Supervisors & the Researcher Development Programme

What is the RD and how does it benefit my Postgraduate researcher?

Researcher Development is just that - the development of the PG researcher. Whether it is the development of academic knowledge, the attributes they need to undertake their PhD or MRes, how to plan and develop for their future career, and sometimes where to start (and how to finish), this is the place to come. 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 use a model of Dynamic Development (Tony Bromley, University of Leeds) which puts your PGR in charge of their learning and development. It supports their curiosity and creativity, works to their strengths and needs and aims always to empower them.

Researchers have very differing needs and requirements and have a varied skill set and the RD has been designed with this in mind. This allows the PGR to access training that suits their needs, whatever the stage of career and development.

When does it run?

The RD has an annual programme which allows the PGR to plan their development over the next 10 months. This includes sessions in vacation time and three summer schools in 2020; one of which is specifically for those who are researching part time.

Quality Assurance?

The workshop programme is supported by a strong pedagogical approach; each session is evaluated and staff annually appraised. Staff include internationally recognised facilitators, Teaching and Learning specialists, published researchers/ involved in current research practise/ supervision. It also includes 4 Warwick PhDs who have been specifically trained and supported to deliver a programme of training which allows for a current Warwick PG perspective.

Public Engagement opportunities?

We have several ways in which PGRs can improve their skills and experience in this area. Firstly we offer training sessions but also opportunities both within and out of Warwick

The Research Harambee (June 17 2020) brings together Postgraduate & Undergraduate Researchers from across the University of Warwick into an interdisciplinary celebration of research. Events have included a Poster competition, Bake your Research, Research in Practise presentations and panel discussions. It is a community led event; designed by students, led by students, for students.

The 3MT (Three Minute Thesis) Competition (June 17 2020) is an international competition with a simple challenge. Can you explain your thesis to an interdisciplinary audience in 3 Minutes?

Plan an event: The PGR can organise their own conference, seminar or meeting. The RD can support them to a maximum of £300 to help deliver the event. (Please note we can only grant one award per academic department.)

But they are already busy...

A research degree is a big commitment but surely it would make sense for them to know how to work more effectively or hear hints and tips from those who have already experienced it? Also in this competitive world we all need to make sure that we grasp every opportunity to have greater choice over our lives and careers. We have a holistic approach and aim to support the researcher, their research environment and their futures.

Is it all workshops?

In addition to face to face workshops we have on line ELearning sessions to support distance learners, part timers or those who wish to revisit a subject area. We have a (near) monthly network / drop in – Ask a PhD (Failure Club), where your PGR can meet with current PhDs who are in the later years of their PhD at Warwick.
Feedback?

It is important that every participant completes a session understanding how they may apply their new knowledge to their own situation. We are providing the PGR with a tool, not a solution, so they need to reflect upon how it works for them. At each session there will be an opportunity to provide us with feedback on the training session itself, but they will also be asked to reflect upon the learning process and how they will apply what you have learnt in the session. This reflective practise will support the reflective piece that they have been asked to submit annually to the department.

Who is eligible to attend? Doctoral students (PhD, EngD, Professional Doctorate, EdD, PhD by publication) or a Masters by Research (MRes, MPhil), or a Warwick PGR alumni (graduated in last 3 years)

How do they book? All RD workshops and events are bookable through Warwick Skills Forge.

Start and finish times? All RD workshops start promptly. We ask the PGR that if they have conflicting demands on their time, to prioritise what is most important for them and not to attend an event knowing that they will leave early. It denies another researcher the chance to attend for a full session.

Is there a cancellation policy? The PGR is responsible for booking and cancelling their attendance. We point out that if they fail to attend training without cancelling in good time, it is a waste of resources and denies training opportunities to other researchers. Just let us know as soon as possible.

Where do I find more information or direct my PGR?

RD website  https://warwick.ac.uk/services/dc/research/pgr/

More information for all Doctoral Students can be found on the Doctoral College website

https://warwick.ac.uk/services/dc/

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or would like me to talk to you or your PGRs.

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