

Researcher development workshop catalogue 26/27

We have created this catalogue of workshops to help you plan your development as a researcher. Our programme is mapped to the [Vitae Researcher Development Framework \(RDF\)](#), to help you as researchers plan, prioritise and track your own development. [Find out more about how we use the framework at Swansea](#).

[Check out upcoming workshops and events and book on to relevant sessions](#). If you can't find a booking link for one of the workshops in the catalogue, it means they are taking place in semester two. Booking details for these workshops are released in January each year.

You as a Researcher	
Workshop title	Workshop description
Kickstart Your Development: introduction to the Development Needs Analysis	Starting your research, or thinking about signing up for training, but not quite sure what's right for you? This interactive workshop offers an introduction to the Development Needs Analysis (DNA) process, which is designed to help you reflect on your individual skills and knowledge, identify goals for development, and make a plan to progress with these. We'll explore the structure of the DNA document, look at some examples, and you'll have time to work on your own reflections and start creating a plan, with support if you need it. This workshop is open to all research students – whether you are just starting out, or need some time to reflect on the next stage of your development. About the trainer: Dr Teresa Phipps is Researcher Development Manager at the university, with experience in historical research and supporting researchers in HE and charities.
PGR 101: Getting Started with Research	This workshop is designed to support you in building the knowledge, confidence, and connections needed to thrive in your postgraduate research (PGR) studies. Whether you're just starting out or looking for a new perspective, this session will guide you through the key stages of the PGR journey—from initial milestones to long-term goals. We'll explore what to expect at different phases of your degree, how to make the most of the support available across the university, and how to foster a productive relationship with your supervisors. You'll also have the chance to connect with fellow PGR students from across disciplines, share experiences, ask questions, and reflect on your own path. While the session is primarily aimed at new PGR students, continuing students are also welcome to join and gain new insights into the research journey. About the trainers:

	Dr Teresa Phipps is Researcher Development Manager at the university, with experience in historical research and supporting researchers in HE and charities. Sally Robb is Researcher Development Officer at the university, with 18 years experience in developing programmes to support PGR success.
Staying on track: time management, planning and motivation in research	Completing a research project doesn't just require having the right knowledge and skills to do the research, but also being able to manage yourself, your time, and stay motivated. It's completely normal to have ebbs and flows over the course of your research degree, and in this workshop we'll explore different tips and tools to help you stay on track and make progress. There's no one size fits all approach, so we'll also take time to share experiences and reflect on what works for you. This workshop is ideal if you're at the start of your studies and thinking about how best to use your time, but can also be a good refresh or reset for those at later stages. About the trainer: Dr Teresa Phipps is Researcher Development Manager at the university, with experience in historical research and supporting researchers in HE and charities.
Finishing the thesis and preparing for your viva	This workshop aims to support research students through the final stages of their degree. We begin by considering what is needed to satisfy examiners in both the Thesis and the Viva. Then we will explore the thesis itself: how to present and structure your work and the editing process. Then the Viva – what to expect, how to prepare and some practice in defending your work. It is open to research students at all stages of their candidature (but more appropriate for those with completion in mind) and is a dynamic, interactive course. You will learn: • An understanding of what is being examined in the thesis and viva • How to plan for completion • How to structure and present your completed thesis • How to prepare for the viva, including discussing your research and answering questions. Please note, the session will be split into 2 parts. Most students attend both parts, although you are welcome to join for either session. There will be a break between 11.30 and 12.00. 1. Completing your Research Degree: Part 1. The Thesis 10.00 - 11.30

	2. Completing your Research Degree: Part 2. The Viva 12.00 - 13.30 About the trainer: Dr Kate Exley is an independent consultant in Higher Education development, delivering workshops and projects at more than 70 institutions across the world.
Supervision matters: Making the most of supervisory relationships	The relationship you have with your supervisors is one of the most important aspects of your research degree. This workshop will explore practical ways in which you can help to build effective supervisory relationship, including communication, meetings and feedback. We'll also discuss some case studies and you will be able to ask questions and seek advice on your own experiences. About the trainer: Dr Teresa Phipps is Researcher Development Manager at the university, with experience in historical research and supporting researchers in HE and charities.
Careers in Focus: Career by Design: Creating Opportunities and Building Networks for Researchers	Take a proactive approach to your career by exploring what today's labour market looks like for researchers, what employers value, and how to build the networks that create opportunities. This practical session will show you how to make the most of professional bodies, develop your networking skills, and take ownership of your career journey. A new programme, designed specifically for postgraduate researchers in collaboration with experts in the university's Careers and Employability team, where you can connect with other PGRs, access expert advice, and individual guidance to help plan your career with purpose. About the trainer: The Careers and Employability team have many tools available to help you develop professionally, gaining the skills employers look for, as well as supporting you build confidence and a resilient mindset.
Careers in Focus: Applications, CVs and Interviews for Researchers	Build the skills and confidence to navigate recruitment processes. This practical session will explore academic and non-academic CVs, using AI appropriately in your applications, and how to communicate the value of your research in interviews. A new programme, designed specifically for postgraduate researchers in collaboration with experts in the university's Careers and Employability team, where you can connect with other PGRs, access expert advice, and individual guidance to help plan your career with purpose.

