RESEARCHER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Welcome to our Autumn Term 2024!

Before you explore what our sessions are all about, here is some information about 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.

Success encompasses more than just research achievements; it also includes the overall fulfilment and growth of an individual. For this, we've designed our sessions around six main 'pillars' of support:

- ➢ Accelerator Series
- ➢ Research Practices & Methodologies
- ➢ Writing Support
- ➢ PhD in a 2nd Language Series
- ➢ PhD Essentials, Productivity and Wellbeing Sessions
- ➢ Planning your Career Path (summer term)

How do we run our sessions?

We run a mostly online programme (RDO) with some in-person 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 a 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. For on campus sessions, participants will receive a reminder with location 48hrs before.

*If the session you wish to attend is fully booked, please add your name to the **waiting list**. We will repeat sessions and you will be automatically allocated a spot and guaranteed a place when we next offer them.

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. 😊

Please scroll down to see our full schedule with links that direct you straight into booking on SkillsForge or continue exploring this document containing all the descriptors of the workshops we offer.

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Warwick Researcher Development

Week	Date	Time	Session	Booking Link
Welcome Week	25/09/2024	13.00-14.00	10 Things I wish I'd known at the Start of my PhD	Book
	26/09/2024	10.00-11.00	10 Things I wish I'd known at the Start of my PhD	Book
	26/09/2024	13.00-14.00	10 Things I wish I'd known at the Start of my PhD	Book
	27/09/2024	11.00-12.00	10 Things I wish I'd known at the Start of my PhD	Book
1	30/09/2024	11.30-13.00	Write More this Week: action planning for the week ahead	Book
	30/09/2024	13.30-15.00	Writing Long Documents: structuring your work, signposting	Book
	30/09/2024	15.30-17.30	Qualitative Research Part 1 – Epistemologies and data collection	Book
	01/10/2024	09.30-11.00	Get your Writing Organised - Stage 1: storyboards	Book
	01/10/2024	11.30-13.00	7 Steps to PhD Completion	Book
	01/10/2024	17.30-19.00	Accelerator Series: Literature Reviews - where to start?	Book
	02/10/2024	13.00-14.00	How to use SkillsForge for your Professional Development	Book
	03/10/2024	13.00-14.30	PhD in a 2nd Language: things to consider	Book
	04/10/2024	09.30-11.00	Paragraphs: the building blocks of your thesis	Book
2	07/10/2024	10.00-12.00	Academic Writing: what is it and how to prepare for it	Book
	07/10/2024	13.00-14.00	Writing Tips - Punctuation: an overview	Book
	07/10/2024	15.00-17.00	Quantitative Data Collection and Analysis	Book
	08/10/2024	17.30-19.00	How to Manage Change	Book
	09/10/2024	13.00-14.30	Writing for Social Media	Book
	11/10/2024	09.30-11.00	Writing Sentences: starting strong	Book
	11/10/2024	11.30-13.00	Communication Styles: creating positive working relationships	Book
	12/10/2024	10.30-12.00	Research Poster Design	Book
3	14/10/2024	09.30-11.00	Get prepared, Get organised - starting your PhD	Book
	14/10/2024	11.30-13.00	Active Listening for Interviewing	Book
	14/10/2024	13.30-15.30	Qualitative Research Part 2 – Methodologies and Analysis	Book
	14/10/2024	16.00-17.30	Finding, Reading, and Quoting Research	Book
	15/10/2024	13.00-14.30	Goal Setting	Book
	15/10/2024	17.30-19.30	Advanced Quantitative Data Analysis: Regression, Anova, Manova	Book
	16/10/2024	10.30-12.00	Preparing for your Upgrade	Book
	16/10/2024	13.00-14.30	Qualitative Research Practices: Interviewing and Oral History Methods	Book
	17/10/2024	11.00-12.30	Research Planning for your First Year	Book
	18/10/2024	09.30-11.00	How to Respond to Feedback	Book
	18/10/2024	12.00-13.30	Advanced Writing: How to Edit Effectively	Book
4	21/10/2024	11.00-12.30	Paragraphs: the building blocks of your thesis	Book
	21/10/2024	14.00-15.30	Accelerator Series: Introduction to Project Management	Book
	21/10/2024	16.00-17.30	How to Deal with Stress	Book
	22/10/2024	11.00-12.30	Beating Writer's Block with Creative Writing	Book
	22/10/2024	13.30-14.30	Writing Hypotheses: the conditional, the future perfect, the subjunctive	Book
	23/10/2024	11.00-12.30	Advanced Writing: Writing an Article for Publication	Book
	23/10/2024	13.00-14.30	Fieldwork Abroad: How to plan and what to expect	Book
	23/10/2024	15.00-16.30	How to use SkillsForge for your Professional Development	Warwick
	24/10/2024	12.00-13.30	Dealing with Impostor Syndrome	Book
	25/10/2024	11.30-13.00	Preparing for your Viva	Book

