



# PGR Student Induction Programme

3-4 February 2026

#OUGradSch26

Graduate School



Day 1: Tuesday 3 February 2026

Time	Activity	Who?	Where?
9.00–10.30	<p><b>Registration</b></p> <p>Please arrive at 9am. Present your original documents to register for your degree. Members of the IT team will also be on hand to get you set up. If you will be using your own laptop, bring it to this session.</p> <p><i>Tea, coffee, and pastries will be provided</i></p>	All students	Library Atrium
10.30–11.15	<p><b>Clare Warren, Graduate School Director's welcome and essentials</b></p> <p>Welcome and a talk that will cover vital regulations, take you through the PhD timeline, and talk about where to seek help</p>	All students	Library Theatre
11.15–11.30	<p><b>Research inspiration</b></p> <p>Helen Bowes-Catton and Judith Taylor (Training Lead, Graduate School) gets you talking about what led you to your research topic and the OU</p>	All students	Library Theatre
11.30–11.45	<p><b>Comfort break</b></p>		Library Atrium
11.45–12.15	<p><b>Getting started on your PGR journey – 4 things to bear in mind</b></p> <p>Helen Bowes-Catton (Training Lead, Graduate School) gets you started on your epic quest</p>	All students	Library Atrium
12.15–13.25	<p><b>Lunch</b></p> <p>Lunch vouchers will be provided for you. The site doesn't accept cash, so if your meal costs more than the voucher amount, please use a card to pay the extra.</p>	All students	The Hub
12.55–13.25	<p><b>Tour of campus</b> <i>Join us on an optional tour of campus.</i></p>	All students	Entrance to The Hub
13.25–13.30	<p><b>Group photograph</b></p> <p>A group photograph of all our new starters under the Tree of Learning in the Library entrance</p>	All students	Library (Atrium)

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13.30– 14.15	<p><b>Introduction to Core Training and Professional Academic Communication in English (PACE)</b></p> <p>Judith Taylor (Training Lead, Graduate School) discuss the wide range of training opportunities available to research students</p>	All students	Library Theatre
14.15– 14.45	<p><b>Introduction to PGR Manager</b></p> <p>Get to know the system you will use to manage your student journey. Led by Ellie Milnes-Smith (PGR Student Manager, Graduate School)</p>	All students	Library Theatre
14.45– 15.00	<p><b>Comfort break and admire your research inspiration creations!</b></p>	All students	Library Atrium
15.00– 15.45	<p><b>Introduction to Library Services for PGRs: Research support for you</b></p> <p>Yvette Howley introduces you to the library services</p>	All students	Library Theatre
15.45– 16.30	<p><b>Q&amp;A</b> Existing students</p>	All students	Library Theatre
16.30– 17.00	<p><b>Information for Student Route visa holders</b></p> <p>Roles, responsibilities, and regulations for individuals on an OU-sponsored student route visa. This is also a chance for you to ask Student-Route-visa-related questions.</p>	Student Route visa holders	Library Presentation Room, Ground Floor
16.30– 17.00	<p><b>Information for part-time UK students</b></p> <p>Information about being a part-time PGR, including the OpenLearn platform and mini modules</p>	Part-time UK students	Library Theatre
17.00– 19.00	<p><b>PGR social</b></p> <p>Mingle with existing PGRs over pizza and refreshments</p>	All welcome (optional)	The Hub

Faculty Induction Day – details to be confirmed – to be uploaded in February 2026  
Induction Microsoft Team > Shared > [Induction programmes](#).

# What do I need to bring?

## All students (including OU staff members)

- A laptop/tablet – unless your funder is providing one
- Original Degree certificate(s), including certified translation if not in English or Welsh
- Proof of identity, which must be one of:
  1. Current passport or national identity card
  2. Current UK or EEA driver's license
  3. HM Armed Forces identity card
- Proof of nationality, which must be one of:
  1. Current passport or national identity card
  2. UK birth/adoption certificate
  3. UK Home Office naturalisation/registration certificate

## Non-UK students

- Biometric residence permit (BRP) or current share code
- Proof of English language proficiency as supplied with your application. This will be one of:
  1. IELTS certificate
  2. Degree certificate from a majority English-speaking country
  3. Proof of nationality of a majority English-speaking country
- Student route visa holders: Home office letter confirming your visa  
Student route visa holders: Proof of the date you entered the UK (e.g. boarding pass, flight confirmation)

All documents **MUST** be originals. You will **NOT** be registered for your degree until you have provided all required documentation.

# Where to find Graduate School

The Graduate School is located on the Ground Floor, Betty Boothroyd Library  
Walton Hall, Milton Keynes, MK7 6AA

Phone +44 (0)1908 653806 or x53806 Mon–Fri 9:00–16:30

[Contact us | Graduate School Network](#)

<https://university.open.ac.uk/students/research/content/contact-us>

## Directions to the Open University

- [3D Campus map](#) and [Directions to the campus, parking and accommodation information](#)
- Please use the Library car park – 4 on map, or use the overspill car park opposite Berrill Building (39). Note, the car park opposite Robert Hooke (40) is not available.