	Career Advice and Guidance - Our confidential and impartial guidance can be particularly useful for PGR students as you plan to move into employment. We can help you explore options, improve applications and plan your next steps. You can book to speak to one of our qualified advisors at any time, but may wish to do so following the workshops to unpack how to apply the learning to your unique circumstances: https://hwb.swansea.ac.uk/careers/about-us/speak-to-an-adviser/ About the trainer: The Careers and Employability team have many tools available to help you develop professionally, gaining the skills employers look for, as well as supporting you build confidence and a resilient mindset.
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Your Research: Knowledge and Practice	
Workshop title	Workshop description
Academic Journals: avoiding predatory publishers	The pressure to publish is ever-present for researchers and academics, and accompanying this has been a rise in 'predatory journals'. These can exploit and target anyone from a first-time author to pay to publish, to seasoned academics to exploit their reputation. They can use small tricks like using similar names or almost identical branding to give an impression of legitimacy. This session will go through the practical ways you can tell the difference, and warning signs to look out for when choosing which journal to submit your hard work to. About the trainer: Senior Library Officers (Education) within the Library Academic Support Team offer professional advice and support to help you develop the skills you need to find, evaluate and use information confidently throughout your studies and beyond.
Academic Journals: getting started with publishing	This session takes you through how the process works, what you should do and when (e.g. publishing open access and needing funding for an APC) Publishing in academic journals is a key element of academia, and increasingly researchers are starting to publish earlier in their careers including chapters or reworked elements of their PhD theses. However, the actual process of submitting can be confusing to the un-initiated. This session aims to walk you through the basic steps from submission to publication, and address some terms first-time authors may be unfamiliar and alarming with such as 'Article Processing Charges' About the trainer: Senior Library Officers (Education) within the Library Academic Support Team offer professional advice and support to help you

	develop the skills you need to find, evaluate and use information confidently throughout your studies and beyond.
Academic Journals: measuring research impact	This session explores the developing methods used in measuring research impact, including bibliometrics - which can include citation rates, publishing rates and institutional collaboration. There are lots of misconceptions and misunderstandings around the methods used to assess research especially quantitative methods like citation rates and the Journal Impact Factor. This session is an introduction and guide to these methods and their appropriate use, and would be useful for those working in a research support capacity, as well as those are engaged in research. About the trainer: Senior Library Officers (Education) within the Library Academic Support Team offer professional advice and support to help you develop the skills you need to find, evaluate and use information confidently throughout your studies and beyond.
Getting to know LaTeX	This workshop is a beginners guide to writing documents in LaTeX using Overleaf. No prior knowledge is needed for this workshop or any other computing language, it will cover the basics of LaTeX About the trainer: The Centre for Academic Success is here to support you in developing your academic study skills and achieve your goals. All our staff are highly qualified, with years of experience and offer friendly, professional advice and support.
Intermediate LaTeX	This intermediate workshop builds on the getting to know Latex workshop by exploring the presentation package in Latex called beamer. We will also cover more complicated packages in latex and look at how to use them. About the trainer: The Centre for Academic Success is here to support you in developing your academic study skills and achieve your goals. All our staff are highly qualified, with years of experience and offer friendly, professional advice and support.
Literature reviews: effective search strategies	A strong research project needs a comprehensive literature review. This session will help you develop an effective search strategy, choose relevant keywords, select appropriate academic databases, and use the 5 essential search tools to find high-quality information. About the trainer: Senior Library Officers (Education) within the Library Academic Support Team offer professional advice and support to help you

	develop the skills you need to find, evaluate and use information confidently throughout your studies and beyond.
Literature reviews: getting started with publishing	This session takes you through how the process works, what you should do and when (e.g. publishing open access and needing funding for an APC) Publishing in academic journals is a key element of academia, and increasingly researchers are starting to publish earlier in their careers including chapters or reworked elements of their PhD theses. However, the actual process of submitting can be confusing to the un-initiated. This session aims to walk you through the basic steps from submission to publication, and address some terms first-time authors may be unfamiliar and alarming with such as 'Article Processing Charges' About the trainer: Senior Library Officers (Education) within the Library Academic Support Team offer professional advice and support to help you develop the skills you need to find, evaluate and use information confidently throughout your studies and beyond.
Literature reviews: keeping up to date	This session looks at tools for discovering new publications relevant to your research, potentially saving you time and effort: database alerts; journal notifications; preprint servers & academic social networks. About the trainer: Senior Library Officers (Education) within the Library Academic Support Team offer professional advice and support to help you develop the skills you need to find, evaluate and use information confidently throughout your studies and beyond.
Literature reviews: using AI tools	This session looks at some of the latest AI tools and how they can be used to supplement more traditional methods of literature searching. About the trainer: Senior Library Officers (Education) within the Library Academic Support Team offer professional advice and support to help you develop the skills you need to find, evaluate and use information confidently throughout your studies and beyond.
Qualitative Research Methods: Introduction to Focus Groups	This session positions focus groups as a useful methodological tool for gathering multiple opinions and reactions where the quality of the data is more important than the quantity. It covers both theoretical and operational elements, and includes how to arrange, facilitate and moderate focus groups, how to get the most out of participants, and how to manage and analyse data. About the trainer: Prof Richard Thomas is the Head of the School of Culture and Communication. He is a media research methods specialist, and his work examines the trends and patterns in the coverage of

