applications.

Advanced Writing: Writing an Article for Publication

Writing your first article for publication can be a daunting step in your academic career. Although every journal is different, this workshop will look at what you need to do to prepare and submit an article to a journal.

Conference Season

Conferences: Making the Most of the Event

No matter what stage in your PhD you're in. Whether you are attending or presenting at your first conference it is worthwhile planning a strategy to make the most of the event. We will explore how to network, what to expect, and the differences between how it works in online and in person events.

Research Poster Design

A good poster allows us to communicate our research quickly and clearly. A poor poster will put off our intended audience. So how do we make our poster clear, impactful AND tell everyone what we know? To start we will evaluate a series of posters in order to decide what works which of them are clear, engage us with their research and memorable. We will also examine two major design styles to see what will work for us and our research. We will look at further techniques for poster design and presentation and discuss how to tailor this to your research area. PowerPoint is one of the simpler methods of Poster design and is therefore the package that we will be suggesting you use.

Writing and Giving Conference Papers

Are you presenting at an upcoming conference but unsure how to condense your research into a 20-minute paper? If so, this workshop is for you. We will focus on structure and signposting, and explore the challenges involved in writing for speech.

Using Storytelling to Communicate your Research

This workshop teaches various concepts of storytelling to make your research more engaging. Whether writing your final chapters or preparing for a conference, skilful storytelling has widespread applicability throughout our lives. This workshop provides: Concepts of Storytelling that you can use as a tool to structure the delivery of your research; an opportunity to discuss the layout of your research as a group and to find ways to improve upon it; a method of structuring your research, the Storyboard, which you can use in the workshop to work on your current project.

Presenting your Research

Conference presentation, upgrade, seminar? Join us to learn how to design and structure your presentations to get maximum impact. Whether you are presenting online or in person we will discuss how you can write, prepare and deliver a presentation that leaves your audience feeling informed and engaged with your research.

Creating a Networking Strategy for Conferences and Events

Our networks are essential to our professional career. Whether you love or hate networking, we all have to do it, otherwise how do we meet people who are interested in our research? This session will help you build a strategy to support you in connecting with others and create a pitch to use when networking in conferences and events. It will start with some basic guidance on how to make networking work for you in person; then it will look at how you can apply that knowledge to the online networking experience.

Dealing with Social Anxiety (Particularly in Conference Season)*

Many postgraduate students report experiences of social anxiety, especially since the Covid pandemic and social distancing experiences. In addition, technologies although helping us to feel more connected and closer together are also taking away our social skills. Subsequently, social anxiety can make us feel distressed, overwhelmed, and feel unable to cope with social situations. In this workshop, we aim to explain social anxiety and how to overcome it through CBT evidence-based strategies. By the end of this workshop, you will be able to recognise what social anxiety is, and what you can do to manage your own worries and doubts around social situations.

Being a Conference Chair

Have you ever wondered about becoming a chair in a conference? Do you know what tasks and responsibilities are involved in being a chairperson? Being a chair is an important task and contributes a lot to the success of a session and a conference. It is also an interesting way of participating in a conference, as you have the chance to actively connect with people and contribute to the success of the event. This session will be delivered by the experienced colleague Dr James Burford, Assistant Professor in Global Education and International Development at The University of Warwick. He will share his expertise and explore what being a conference chair is all about.

PhD in a 2nd Language: Conferences & Networking

Planning for conferences and networking in another language may seem overwhelming at times. Join us in this session to discuss how to make networking work for you in conferences, in Face-to-Face situations, and how you can apply that knowledge to the online networking and conferencing experience.

PhD in a 2nd Language: Presenting with Confidence

Presenting in another language can sometimes makes us feel under extra pressure. Do you have a conference presentation, an upgrade, or a seminar coming up? Join us to learn how to face your presentations and get maximum impact. Whether you are presenting online or in person we will discuss how you can write, prepare and deliver a presentation in another language with confidence.

PhD Transitions

Preparing for your Upgrade

Many of us are asked to go through an upgrade process after our first year. This takes us from MPhil to PhD study process. It allows us and colleagues to reflect on the previous year, research knowledge gained, and plans for the next stages. The session will inform you of the University's criteria for a successful upgrade process and help prepare you for it. The facilitators will share their own experiences of passing upgrade process and provide you with particular tips and advices that will be useful for you to understand what your need to do and how to successfully pass your own upgrade.