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	Date	Time	Session	
	25/10/2024	13.30-15.00	Representing other research fairly, organising your reading, filling the gap	Book
	26/10/2024	10.30-12.30	Qualitative Research Part 1 – Epistemologies and Data Collection (priority to Part-timers)	Book
5	28/10/2024	14.00-16.00	Graphical Representation of Qualitative and Quantitative Data	Book
	28/10/2024	16.30-18.00	Research Poster Design	Book
	28/10/2024	18.00-19.00	Writing Tips - The Passive Voice: what is it and when should I use it?	Book
	29/10/2024	17.30-19.30	Quantitative Data Collection and Analysis (priority to Part-timers)	Book
	30/10/2024	10.30-12.00	A Beginners Guide to your PhD – IN PERSON/ON CAMPUS	Book
	30/10/2024	13.00-14.30	PhD in a 2nd Language: things to consider – IN PERSON/ON CAMPUS	Book
	30/10/2024	13.00-14.30	Visualising your Research	Book
	30/10/2024	14.30-16.00	Finding your Dream Career	Book
	31/10/2024	13.00-14.30	Preparing for a Job Interview	Book
	02/11/2024	10.30-12.30	Academic Writing: what is it and how to prepare for it (priority to Part-timers)	Book
6	04/11/2024	11.30-13.00	Get your Writing on Track	Book
	04/11/2024	18.00-19.00	Writing Tips - Academic Hedging: advantages and pitfalls	Book
	05/11/2024	09.30-11.00	Accelerator Series: Speed Reading	Book
	05/11/2024	11.30-13.00	Accelerator Series: Note Taking	Book
	06/11/2024	13.00-14.30	PhD in a 2nd Language: Navigating Communication Challenges in English	Book
	07/11/2024	11.00-12.30	A Beginners Guide to your PhD	Book
	09/11/2024	10.30-12.30	Qualitative Research Part 2 – Methodologies and analysis (priority to Part-timers)	Book
7	11/11/2024	14.00-15.30	Emotional Intelligence for Researchers	Book
	11/11/2024	16.00-18.00	Research Methods: Meta Analysis Research - a how to guide	Book
	11/11/2024	18.00-19.30	Writing and Giving Conference Papers	Book
	12/11/2024	09.30-11.00	Get your Writing Organised - Stage 2: signposting & mapping	Book
	12/11/2024	11.30-13.00	Presenting your Research	Book
	12/11/2024	14.00-15.30	Accelerator Series: Supervisor & PGRs - Building Successful Practice	Book
	13/11/2024	10.30-12.00	PhD in a 2nd Language: Editing and Proofreading	Book
	13/11/2024	13.00-14.30	Design for Academics 1	Book
	14/11/2024	12.00-13.30	Tackling Perfectionism	Book
	15/11/2024	11.30-13.00	Part-time PhD - Part time responsibilities: How to juggle work, life & research	Book
	16/11/2024	10.30-12.00	Writing Introductions and Conclusions	Book
8	18/11/2024	11.30-13.00	Get Prepared, Get Organised - starting your PhD	Book
	18/11/2024	14.00-15.30	Working in Research Teams	Book
	19/11/2024	10.30-12.00	Research Planning Part 2 - research aims and objectives	Book
	19/11/2024	13.00-14.30	Accelerator Series: Time Management	Book
	19/11/2024	17.30-19.30	Research Methods: How to Write Up Qualitative Research Findings?	Book
	20/11/2024	10.30-12.00	PhD in a 2nd Language: Conferences & Networking	Book
	20/11/2024	13.00-14.30	Design for Academics 2	Book
	21/11/2024	18.00-19.00	Writing Tips - Focus on Style: How to be more Detailed	Book
	22/11/2024	11.30-13.00	Accelerator Series: Increase your Productivity	Book
	23/11/2024	10.30-12.00	Mixed-Methods Research Design, Data Collection and Analysis	Book