	economics, business, finance, politics and conflict across a range of news outlets. He is a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy, a Fellow of the Learned Society of Wales, an experienced PhD examiner, the Global Chair of the Erasmus Mundus Joint Masters Degree Advisory Board, a member of the faculty Leadership team and the University Senate.
Qualitative Research Methods: Inductive thematic analysis: From Data to Themes	Thematic analysis is a way of identifying and interpreting patterns of meaning across qualitative data. In this practical workshop, participants will work with a short data extract to explore familiarisation, initial coding, developing and reviewing themes, and writing an account of their findings. We will also consider how researchers' decisions shape the analysis and what it means to take an inductive approach. The session is suitable for PGRs who are new to thematic analysis or would like more confidence in applying it to their own research; no prior experience is required. Dr Gary Christopher is a Senior Lecturer at Swansea University whose research examines ageing, dementia, identity and emotional wellbeing. He conducts and supervises both quantitative and qualitative research and has extensive experience supporting postgraduate researchers with study design, analysis and research ethics.
Qualitative Research Methods: Collecting data via interviews and surveys	This course gives an introduction to a number of qualitative data gathering techniques, such as individual (semi-) qualitative interviews, focus group discussions and participant observations. We will also explore the analysis of data so that it can be used in your research project. It is open to research students at all stages of candidature and is an interactive course, drawing upon examples across the sciences and the presenter's experiences in conducting qualitative interviews in war-affected areas in Africa and Asia. You will learn: • An understanding of various different qualitative data gathering and analysis techniques • The ability to plan the use of qualitative data gathering and analysis in your own research project The ability to reflect on your role as a researcher in the social world and how this influences the data gathered. About the trainer: Dr Krijn Peters is a rural development sociologist specialised in post-war reconstruction, international development, transport services and technology.
Qualitative Research Methods: Getting to know them, getting to	This session will cover two of the most prevalent qualitative methods used in the social sciences – interviewing and ethnography (participant observation). These tools are presented

know all about them: Interviews and ethnography as research tools.	together as they are frequently used in conjunction in an iterative research process and together can help triangulate findings from each other. Done well, these methods can answer questions simply not attainable by more quantitative methods. Done well, it can answer the “why” questions because you get to ask people why or see them doing something which lets you see the answer to why. Dr Ceri Hughes will lead this session, largely through a discussion of his time spent hanging out with the Wisconsin Green Party (yes there is one, and no [spoiler alert] they haven’t really won much yet) About the trainer: Dr Ceri Hughes is a Senior Lecturer in Journalism in the Department of Media, English and Foundation. Ceri earned his PhD from the School of Journalism and Mass Communication at the University of Madison-Wisconsin. His research interests are broadly in the area of political communication. Recent work has examined communications by and about smaller political parties, the use of religious language in political speech and misinformation. His current work scrutinises claims of balance and neutrality on the BBC political discussion programme <i>Question Time</i>.
Qualitative Research Methods: Nvivo	NVivo is a software package to facilitate the coding of qualitative data. It allows the researcher to classify, arrange and examine links in text-based data, e.g. transcripts of interviews or questionnaires, although it also supports audio and video files. This workshop will provide a basic introduction to Nvivo. The workshop will include: - How to set up an Nvivo project. - Introduction to the Nvivo environment. - Different methods of coding data. - Some simple ways to present the data. About the trainer: Dr Chris Groves is a senior lecturer in the Department of Criminology, Sociology and Social Policy, with a background in sociology and philosophy. He has published over 40 articles and book chapters, together with two books, on topics broadly within the disciplines of science and technology studies and the sociology of environmental risk.
Qualitative Research Methods: Visual Methods	This session introduces multimodal analysis as a useful method for critically examining anything that delivers information via different modes – words, pictures, captions, video and so on. It considers the individual elements of analysis, and the necessary structures to differentiate rigorous analysis from art appreciation. About the trainer:

	Prof Richard Thomas is the Head of the School of Culture and Communication. He is a media research methods specialist, and his work examines the trends and patterns in the coverage of economics, business, finance, politics and conflict across a range of news outlets. He is a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy, a Fellow of the Learned Society of Wales, an experienced PhD examiner, the Global Chair of the Erasmus Mundus Joint Masters Degree Advisory Board, a member of the faculty Leadership team and the University Senate.
Quantitative Research Methods: Data Clinic	Struggling with tricky numbers? Not sure how to write code, or interpret numerical output? The Clinic will be open on the first Monday of every month from November to June. Staff who have experience with statistical procedures and software (SPSS, Mplus, Stata, R, JASP etc.) will offer support with questions or problem you may have. This includes: • Advising you on the most appropriate model for your data • Checking statistical output to ensure interpretation and correctness • Suggesting software for statistical analysis • Supporting with data management, preparation or cleaning • Identifying helpful resources or people to support you with a trickier problem Please have the content you want support with ready and ensure that you are able to share this with a trusted member of staff who will keep these results confidential." About the trainer Dr Emily Lowthian is a Senior Lecturer at Swansea University in the Department of Education and Childhood Studies, School of Social Sciences. Her methodological expertise lies in quantitative methods, specifically structural equation modelling (SEM) and other more advanced techniques (survival analysis, fixed/random effects). She also has experience in using both administrative data (SAIL and UKDA secure lab) and cohort data (e.g., ALPSAC, MCS).
Quantitative research methods: Introduction to data management	Data management and preparation is one of the most important skills to learn when using quantitative data. Component use of data allows for accurate analysis and robust conclusions. Preparing data builds awareness of both the strengths and limitations of the data. Often, these skills are not taught and are assumed, despite often being reported as the most challenging part of data use. This session will support learners to develop their data preparation skills in terms of management and cleaning. This will

	largely be for cross-sectional data, but some helpful resources are provided for longitudinal data where time is involved. You will learn: • How to recode variables • How to label variables • How to understand and work with missing data • How to manipulate data ensuring good practice and awareness • How to merge datasets This will be done on SPSS, but the learning can often transcend softwares and disciplines. About the trainer: Dr Emily Lowthian is a Senior Lecturer at Swansea University in the Department of Education and Childhood Studies, School of Social Sciences. Her methodological expertise lies in quantitative methods, specifically structural equation modelling (SEM) and other more advanced techniques (survival analysis, fixed/random effects). She also has experience in using both administrative data (SAIL and UKDA secure lab) and cohort data (e.g., ALPSAC, MCS).
Quantitative Research Methods: Introduction to SPSS	This practical introductory workshop is designed to equip postgraduate research (PGR) students with the foundational knowledge and confidence to use SPSS for quantitative data analysis. Through a series of hands-on exercises, participants will gain experience in data entry, coding, cleaning, and data management, before progressing to the application of commonly used statistical techniques. The session will cover the selection and use of both parametric and non-parametric tests, with particular emphasis on understanding underlying assumptions, choosing appropriate analyses, and accurately interpreting statistical outputs. No prior experience with SPSS is required, making the session suitable for beginners seeking a practical introduction to quantitative data analysis. About the trainer: Dr Juman Al-Dujaili is a Senior Lecturer in Pharmacy at Swansea University Medical School, with an established international profile in pharmacy practice and health outcomes research and has developed expertise in systematic reviews, meta-analyses, psychometric validation, survey research, and healthcare data analysis.
Quantitative research methods: Survey design, a toolkit	This session will provide an overview of conducting research using surveys – it will cover online surveys more so, but these skills can be adopted for paper surveys. The session will begin with an overview of survey design, distribution, and collection processes. It will then explore the advantages and the disadvantages of various collection methods (e.g., post, online, on the high-street) and the ethical considerations and how we adhere to data

	protection. Then we will get our hands dirty and explore using Qualtrics to make surveys and evaluating how we can design them to sustain engagement for our participants. You will learn: • The process of survey research • Advantages and disadvantages of approaches • Ethical considerations and adhering to data protection • Survey design • Using Qualtrics (survey software) • Methods of distribution • Considerations for analysis About the trainer: Dr Emily Lowthian is a Senior Lecturer at Swansea University in the Department of Education and Childhood Studies, School of Social Sciences. Her methodological expertise lies in quantitative methods, specifically structural equation modelling (SEM) and other more advanced techniques (survival analysis, fixed/random effects). She also has experience in using both administrative data (SAIL and UKDA secure lab) and cohort data (e.g., ALPSAC, MCS).
Reference Management using Endnote	Come to this if you... If you want to save time and prevent errors in your citations and reference list, reference management software can make your academic work easier: it will keep all your references safely organized, store PDFs and format your referencing automatically when you write up. EndNote is the software available on campus - this session will introduce the pros and cons of the online/desktop versions and get you started. At the end of this session... You will understand the key features and benefits of EndNote Desktop and Online. You will be able to use EndNote to collect and organise your references. You will be able to use Endnote within Word to insert formatted references. About the trainer: Senior Library Officers (Education) within the Library Academic Support Team offer professional advice and support to help you develop the skills you need to find, evaluate and use information confidently throughout your studies and beyond.
Working Smarter	Would like recommendations of innovative online tools and apps that will help you work more efficiently Research workflows and communication are being revolutionised by innovative online tools and apps that can

