# OU Graduate School

## At-a-glance for Prof Doc students

The Prof Doc Programme Team are your primary source of support, but you’re also a welcome member of the Graduate School with all OU postgraduate research students. More information can be found on the [Graduate School Network](https://www5.open.ac.uk/students/research/) and [PGR Manager](https://doctoral-research-system.open.ac.uk/).

### Training

* Discuss your training needs with supervisors and get guidance from them on what training is most relevant. Attendance at Prof Doc seminars is compulsory but other training, such as that described here, is optional.
* Dr Jude Taylor and Dr Helen Bowes-Catton run the Core Training Programme, and Dr Julia Molinari runs Professional Academic Communication in English: the current programme can be found [here](https://www5.open.ac.uk/students/research/ou/ou/services/training-and-development). Sign up for [sessions on PGR Manager](https://doctoral-research-system.open.ac.uk/do/phd-event-navigation/listing).
* Many sessions are hybrid; they are streamed and recorded in the [Graduate School Network MS Team](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/team/19%3ab8230efeae704e53897048af0da0a349%40thread.tacv2/conversations?groupId=f1a6a408-91d8-496d-8d5c-e153d8710877&tenantId=0e2ed455-96af-4100-bed3-a8e5fd981685).
* Find training resources/videos on [Research skills](https://learn2.open.ac.uk/course/view.php?id=206230).

### Administration and feedback

* The Research Degrees Team administer the student journey and can help you with questions, e.g., about fees and registration: Contact us [research-degrees-office@open.ac.uk](mailto:research-degrees-office@open.ac.uk).
* Staff Fee Waiver Forms can be found on the Graduate School Network Forms & Guidance under ‘S’ [here](https://www5.open.ac.uk/students/research/forms-and-guidance/staff%20fee%20waiver).
* Research Degrees Team also manage the PGR Manager platform; guidance for this can be found [here](https://www5.open.ac.uk/students/research/ou/services/pgr-manager-advice).
* The Graduate School run a liaison group where student reps collaborate on improving the student environment. [More on feedback](https://www5.open.ac.uk/students/research/ou/services/giving-feedback).

### Community and groups

* Our online community space is the [PGR Community Team](https://www5.open.ac.uk/students/research/OU/connecting) with channels for different interests, e.g., Part-time PGRs; do join!
* The Graduate School Community organisers are PhD students Lauren Rose (WELS) and Sahil Mathur (FBL); they can be contacted at [PGR-Community@open.ac.uk](mailto:PGR-Community@open.ac.uk).
* The programme for 24/25 events is [here](https://www5.open.ac.uk/students/research/forms-and-guidance/social); if you are largely off campus look out for hybrid or online events (find out more on PGR Manager).
* There are currently two writing groups:
  + **Online** Jude runs a [PGRs Writing Group in the PGR Community Team](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/channel/19%3ad64670a47e1c44b4b4ee387caf16c3f1%40thread.tacv2/Final%2520year%2520PGRs-%2520Writing%2520up%2520club?groupId=4d44fd6f-1b29-4b4e-91e8-e96f26ec3948&tenantId=0e2ed455-96af-4100-bed3-a8e5fd981685)  on Mondays and Fridays 10:00-17:00; expect tips and jokes but also accountability and discipline. Just turn up.
  + **On-campus** Meets in the Library building on a Tuesday 9:45-16:30; email [Lauren.Rose@open.ac.uk](mailto:Lauren.Rose@open.ac.uk) if interested in joining or just turn up.

### Annual events

We’d love Prof Doc PGRs to be involved in these [events](https://www5.open.ac.uk/students/research/ou/opportunities/competitions).

* **June**: Poster Competition – runs on campus and online.
* **November**: Bake Your Research Competition – runs on campus and online.