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9	25/11/2024	11.30-13.00	Accelerator Series: Speed Reading	[Book](#)
	25/11/2024	14.00-15.30	Accelerator Series: Literature Reviews - where to start?	[Book](#)
	25/11/2024	16.00-17.30	What Resilience Means for Researchers	[Book](#)
	25/11/2024	18.00-19.30	Advanced Writing: Writing an Article for Publication (priority to Part-timers)	[Book](#)
	26/11/2024	09.30-11.00	Research Impact	[Book](#)
	26/11/2024	11.30-13.00	A (complete beginners) Guide to Data Handling: what is mean, mode, median and range?	[Book](#)
	26/11/2024	14.00-15.30	Research Planning for your First Year	[Book](#)
	27/11/2024	10.30-12.00	PhD in a 2nd Language: Editing and Proofreading	[Book](#)
	27/11/2024	13.00-14.30	Qualitative Research Practices: Interviewing and Oral History Methods	[Book](#)
	28/11/2024	10.30-12.00	Preparing for your Upgrade	[Book](#)
	29/11/2024	11.30-13.00	Using Storytelling to Communicate your Research	[Book](#)
	30/11/2024	10.30-12.00	Writing Proposals and Abstracts	[Book](#)
10	02/12/2024	09.30-11.00	Making your Thesis Easier to Read for your Examiner	[Book](#)
	02/12/2024	11.30-13.00	Preparing for your Viva	[Book](#)
	02/12/2024	14.00-15.30	Reflexivity in Research	[Book](#)
	03/12/2024	12.00-13.30	PhD in a 2nd Language: Presenting in Another Language	[Book](#)
	03/12/2024	18.00-19.00	Writing Tips - Focus on Style: How to be more Concise	[Book](#)
	04/12/2024	15.00-16.30	How to Prevent Burnout During your PhD	[Book](#)
	05/12/2024	10.30-12.00	Accelerator Series: Supervisor & PGRs - Building Successful Practice	[Book](#)
	05/12/2024	14.00-16.00	Research Methods: Involving Experts as Contributors to the Research Process	[Book](#)

Descriptions of sessions follow below.

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Accelerator Series

Designed for early stages of the PhD, 'Accelerator' is a series of sessions which we think is invaluable to getting your research journey off to the best start. There is no need to attend all of them, you can choose which sessions you wish to come to.

Speed Reading

Any research project requires us to absorb a great deal of information, much of it written. Reading at speed helps both read, but also understand text more quickly. However, we must also read academic works critically, understanding and noting key messages, standpoints and the authorial voice. The session covers targeted reading, reading academic work critically, techniques for increasing reading speed and comprehension.

Note Taking

A companion session to our Speed-Reading workshop. We need to read and absorb a great deal of information for our research and especially our Literature Reviews. If you have attended the Speed Reading session you will have increased your reading capacity; but we need decent and effective Note Taking to make sure that we obtain information quickly, noted in a suitable and applicable manner; and where we can find them again.YouTube: Speed reading and note taking - YouTube

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. YouTube: PGR & Supervisor ; building best practice – YouTube

Literature Reviews: where to start?

We all need to write our Literature review but how do we start, what do we really need to cover and how? Get some hint, tips, ideas and your questions answered. YouTube: Literature Review - YouTube

Introduction to Project Management

By the end of the workshop, you should be able to develop more knowledge about what project management tools can be used in your day to day tasks; understand importance of project management skills for your own research project; apply learned knowledge into practice; identify your stakeholders, and understand their needs; manage risks and issues, including changes to scope; review and learn from strengths and weaknesses of your own research project; and, ultimately, self-reflect on your own productivity and effectiveness. YouTube: Project Management – YouTube

Time Management

Do you think that you're procrastinating, avoiding work, struggling to keep multiple projects on track? This session will help you identify what is causing your time management challenges and how to deal with them. Hear and apply some hints and tips that can work for you to come up with an action plan for the next stage.

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Increase your Productivity

How do you fit the diverse demands on your time into your day? In this session you will get tips on how to manage your tasks, find extra time in the day, improve your planning and achieve your objectives. YouTube: [Increasing your productivity – YouTube](#)

Research Practices & Methodologies

Good knowledge of research practices and methodologies is fundamental for your PhD and will be crucial even in your future career. RDO offers a series of sessions to support your understanding of research methods, integrity & ethics. So, whether you are currently deciding which approach to use; want to understand why a researcher has utilised a methodology that you are not familiar with; or even decide why you will NOT be using a particular method or practice, these sessions are for you to explore.

⸻ Research Methods Series ⸻

Quantitative Data Collection and Analysis

This workshop aims to provide you with an overview of a range of methodological and analytical skills, which you can apply in different research contexts. During the workshop, we will cover how the data are described, introduce a range of the most used statistical tests and cover some statistical packages that can be used to analyse these data. YouTube: [Quantitative Research Methods Data Collection and Analysis – YouTube](#)

Advance Quantitative Data Analysis: Regression, Anova, and Manova

Are you struggling with advanced quantitative analysis? In that case, this workshop will remind you of regression, Anova and Manova, and how to apply these statistical tools to your PhD projects appropriately. The distinctions between ANOVA, ANCOVA, MANOVA, and MANCOVA can be challenging. Before one can appreciate the differences, it is helpful to review their similarities, as well as dissimilarities. YouTube: [Advanced Stats Analysis Tools – YouTube](#)

Qualitative Research Part 1 – Epistemologies and data collection

This workshop aims to provide you with an overview of a range of qualitative analytical skills and methodologies, which can be applied in a range of research settings. The workshop will introduce how qualitative data can be collected (surveys, focus groups). In addition, a range of data analysis packages will also be covered. All participants during the session will have an opportunity to analyse a piece of text to apply learned knowledge to practice.