	help with organization, collaboration and productivity (see the recent “Innovations in Scholarly Communications” project, for example). This session will explore some of the tools available with personal recommendations and tips on their use. At the end of this session... You will have explored some of the tools and apps available to save you time and effort in your research: Organising notes and material, Developing ideas, Time management, Collaboration This training will be held via Zoom, you will be sent a Meeting Link prior to the event. About the trainer: Senior Library Officers (Education) within the Library Academic Support Team offer professional advice and support to help you develop the skills you need to find, evaluate and use information confidently throughout your studies and beyond.
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Your Research: Research Management	
Workshop title	Workshop description
Show me the money! An introduction to research funding applications	Show me the money! An introduction to research funding applications It’s never too early to start thinking about research funding! In this session we will explore the UK research funding environment and what you need to know to submit competitive project proposals after your PhD. Bid-writing in industry can be a lucrative career, so this is a great transferable skill to learn! By the end of this session, you will be able to: • Identify funding opportunities available to you • Understand what projects funders want to support • Understand what information is required in a funding proposal and how you should present it • Communicate about your own research in an engaging way to non-experts About the trainer: Dominic Parkes is Research Development Bid Writer at the university with expertise in finding funding for research.

Your Research: Engagement and Impact

Workshop title	Workshop description
Academic Journals: avoiding predatory publishers	The pressure to publish is ever-present for researchers and academics, and accompanying this has been a rise in 'predatory journals'. These can exploit and target anyone from a first-time author to pay to publish, to seasoned academics to exploit their reputation. They can use small tricks like using similar names or almost identical branding to give an impression of legitimacy. This session will go through the practical ways you can tell the difference, and warning signs to look out for when choosing which journal to submit your hard work to. About the trainer: Senior Library Officers (Education) within the Library Academic Support Team offer professional advice and support to help you develop the skills you need to find, evaluate and use information confidently throughout your studies and beyond.
Academic Journals: getting started with publishing	This session takes you through how the process works, what you should do and when (e.g. publishing open access and needing funding for an APC) Publishing in academic journals is a key element of academia, and increasingly researchers are starting to publish earlier in their careers including chapters or reworked elements of their PhD theses. However, the actual process of submitting can be confusing to the un-initiated. This session aims to walk you through the basic steps from submission to publication, and address some terms first-time authors may be unfamiliar and alarming with such as 'Article Processing Charges.' About the trainer: Senior Library Officers (Education) within the Library Academic Support Team offer professional advice and support to help you develop the skills you need to find, evaluate and use information confidently throughout your studies and beyond.
Academic Journals: measuring research impact	This session explores the developing methods used in measuring research impact, including bibliometrics - which can include citation rates, publishing rates and institutional collaboration. There are lots of misconceptions and misunderstandings around the methods used to assess research especially quantitative methods like citation rates and the Journal Impact Factor. This session is an introduction and guide to these methods and their appropriate use, and would be useful for those working in a research support capacity, as well as those are engaged in research. About the trainer: Senior Library Officers (Education) within the Library Academic Support Team offer professional advice and support to help you develop the skills you need to find, evaluate and use information confidently throughout your studies and beyond.

Academic Writing session 1: Becoming a research writer	Kickstart your journey to becoming a confident and effective research writer. Develop good writing habits and explore crucial tools of the trade to transform your writing process while discovering key elements of effective academic style. About the trainer: Steven Lovatt is a tutor in the Centre for Academic Success, as well as being a writer and editor.
Academic Writing Session 2: Abstracts, Introductions and Flow	Hook your readers from the first word. Learn to craft engaging introductions and abstracts that outline your research. Improve structure and flow, explain the unique value of your work, and master the art of information presentation. About the trainer: Steven Lovatt is a tutor in the Centre for Academic Success, as well as being a writer and editor.
Academic Writing Session 3: Writing critically about the literature	Learn to synthesise existing research with your own ideas, situating your work within the broader field. Discover ways to advance your argument and build a confident scholarly voice while crafting literature reviews that demonstrate your knowledge and unique contribution. About the trainer: Steven Lovatt is a tutor in the Centre for Academic Success, as well as being a writer and editor.
Academic Writing Session 4: Writing about research methods	Learn the difference between methodology and methods, and what should be included in the research design chapters of your thesis. You'll be able to write about your own research design process clearly and concisely. About the trainer: Steven Lovatt is a tutor in the Centre for Academic Success, as well as being a writer and editor.
Academic Writing Session 5: Final chapters and editing	In this workshop you'll learn to structure your discussions and conclusions effectively, make and support claims with confidence, and leave a lasting impression on your readers. About the trainer: Steven Lovatt is a tutor in the Centre for Academic Success, as well as being a writer and editor.
Academic Writing Session 6: Editing your thesis.	Well-presented work gets higher grades. This hands-on workshop will teach you all the tips and tricks to hone your editing skills to polish your work to perfection. About the trainer: Steven Lovatt is a tutor in the Centre for Academic Success, as well as being a writer and editor.