Preparing for your Viva

Join us to learn how to prepare for your viva, understand the types of questions you might be asked and where to get the details for examination logistics at the University of Warwick. The session will also provide you with the opportunity to share your concerns, ask questions and practise answering potential viva questions.

Research Planning for Your First Year

If you want to get your PhD, you need to know how you are going to get there. Join us for a mapping session and start to answer the following questions: What is your question? What are you trying to find out? What will your contribution be? How and why?

PhD Middle Years – Charting and Preparing for the Next 18 Months

So you've managed year one – what do you need to think about for the next year. The workshop will enable you to establish where you are in the doctoral process, what your gains have been in year one and identify practical steps to chart a successful course through the next 12-18 months. We will identify the 7 habits for success and by the end of the workshop you will have set your own individual plan for the year ahead.

Making your Thesis Easier to Read for Your Examiner

A practical session introducing the concept of thesis mapping and signposting. Learn how to ensure your examiners understand what you planned, what you did and what you found as a result of conducting your research. By the end of the session, you will have created a thesis map that will guide you to write your thesis and your examiners to read your thesis more easily.

Research Ethics & Integrity

Are you clear what is meant by ethics? By integrity? Are you sure when they should be applied to your research practice? Sometimes the answer is not as clear cut as we would like so it is worth having the discussions early in your research career. Using real life case studies we examine what we mean by integrity, what we mean by ethics making sure that we are following best research practice.

Trusted Research Training

Delivered by the International Governance team in Research & Impact Services, this training aims to support risk-aware international engagement as part of the Trusted Research campaign. It focuses on key risks related to dual-use research and relevant compliance such as Export Controls and the National Security & Investment Act. It will also discuss how Research & Impact Services can support staff and students to undertake risk-aware international engagement.

Increasing your Self-Confidence*

When you have confidence in yourself, you're more likely to believe in your ability to handle difficult situations and bounce back from setbacks. Building self-confidence may involve acquiring new skills, setting achievable goals, practicing self-compassion, and surrounding yourself with supportive people. Developing self-confidence and self-esteem can also have a positive impact on your career. When you have faith in yourself and your abilities, you are more likely to take on challenges, express your opinions in meetings, and pursue new opportunities. This can result in career advancement and success. While building self-confidence requires time and effort, with practice and patience, you can cultivate a strong sense of self-assurance that will benefit you in your professional life. In this session, we will differentiate between self-esteem and self-confidence, identify the characteristics of low self-esteem/confidence, and provide practical advice and strategies for boosting your levels of self-esteem and confidence.

Goal Setting

Are you procrastinating, getting distracted, or perhaps obsessing over the standard of your work? Did you realise that you could be sabotaging your own success? From procrastination to perfectionism, this workshop explores the many forms of self-sabotage and offers practical goal setting strategies to help you be more productive and achieve what you want.

Supervisor & PGRs: Building Successful Practice

Your supervisor can be the most valuable resource you have during your PhD. A mentor and advisor that helps to manage your project and keep you on track, and a sounding board for your new ideas and thoughts. The list could go on... But key to the success is knowing and understanding how to manage this relationship successfully. The session will cover the responsibilities of both the supervisor and the PGR; it will also look at best practices, hints and tips.

Problem-Solving Practical Worries and Challenges*

Most people are using problem-solving skills on the daily basis, no matter whether they are trying to solve a technical problem, or scientific puzzle, navigate barriers on their PhD journey, or they just experience a range of practical worries in personal life. But how effective are you at tackling your practical worries and challenges in your life? In this workshop, you will learn what practical worry is, why people avoid doing tasks and engage in procrastination, what problem-solving strategies exist for overcoming your challenges, and how you can use problem-solving strategy to understand your problem, find a solution and create an action plan for tackling it. Finally, you will be learning the importance of reflection and learning from your problem-solving attempts, which are invaluable for future problem-solving. By the end of this workshop, you will be provided with practical strategies, and resources, which will enable you to take proactively problem solve your practical worries and challenges. There will be no need to disclose private or confidential information; we will just be discussing a practice which you can apply in your own time.

7 Steps to PhD Completion

What are the key characteristics of successful PhDs? A discussion session identifying some of the best practices; identifying characteristics and hints. We will set goals, plan some time away from our research, and set milestones and targets for the year.

*** You can book on a PhD Wellbeing session without it appearing on your Skills Forge Record. You would not receive SF credits for your attendance but may give you the privacy if you would prefer it. If that is the case, please book via this form: [expression of interest form \(warwick.ac.uk\)](#)**