Qualitative Research Part 2 – Methodologies and Analysis

This workshop aims to provide you with an overview of a range of qualitative analytical skills and methodologies, which can be applied in a range of research settings. This session discusses how Qualitative data can analysed using thematic, grounded theory, narrative, interpretative phenomenological, and ethnographic analysis. In addition, a range of data analysis packages will also be covered.

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How to Write Qualitative Research Findings?

Well done! You have completed your data collection and qualitative analysis, and now you are ready to document your findings. Reporting the findings from a qualitative study in an engaging, meaningful, and trustworthy manner can be challenging. This interactive workshop will assist you in understanding the essential components of reporting your results in qualitative research: how to structure your results section effectively, what to include, and the potential challenges and barriers you may encounter during your writing journey. Please note: This course is primarily designed for postgraduate researchers who have completed data collection or are currently in the midst of data collection and analysis. In this workshop, you will gain insights into: The precise purpose of a results section in qualitative research; key elements to incorporate into your results section; Strategies for writing and presenting your results effectively; Helpful tips and tricks to facilitate your progress.

Graphical Representation of Qualitative and Quantitative Data

This session will focus on graphical solutions for both qualitative and quantitative research. We aim to cover what visual solutions are appropriate for quantitative and qualitative data and introduce a range of visual aids for interpreting and presenting these data, such as pathway analysis graphs, Sankey diagrams, and discourse analysis graphs. YouTube: [Graphical solutions for research methods – YouTube](#)

Mixed- Methods Research Design, Data Collection and Analysis

Mixed methods research design is one of the most popular ways to combine qualitative and quantitative research designs with learning from numerical data and participants' experiences. This workshop will introduce you to mixed methods research and different research designs to help you with your projects. In addition, triangulation and integration of data will be covered, which is the most crucial aspect of mixed methods research Find. YouTube: [Mixed Methods – YouTube](#)

Meta Analysis Research: a how to guide

A meta-analysis is a statistical analysis that combines the results of multiple scientific studies. Meta-analyses can be performed when multiple scientific studies are addressing the same research question. This workshop will provide you with an overview of meta-analysis and how to conduct one in your own PhD. We will also cover, the most common methods for conducting a meta-analysis as well as common issues that may be encountered. By the end of the course, you should be able to plan and conduct a meta-analysis of your own to answer a research question in your field of study and interpret the results of meta-analyses published in journal articles.

Involving Experts as Contributors to the Research Process (patient and public involvement in research)

Patient and Public involvement (PPI) in research is increasingly recognized as an essential component of the research process, offering numerous benefits. It ensures that research is ethical, accessible, and relevant. In this introductory interactive workshop, our goal is to provide you with information about what PPI is, why it holds significance, and how the involvement of patients and the public can enhance your research project. You will gain insight into: The role of PPI and its value in the research process; How patients and the public can participate in the research cycle; Clear distinctions between participation, engagement, and involvement; How PPI can also contribute to recruitment, analysis, dissemination, and research implementation; An understanding of common barriers and obstacles associated with PPI.

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—— Further Sessions on Research Practices ——

Active Listening for Interviewing

Interviewing for your research? Being interviewed? Want to make sure that you clearly communicating? The way to improve your listening skills is to practice "active listening". This is where you make a conscious effort to hear not only the words that another person is saying but, more importantly, the complete message being communicated In order to do this you must pay attention to the other person very carefully. Active listening is an important research skill, but also supports you as a team member, leader, teacher and mentor. YouTube: Active Listening for interviewing – YouTube

A (complete beginners) Guide to Data Handling: what is mean, mode, median and range?

Haven't done any maths since you were 16 years old? Did you retire your calculator when you left secondary school? Are you now being asked to do 'stats'? Feeling panicked or worried when your supervisors has asked about measures of central tendency? Come along to this beginners' guide to data handling. This session is for those who haven't opened a maths book in years and now needs a little help or support. We will look at: mean, mode, median and range.

Qualitative Research Practices: Interviewing and Oral History Methods

This workshop will look at in-depth interviewing as a method and its limitations, specificities and difficulties will be discussed. The workshop is designed for researchers who would like to improve their academic skills and introduce specific methods like oral history in their work. The workshop will also provide tips on how to organise a project, preparing and managing interviews, and the ethics and possible risks of using this method.

Reflexivity in Research

Reflective practice, analytical reflection and (particularly) reflexivity, are generally recognised as the core characteristics of research and teaching practice. Reflexivity is a strategy to question our own attitudes, thought processes, values, assumptions, prejudices, and habitual actions, to try to understand our complex roles in relation to others. Reflective practice and reflexivity are therefore a valuable developmental process for any professional or researcher. In this session, we will examine key features of reflection, introduce several models of reflective practice and understand how reflective practice can help you learn and the tools you can use to support reflective learning.

Working in Research Teams

Research funders are more often requesting that research is undertaken by research teams; often allowing for the pooling of diverse knowledge & disciplines, the development of new and early career researchers working alongside more experienced colleagues; and enabling us to be more globalised in perspective and behaviour. Working in research teams session looks at best practice, security & ethics, collaborative practice and respectful research behaviour.