Postgraduate Research Weekly Writing Workshops	These weekly research writing workshops, hosted by the Centre for Academic Success, are intended as informal, practical sessions for research postgraduates to write, ask questions, learn and share best practice. In the first 30 minutes of each 90-minute workshop, a CAS tutor will introduce an aspect of good writing practice drawn from high-quality published work. The rest of the session is set aside for discussion and practical advice on how the writing technique can be applied to improve the quality of analysis, evaluation and presentation in the students' own work. The workshops are run on a 'drop-in' basis, with no need for prior booking. In order to derive maximum benefit from them, and as a courtesy to the other students, please ensure that you arrive promptly for the start of each workshop. About the trainer: Steven Lovatt is a tutor in the Centre for Academic Success, as well as being a writer and editor.
Finishing the thesis and preparing for your viva	This workshop aims to support research students through the final stages of their degree. We begin by considering what is needed to satisfy examiners in both the Thesis and the Viva. Then we will explore the thesis itself: how to present and structure your work and the editing process. Then the Viva – what to expect, how to prepare and some practice in defending your work. It is open to research students at all stages of their candidature (but more appropriate for those with completion in mind) and is a dynamic, interactive course. You will learn: • An understanding of what is being examined in the thesis and viva • How to plan for completion • How to structure and present your completed thesis • How to prepare for the viva, including discussing your research and answering questions. Please note, the session will be split into 2 parts. Most students attend both parts, although you are welcome to join for either session. There will be a break between 11.30 and 12.00. 1. Completing your Research Degree: Part 1. The Thesis 10.00 - 11.30 2. Completing your Research Degree: Part 2. The Viva 12.00 - 13.30 About the trainer: Dr Kate Exley is an independent consultant in Higher Education development, delivering workshops and projects at more than 70 institutions across the world.

Communicate with impact and confidence	Do you feel nervous when speaking in front of an audience? Want to enhance your skills in communicating your research for presentations, talks, your viva, or everyday conversations? This workshop, led by public speaking coach and director Charlotte Lewis, is designed to help you overcome these challenges and speak with greater ease and impact. Whether considering how to engagement with users or stakeholders, take part in knowledge exchange activities, industrial or commercial engagement, or simply the most effective way to share key messages of your research – impactful communication is key! Through interactive activities and real-time feedback, you'll gain practical techniques to speak with confidence in a variety of settings. After 90mins you'll swap feelings of doubt and discomfort for confidence and clarity, feeling more empowered to express yourself and seize new opportunities. I know from first-hand experience what it's like to confront speaking nerves and low confidence, and these tools have changed my life for the better. Come ready to participate, bringing any specific speaking scenarios you'd like support with. And if you'd like a little more insight into who I am and how I support people my podcast is 'Speaker S.O.S!' available on most streaming platforms. About the trainer: Charlotte Lewis is a public speaking consultant & coach who helps clients to look, sound & feel more natural when taking on speaking opportunities. Her clients have included presenters, performers & influencers, business owners, entrepreneurs and campaigners. Charlotte also co-hosts the podcast 'Speaker S.O.S!' with presenter & voice-over artist Luke Davies. Charlotte's background is in theatre, having worked as an international director for nearly a decade. After graduating from the prestigious Directing MFA at Birkbeck College London, she has collaborated with The Manchester Royal Exchange, National Theatre Wales, Common Wealth Theatre, The Artichoke Trust, The Southbank Centre, The Wales Millennium Centre, White Horse in Shanghai, Tuida in South Korea & Meta Arts in India and more. More recently she has directed brand films, music videos, and audio installation art featured across community projects based in spaces such as Penrhys and Roath. Charlotte is currently on the UK tour of The Tigerface Show. After suffering from public speaking fears and seeing how it limited her professional and personal opportunities, Charlotte set about creating ways to harness her background in theatre and her experiences as a qualified yoga and breathwork practitioner to overcome her anxiousness. After finding success with these techniques, Charlotte started her own business to share these practices with more people, helping them reach their potential,
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	connect with their voice and expand the opportunities available to them.
Beyond the Thesis: Skills for Impact Programme - Telling the Story of Your Research	Can you explain not only what you research, but why it matters? Every research project has a story. Being able to find and tell that story can help you communicate your research more clearly, connect with different audiences and articulate the wider significance and potential contribution of your work. Join us for this interactive workshop exploring research impact, storytelling and how to communicate complex research in an accessible and engaging way. Put it into practice You'll be introduced to a range of storytelling approaches before creating your own research storyboard to bring your research to life. You'll then receive feedback and refine how you communicate your work.
Beyond the Thesis: Skills for Impact Programme – Giving your Research a Voice in the Senedd	Could your research help shape policy in Wales? How does academic research reach policymakers, and how can you make your research heard? This session will introduce you to the Welsh policy landscape and explore practical ways researchers can engage with the Senedd and communicate their research to policy audiences. Put it into practice Following the session, you will have the opportunity to develop a short policy briefing based on your own research and submit it for expert feedback. No previous policy experience is needed - just bring your research and an interest in exploring where it could make a difference! About the trainer: Dr Sarah Morse is an ESRC-funded Knowledge Exchange Manager in Senedd Cymru / Welsh Parliament, employed by Swansea University. She works with researchers from Wales and beyond to broaden, deepen, and diversify the evidence that's used to inform democratic debate in the Senedd. She also works to improve understanding within the research community of how the Senedd works and how to engage effectively. Prior to joining the Senedd in February 2024, Sarah worked for many years in policy and public affairs.