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Writing Support

RDO offers a wide range of writing sessions to support you with your PhD thesis. It doesn't matter the writing stage you are in; we have workshops in our Main RDO sessions and an entire Writing Series with additional Writing Tips that will help you at all phases of thesis writing. We also offer support on how to communicate your research through writing to different audiences (in and out of academia).

— RDO Writing Series —

Academic writing: what is it and how to prepare for it

Is the thought of writing a long piece of academic work daunting? Are you unsure where to start? Then this workshop is for you. You will discuss the purpose and style of academic writing, look at some common errors, and receive some tips. You will also look at an example of a style guide. This workshop has been designed to help you think about and plan your own work.

Writing Sentences: starting strong

As good writing depends on well-written sentences, this workshop will recap the basics of sentence construction. You will look at the parts of a sentence, different types of clauses, and common errors. The workshop will end with the opportunity to write a few sentences and share them with your peers for feedback.

Paragraphs: the building blocks of your thesis

This workshop gives you the opportunity to think about how to write effective paragraphs. In the first part of the workshop, you will look at and discuss examples, particularly in relation to signposting and structure. In the second part, you will be given some time to write a paragraph that explains an aspect of your research, which you will then share with other workshop attendees. If you prefer, you can bring along a paragraph that you have already written. There will then be time to give each other feedback.

Finding, reading, and quoting research

This workshop returns to the basics of research. We will begin by sharing resources and tips for finding sources. We will then practice different types of reading: scanning, skimming and deep reading, and discuss how we can use them to make sure our research is vigorous and accurate. Following that, we will look at three ways of presenting research: quoting, summarising, and paraphrasing.

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Representing other research fairly, organising your reading, filling the gap

Even though we all know that positioning our work in the context of pre-existing research is important, it can also be overwhelming. In this workshop, we will discuss how to make sure that we understand and correctly represent the research that we read. We will discuss how to think about our research as filling a gap and look at some useful words and phrases. We will also share our experience of organising information. One activity in this workshop will ask you to make and discuss a mind map of your reading so far.

Long documents: practical tips for working with long documents, structuring your work, signposting

You might be in the middle of developing the longest piece of writing you've ever written. Theses and articles bring with them their own challenges. This workshop focuses on how to structure long texts. We will also discuss signposting and share practical tips.

Writing Introductions and conclusions

This workshop will begin by looking at what should and should not be included in introductions and conclusions. You will look at some examples and discuss their strengths and weaknesses. You will also be asked to introduce your research to your peers, which will help you decide what needs to be included in an introduction.

How to respond to feedback

Postgraduate work can often leave you feeling confused and isolated. Lots of people want to give you advice, but who are they and how should you respond to their comments? This workshop opens by discussing the benefits of feedback you might receive from a range of people. You will then explore how to understand and use different types of feedback. You will also be asked to reflect on the feedback you have received so far.

Writing Proposals and Abstracts

Throughout your career, you will have to write proposals and abstracts. This workshop will discuss how they are different and explore how to write the best possible proposals and abstracts.

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.

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—— Writing 'Tips' Sessions ——

These are shorter sessions (45-60min) focused on specific writing topics providing information and tips on how to deal with them.

Writing Hypotheses: the conditional, the future perfect, the subjunctive

This session will focus on writing about hypothetical and future situations. It will cover the basics of the conditional, the future perfect, and the subjunctive.

The passive voice: what is it and when should I use it?

This session will explain the basics of the passive voice. It will explore the advantages and disadvantages of using the passive voice in different circumstances.

Punctuation: an overview

Do you get in a muddle with em dashes? Are you not sure where to put your commas? And are you completely baffled by semi-colons? The come to this session to revisit how to use punctuation.

Academic Hedging: advantages and pitfalls

Academic hedging is the term given to the cautious way in which academics often write. This session will explore what academic hedging is, how to use academic hedging in your writing, and when academic hedging should be avoided.

Focus on Style: How to be more Concise

Many people find it hard to write concisely. Their heads are brimming with ideas, and they want to write them all down at once. However, readers can find overly wordy writing confusing and frustrating. This session will look at how we can make our writing more concise.

Focus on Style: How to be more Detailed

Is your writing sparse? Do your readers say that you miss out key details? Then you may need to work on slowing your reading down and explaining each point in more detail. How to do this is the focus of this session.

Focus on Style: How to Sound more Sophisticated

In an ideal world, the reader would only pay attention to the quality of your research. This, however, is not the case. To be taken seriously, you are usually expected to write in a sophisticated, academic manner. This session will give you some hints on how to do this.

Focus on Style: Differences between British & American Writing

Over the course of your academic career, it is likely that you will write for both British and American journals. However, there are some key differences between the two. This session will look at some of the most relevant differences for academic writing.

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— Further Writing Support —

Get your Writing Organised - Stage 1: storyboards

Not sure how your ideas fit together or where they link? Then a storyboard is for you! Whether it is thinking about your argument, your hypothesis, a storyboard is an effective way of building the structure of your writing, your research and your PhD. The session will teach you the skills of storyboarding, with time to start building your own.

Get your Writing Organised - Stage 2: signposting & mapping

Internal signposting to make your thesis easier to read. Our writing needs to be clear and easy for our readers to comprehend, especially when we are thinking of our thesis and our examiners. This session will examine how we can use forward and backward signposting within our chapters and introductions to ensure our examiners can follow our thesis argument. We will map our thought plans so that we can be clear to ourselves or our readers. YouTube: Getting your writing organised – YouTube

Get your Writing on Track

Get your writing on track - how to deal with panic, writers block, procrastination or whatever it is that is stopping you. To recognise what is causing you to put off writing and when you are avoiding writing, is the starting point to get that thesis written. Once we have discussed your writer's blocks, we will look at tips and strategies for dealing with them. A great productive session! YouTube: Get your writing on track - YouTube

Write More this Week

Need to get more writing done? What's causing the blockages? Work with our Research Coach to get more writing into your week.Consider what three things need to be done today and over next 4 days to make the biggest impact on your research, in your research and around your research.

Making your Thesis Easier to Read for your Examiner

A short 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.

Advanced Writing: How to Edit Effectively

You've written a first draft of your chapter or article and now it's time to edit it. If you find yourself confused and unsure about what to do next, this workshop is for you. It will cover the different parts of editing and give you some tips on how to edit effectively. Bring along your work as there will be time to put your editing skills into practice.

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.

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Researcher Development Webpage
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RESEARCHER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
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Warwick Researcher Development

PhD in a 2nd Language Series

Doing a PhD in a second language can be an exciting and stimulating experience. However, sometimes the pressures that come with the research process whilst adapting to a new environment can put extra weight on second language speakers. The 'PhD in a second language' series is designed to support you with many aspects of the process. The sessions are run by a Warwick PhD alumni and lecturer who still occasionally struggles to find the correct English word.

PhD in a 2nd Language: things to consider

Pursuing a PhD can be challenging. Doing it in another language makes it more so. Come to this introductory session to exchange experiences and get tips and hints on things you might wish to consider to cope with the extra pressures you might experience as a second language speaker. We will discuss the vagaries of undertaking research in the UK and how we can support each other in adapting to a new environment. You will leave the session with insights into what kind of support you might need and where to get it.

Navigating Communication Challenges in English

This session provides an opportunity to share the current difficulties that you are facing in academic English, in face to face (online or offline) interactions, and explore ways forward for improving understanding, on both sides. We will challenge some preconceived ideas about 'standard' academic English and develop strategies for better framing our future interactions so that we can get the help that we need to improve and support one another. YouTube: Speaking and hearing difficulties PhD in a second language – YouTube

Presenting in Another Language

Presenting in another language can sometimes make 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 with confidence, that leaves your audience feeling informed and engaged with your research. YouTube: Presenting in a second language – YouTube

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. YouTube: Networking and Conferences PhD in a second language – YouTube

PhD in a 2nd Language: Editing & Proofreading

Tidy up your structure, develop your proof reading and your editing skills. This session will give second language speakers tips to support you in tiding up your writing, focus on how to get a clearer vision for your work and get your message across to your reader.

RESEARCHER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
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Warwick
Researcher
Development

> ## PhD Essentials, Productivity & Wellbeing

Researcher Development involves supporting the individual behind the research process. Being researchers ourselves, we know the intricacies and challenges of PhD life. We believe that a balanced approach to the PhD process allows for more effective, productive (and joyful) ways to lead academic research. From learning the basics on how to prepare for your examinations and communicating research to building emotional intelligence, the sessions that follow have been designed to assist in a wide range of common issues researchers face and can affect academic life.

⎯ PhD Essentials Sesssions ⎯

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? YouTube: Research planning 101 - YouTube

Research Planning 2 – research aims & objectives

This is a follow-on session from Research Planning for your First Year, where we mapped an overview of our research project. This session will allow us to focus on more detail. We will be working on more closely defining our research question; and then identifying and refining achievable aims and objectives.

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 advice 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.

Using SkillsForge for your Professional Development

Are you uncertain if you are using SkillsForge to it's 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.

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Part-time responsibilities: How to juggle work, life & research

If doing a PhD wasn't tough enough, you've chosen to do it around other commitments. It maybe that your research is about your career or role; or it could be that life commitments make it impossible to take 3-4 years to focus on your research entirely. It could be that you've decided to take a couple of years part time and return to full time in a few years time (this is how one of our RD Team completed her PhD). Whatever your reason/s a part time PhD is a juggle and spinning plates. Keeping everything working, looking after yourself and other commitments and keeping up with your research life requires priority setting, time management and clear time away from your research to make breakthroughs. Work with your other part time colleagues to discuss best practice, realistic and workable ideas and how to maintain your wellbeing! Essential.