Beyond the Thesis: Skills for Impact Programme – Bringing Your Research to Life	How could you engage people with your research? Public engagement can help you share your research beyond academia, start conversations with different audiences and create opportunities for people to engage with and contribute to research. This interactive workshop will explore how to turn your research into a meaningful public engagement activity, from identifying your audience and purpose through to designing, delivering and evaluating engagement. Put it into practice You'll develop your own public engagement activity proposal based on your research, considering your audience, purpose, activity, practicalities and how you might evaluate its success. Want to take your idea further? Following the workshop, participants who would like to develop their idea further will be supported, where appropriate and feasible, to explore potential routes towards a real public engagement activity through existing University initiatives and opportunities.
Beyond the Thesis: Skills for Impact Programme - Pitching Your Research: Turning Research into Opportunity	Could you persuade someone to fund, collaborate with, feature or engage with your research? Being able to communicate the value and relevance of your research can help open doors to new opportunities, from funding and collaboration to media, events and external engagement. This interactive workshop will explore what makes an effective research pitch, how to understand what matters to your audience, and how to communicate your research clearly, concisely and persuasively. Put it into practice You'll develop and deliver a two-minute pitch based on your own research, share it with other researchers, receive feedback and identify how you could make your pitch more compelling. Want to take it further? Following the workshop, you'll have the option to take on a Choose Your Pitch Challenge and submit your developed pitch for formative feedback.

	You can then use that feedback to refine a pitch relevant to an opportunity you may genuinely wish to pursue.
How to create and present an effective academic conference style research poster for PGRs	As part of the session we will 1. Consider the purpose of an academic conference style research poster 2. Cover what should be included (and what should not) 3. Critically evaluate example posters 4. Look at different softwares that can be used to make your poster (e.g., powerpoint/ canva) 5. Think about the pros and cons/ do's and definitely don't do's of using AI for different elements of your poster 6. Talk about 'presenting' your poster About the trainer: Dr. Laura Wilkinson is an Associate Professor and School Research Lead for the School of Psychology. She was previously the Faculty EDI Lead for FMHLS and within that role has previously been a PGR Conference Poster Judge. Laura has assessed academic conference style posters as part of her specialist final year module for over ten years and offered guidance sessions in support of this.
PGR Writing Club	This year, we are relaunching the PGR Writing Club as a termly, full-day event, combining dedicated writing time with opportunities to connect and engage with the wider PGR community. Whether you're working towards an upcoming deadline, looking for motivation, or simply enjoy writing alongside others, the PGR Writing Club is designed to help you make meaningful progress. Based in Hyb PGR, Level 3, Faraday Tower, the Writing Club provides a supportive and structured environment to help you achieve your writing goals. We'll start by discussing individual writing goals, followed by focused, distraction-free writing sessions. Regular breaks will allow you to connect with others and share your progress or frustrations. The morning will be dedicated to structured writing time, helping you build momentum and make progress on your work. In the afternoon, you'll have the option to continue writing or take part in a range of informal community activities. Delve into our craft cupboard (or bring along a craft project you're working on), try out some creative writing, enjoy a walk around Singleton Park, or just take time to connect with others. We look forward to welcoming you for a productive and enjoyable day of writing, reflection, and community. About the trainer:

	Dr Teresa Phipps is Researcher Development Manager at the university, with experience in historical research and supporting researchers in HE and charities.
Presenting at conferences	Are you preparing to present your research at a conference and wondering how to make the most of the opportunity? This workshop is designed specifically for postgraduate researchers like you. Whether you're new to academic conferences or looking to sharpen your presentation skills, this session will help you turn your ideas into a compelling plan. Come with questions, uncertainties, or early-stage concepts—and leave with practical strategies, a clearer sense of direction, and the confidence to present your work with impact. About the trainer: Dr Jacky Tyrie is a senior lecturer in Early Childhood Studies and programme director on the MA Childhood Studies. Jacky has worked for 15 years as lecturer and researcher in higher education, with posts in Cardiff Metropolitan University and Swansea University.
3MT competition	Do you think you are a good communicator? Can you explain your thesis convincingly to people outside your field? Why not do it in just three minutes? Three Minute Thesis (3MT) is an international competition which asks you to do just that. 3MT challenges doctoral students to present their research topic to a non-specialist audience in just three minutes, giving them an opportunity to showcase their research and develop essential public engagement skills. Swansea University's 3MT competition opens soon, and the best entries will go through to the Swansea final in June with the winners going on to compete in the national competition. As a 3MT entrant, alongside our regular training, you'll be able to access specific support to help you prepare your presentation. Find out more at our information sessions: Get advice on how to deliver a great presentation, and find out what happens next in the competition, including how to access further training. 3MT is a great opportunity to really focus on your research and makes it stand out, as well as improving your communication skills and we hope to see even more Swansea students taking part this year. About the trainers:

	Dr Teresa Phipps is Researcher Development Manager at the university, with experience in historical research and supporting researchers in HE and charities. Sally Robb is Researcher Development Officer at the university, with 18 years experience in developing programmes to support PGR success.
3MT information session	Do you think you can present your research effectively to a multidisciplinary audience in only three minutes? The Three Minute Thesis (3MT) competition asks you to do just that and is an excellent opportunity to hone your skills in communicating your research. At this information session you can find out more about the competition, with advice on how to deliver a great presentation and convey your research in a way that is accessible to all. We'll also talk through how the competition works and the support available when you take part. You will learn: • An understanding of what the 3MT competition involves and what makes a winning talk • Techniques for communicating your research with a non-specialist audience • Techniques to distill the key points of your research into a three minute presentation. About the trainers: Dr Teresa Phipps is Researcher Development Manager at the university, with experience in historical research and supporting researchers in HE and charities. Sally Robb is Researcher Development Officer at the university, with 18 years experience in developing programmes to support PGR success.

Engaging in Research Communities	
Workshop title	Workshop description
PGR 101: Getting Started with Research	This workshop is designed to support you in building the knowledge, confidence, and connections needed to thrive in your postgraduate research (PGR) studies. Whether you're just starting out or looking for a new perspective, this session will guide you

	through the key stages of the PGR journey—from initial milestones to long-term goals. We'll explore what to expect at different phases of your degree, how to make the most of the support available across the university, and how to foster a productive relationship with your supervisors. You'll also have the chance to connect with fellow PGR students from across disciplines, share experiences, ask questions, and reflect on your own path. While the session is primarily aimed at new PGR students, continuing students are also welcome to join and gain new insights into the research journey. About the trainers: Dr Teresa Phipps is Researcher Development Manager at the university, with experience in historical research and supporting researchers in HE and charities. Sally Robb is Researcher Development Officer at the university, with 18 years experience in developing programmes to support PGR success.
EDI Essentials: A Toolkit for Inclusive Postgraduate Research	How can we create a thriving research environment that includes and values a diversity of approaches, skills and perspective? Why do we need it? How can we benefit from it? In this workshop we will explore the benefits of promoting EDI in research activities, strategy to create a more inclusive research and innovation system and what it means to you when planning and delivering research. Through case studies, we will showcase and discuss opportunities to embed EDI in research projects to produce real change and transform the way we create knowledge and impact on society. About the trainer: Dr Anna Seager is Research Culture Manager at the university, leading work on developing an inclusive, open and responsible research culture at Swansea, with a background in genetics.
Supervision matters: Making the most of supervisory relationships	The relationship you have with your supervisors is one of the most important aspects of your research degree. This workshop will explore practical ways in which you can help to build effective supervisory relationship, including communication, meetings and feedback. We'll also discuss some case studies and you will be able to ask questions and seek advice on your own experiences. About the trainers: Dr Teresa Phipps is Researcher Development Manager at the university, with experience in historical research and supporting researchers in HE and charities.

PGR Writing club	This year, we are relaunching the PGR Writing Club as a termly, full-day event, combining dedicated writing time with opportunities to connect and engage with the wider PGR community. Whether you're working towards an upcoming deadline, looking for motivation, or simply enjoy writing alongside others, the PGR Writing Club is designed to help you make meaningful progress. Based in Hyb PGR, Level 3, Faraday Tower, the Writing Club provides a supportive and structured environment to help you achieve your writing goals. We'll start by discussing individual writing goals, followed by focused, distraction-free writing sessions. Regular breaks will allow you to connect with others and share your progress or frustrations. The morning will be dedicated to structured writing time, helping you build momentum and make progress on your work. In the afternoon, you'll have the option to continue writing or take part in a range of informal community activities. Delve into our craft cupboard (or bring along a craft project you're working on), try out some creative writing, enjoy a walk around Singleton Park, or just take time to connect with others. We look forward to welcoming you for a productive and enjoyable day of writing, reflection, and community. About the trainers: Dr Teresa Phipps is Researcher Development Manager at the university, with experience in historical research and supporting researchers in HE and charities.
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