⸺ Communicating Research ⸺

Using Storytelling to Communicate your Research

This workshop teaches various concepts of storytelling as a means 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 - How to design your presentation for success

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 Positive Working Relationships – Communication Styles

Do you find yourself intimidated when someone asks a question and wants a quick response? Or find it frustrating that someone doesn't answer your question immediately? We all have different ways of working; ways that work naturally for us, and ways that we have learnt in order to fit into the group. But what if we had a better idea of how our colleagues preferred to work, how they prefer to be spoken to, asked questions, or be motivated? What if we had a crib sheet to the different styles that people have of communicating? The DISC style of Leadership Communication is just that; helping you think about your colleagues & team, how you work with individuals in your team, work with your team as a whole, and lead successfully. This session is aimed at those who are working in a research group, leading their first team or wanting to focus on how their research colleagues, including supervisors, prefer to work.

Research Impact

We have all heard the term but what does it actually mean? In this session we will talk through what impact you might be making with your research; consider what questions you need to ask your supervisor about Research Impact and feel more confident about Research Impact more generally. YouTube: Research Impact - YouTube

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RESEARCHER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME AUTUMN TERM 2024

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.

Design for Academics 1

This workshop will introduce you to ideas that can help you think about designing your slides, social media posts, banners, posters, etc. The workshop focuses on some broad and easy issues of fonts, colour and layouts that can improve design. The goal of this workshop is to help the researcher feel confident in designing visuals and assure them that they are entirely competent to create what they need to communicate their work, and already have the tools to do so. No prior knowledge of any design software is needed. This workshop is not a pre requisite for "Design for Academics 2".

Design for Academics 2

This workshop will help you think of applications of design concepts to materials you may need during your academic career, such as posters, conference flyers, etc . The workshop will focus on what design is, acknowledging that this is subjective. It will also demonstrate how software like PowerPoint can be used to manipulate and edit images. The goal of this workshop is to create a space for open discussion about the problems faced in academia, as well as to provide a thoughtful critique. Participants are encouraged to bring to the workshop any work they may have designed, like conference posters, if they would like to discuss improvements or troubleshoot any issues they have come up against.

Writing for Social Media

In today's competitive academic landscape, social media is increasingly being used by researchers to disseminate and publicise their work and to create visible public profiles. It has also become an essential space for academic debate, events and announcements. This workshop will introduce participants to resources that can make navigation of social media easier. It will also discuss search-engine optimisation and time management. The goal is to help the participants confidently use social media platforms and think through which platform may suit them or their career.

—— Career Planning ——

Finding your Dream Career

Are you unsure of what to do after your PhD? Perhaps you don't know how to get started with your career planning journey? In this session, Dr Chris Thompson will speak about some simple ways for you to consider your future options, effectively network with employers, and gain an insight into multiple industries to find the right career pathway for you.

Preparing for Job Interviews

In this session Dr Chris Thompson will cover fundamental aspects of job interview preparation, including company research, anticipation of interview questions, and rehearsing them efficiently and effectively. A personal account of good and bad interview preparation examples will also be shared!

RESEARCHER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
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— Productivity & Wellbeing Sessions —

10 Things I Wish I'd Known at the start of my PhD

Colleagues share the 10 things that they wish they had known at the start of their PhD- get some great tips and avoid their mistakes. Meet current and just qualified PhDs; meet current researchers and facilitators.

A Beginners Guide to your PhD

Most of us only do one PhD in our careers; let's get yours off to the best start. Whether you are new to (British) academia or new to this level of research there are some fundamentals that will help you along the way. Delivered by experienced researchers and Warwick PhD alumni, we will take you through the PhD and what to expect in each stage. A chance to ask questions, plan some network building and get a better idea of what support is available to you at Warwick.

Get Prepared, Get Organised - starting your PhD

A PhD is always about managing complex information from multiple sources; we need to know what to prioritise, identify importance, and know when we reached our milestones. Start the way you mean to carry on – with some clear goal setting. Using the example of your new arrival to your research degree and/ or to Warwick, this practical session will help you identify where you need to start with your planning, who you need to contact and when you will know you have succeeded. Get your PhD off to the best start. YouTube: [Get Prepared Get Organised – YouTube](#)

Beating Writer's Block with Creative Writing

Are you still staring at the blank screen/ blank page? Finding it difficult to focus or know where to start? Sometimes we need to just start writing; writing anything, writing without restriction; writing without the internal voice or critic. Starting each of your writing sessions with some free writing/ creative writing will warm up your 'writers' muscle', and will help you to populate that blank page. Be prepared to think laterally, creatively and have some fun.

Visualising your Research

This workshop will help PGRs think of visualisation methods as a writing aid and a way to switch from writing to "seeing" and "creating" to plan and write for their PhD. This workshop will introduce participants to strategies that can help them visualise, summarise, or express their research using process diagrams, flowcharts, mind maps and timelines. Such visual communication skills can effectively communicate complex research to a general audience and help visualise extensive research projects, academic posters, and other verbo-visual presentations. Visualisation can also be helpful as a mental exercise. Beyond the above idea of visual communication of research, this workshop can explore ways of visualising goals to feel empowered or plan better.

Goal Setting

Are you procrastinating, getting distracted or 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 strategies to help you be more productive. The session will use guided reflective thinking to help you identify your personal self-sabotaging behaviours. It will also consider a range of practical strategies to change those behaviours through individual and small group experiential exercises. YouTube: [Goal Setting Defeating Self Sabotage - YouTube](#)

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Dealing with Impostor Syndrome

Worried that they might find out that you're not as bright and capable as they thought you were? Think that they meant to give someone else the research funding and they sent the email to you incorrectly? You're not alone! Learn to banish your fears so you can enjoy your research with confidence. The session will be mostly experiential with small group discussions and individual reflective activities. YouTube: Impostor syndrome – YouTube

Tackling Perfectionism

Maintaining rigorous personal standards can be advantageous, promoting both academic and personal satisfaction and enhancing our sense of self-efficacy. However, these high standards can also pose challenges by obstructing goal attainment and academic progress. Perfectionism, stemming from anxiety and the fear of falling short of these lofty expectations, may result in avoidance, procrastination, and self-criticism. Students grappling with perfectionism often engage in negative thought patterns, such as anticipating negative outcomes, discounting past accomplishments, and black and white thinking. Effectively managing these self-imposed high standards can alleviate anxiety and better equip individuals to confront challenges. This interactive workshop offers insights into the reasons behind struggles with managing perfectionist tendencies.

What Resilience means for Researchers

Research is challenging, not just in itself but in its impact on our wellbeing as researchers. There are techniques that we can apply to help us recognise our stress and to maintain our wellbeing. Resilience is the capacity to recover quickly from difficulties and is a very important part of maintaining wellbeing and continuing to be productive. Some people are equipped with a natural sense of how to maintain resilience but for others those same skills can be learned. This experiential workshop will give you the opportunity to learn about stress and its effects as well as a range of techniques for maintaining your personal resilience, including where to find help when it is needed. YouTube: Resilience for your PhD - YouTube

Emotional Intelligence for Researchers

Emotional intelligence is a crucial skill which you can use to build a better research team and increase their effectiveness and productivity. It is also is crucial for conflict resolution and managing others. As with any other skill, emotional intelligence can be learned to help you become more emotionally adept, and resilient and manage better any challenges during your PhD. In this workshop, which will be supported by a qualified and licenced low-intensity psychological wellbeing practitioner, you will learn the difference between self-esteem and self-confidence, and the 5 facets of emotional intelligence will be identified. We will also mention the importance of your core values and help you to identify your own core values (beliefs). The workshop will also introduce you to the Power of affirmation. By the end of this session, you will be able to understand what emotional intelligence is, identify your core values and understand how to become more emotionally resilient and intelligent.

How to Prevent Burnout During your PhD

Burnout is often defined as exhaustion (emotional, physical, and psychological) resulting from exposure to specific stressors or situations where demand exceeds available resources. To address burnout, it's crucial to learn how to recognize its signs, prevent it, and effectively manage it, as unchecked burnout can significantly affect motivation, productivity, and effectiveness on your PhD and research journey. In this interactive session, we will provide you with practical strategies and insights to maintain well-being and academic success. You will learn to identify early signs of burnout, manage stress effectively, and establish healthy work-life boundaries.

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How to Manage Change

Our lives are changing so rapidly and sometimes we struggle to keep up. This workshop will help you gain perspective and make the changes that are needed and that suit you in your research lives, home lives and careers. We need to make the changes in a way that we can deal with. A session to help you regain focus and plan for managing the changes you need (or want) to do. YouTube: Managing Change – YouTube

How to Deal with Stress

Pursuing a doctoral degree whilst juggling research, teaching and learning can be quite a challenging and stressful experience. High levels of stress can create severe difficulties in normal functioning, which subsequently can negatively impact your physical, mental, social and academic life. In this workshop, which will be supported by a qualified and licenced low-intensity psychological wellbeing practitioner, you will learn how to develop your stress management skills in understanding what stress is, how to recognise symptoms of stress and learn strategies for boosting your capacity for handling and recovering from the impact of daily stress. Subsequently, you will be able to apply learnt knowledge to your day-to-day life during your PhD, as well as in the future. By the end of this workshop, you will be able to gain insight into how stress works, the importance of keeping stress levels in check, and what techniques you can use to combat stress during your degree, which will help you to formulate your short- and long-term stress management plan of how to cope with you stress, based on your specific research environment and your own individual needs.

Note: 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)

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