UNIVERSITY OF PORTSMOUTH

DOCTORAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME 2026/27

WELCOME

WELCOME TO THE 2026/27 EDITION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF PORTSMOUTH DOCTORAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (DDP) FOR POSTGRADUATE RESEARCHERS (PGRs).

We work with the very best researchers and tutors from across the University to bring you high-quality engaging development opportunities. Our aim is to help you develop the research, professional and transferable skills you need to succeed in your research degree and beyond.

Starting with the Doctoral College Induction, the DDP offers a wide range of training and development options to help you develop your skills and share questions and experiences with other PGRs from across the University. To maximise accessibility, there are in-person sessions in the Doctoral College training room, as well as online and hybrid sessions. Full instructions for joining and completing each session will be sent to you when you register.

The DDP forms part of the wider range of training and development opportunities available to our PGRs. It is extremely important to work with your supervisor to help decide which sessions to sign up for each year. You can find more details about this and other PGR development opportunities on the **Doctoral College Training for PGR Students** MyPort Page.

We wish you the best with your research and look forward to welcoming you to one of our workshops very soon.

Dr Vincent Adams,
Doctoral Development Manager

Emma Cripps,
Researcher Developer

Suzie Richardson
Doctoral College Administrator

Please note

All correspondence regarding the DDP (including reminders, changes to workshops, and information about any required prework) will be sent to your student email address, so you will need to check this regularly.

@DoctoralCollegeUoP

Contact us at ddp@port.ac.uk or 023 9284 2984

GETTING STARTED WITH THE DOCTORAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Every postgraduate researcher (PGR) brings their own unique set of skills and experiences to their studies, so you are free to choose which of the sessions you want to take. There are some mandatory sessions:

- **Introduction to Research and Ethics, Integrity and Governance** must be taken by all PGRs.
- **Compilation Style PhD Thesis** must be taken by any PGR considering submitting their PhD thesis as a sequence of articles rather than the typical monograph.
- **GProf Introduction to Teaching** must be taken by any PGR who will be teaching. This includes leading lectures and seminars, tutoring, supervising, demonstrating, providing study support or marking. PGRs who have no teaching responsibilities planned but who are interested in teaching may also take the course.

All DDP events are described in this brochure. Details of how to book onto an event can be found on page 5. The brochure is organised into development areas which are linked to the skills and knowledge domains of the **Vitae Researcher Development Framework**.

You should aim to carry out at least ten days of development activity each year (five if you are part-time) and this will be discussed with the panel at each of your end of year reviews. All Doctoral College courses count towards this, but any activity which helps you with your research or career is relevant. If in doubt, check with your supervisor to see if they feel the activity can be included. For counting purposes, half a day equals about three hours.

Professional and Distance Learning Online Community (PaDLOC)

For professional doctorate and distance learning students who cannot easily access on-campus or daytime sessions, PaDLOC provides a programme of online training in the evenings. The sessions are a mixture of versions of the regular DDP programme and writing sessions with opportunities to connect with other students. If you are registered as part-time or as a Distance Learner, you will automatically be contacted with the PaDLOC details; if you are full-time but would find this helpful, you can email us at **ddp@port.ac.uk** to request access.

Useful Support Links

For students returning to higher eduction after a gap, those who speak English as a second language, or for anyone who would find further study skills training helpful, the following support is available:

- DDP Academic Skills sessions **(see p8-9)**;
- a wide range of services on the **Learning and Academic Support web page**
- **In-Sessional English**

Planning your training

You should plan training at the appropriate stage for your research, and only some of our courses will be relevant to you. As a guide, the Icon Key on page 4 gives an indication of when sessions might be useful.

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FIVE BY FIVE
COMPETITION
1st PLACE
Amir Hossein Hosonicard

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ICON KEY

You will see these icons against each session in the brochure to suggest when they might be useful to you. You will want to complete some of them in the early stages of your studies and some are better left until later. Talk to your supervisor about which sessions you should do and when. The icons are a guide to get you started, but the nature of your research may suggest a different sequence.

Early Stage

Mid Stage

Late Stage

Any Stage

BOOKING A PLACE

Booking a place

You must book a place in advance using **port.ac.uk/skillsforge**. Unfortunately, it is not possible to make bookings on the day of the event via Skills Forge, but you may email **ddp@port.ac.uk** to see if there is a place available. Some workshops, whether face to face or online, are very popular and places are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. Once you have booked your place, you are expected to attend for the full duration of the workshop. Please arrive or log in on time and stay to the end.

Eligibility

All PGRs, including PhD, Professional Doctorate, MD, PhD by Publication, MPhil and MRes, are eligible to attend our workshops irrespective of funding status or mode of attendance. There are, however, some workshops that are specific to certain programmes and may not be relevant to you.

Waiting lists

If you try to book a place on a workshop that is fully booked, you will be offered the chance to go on a waiting list. If additional places become available, these are allocated in waiting list order and you will be notified via your student email address. Offers expire after 48 hours if not accepted, so it is important to check your student email regularly or forward it to your preferred email address to avoid missing opportunities. We review bookings and endeavour to organise additional sessions for popular workshops. Please note, waiting lists are reset at the end of the academic year.

Cancellations

If you are unable to attend a workshop, please ensure you cancel your booking using the **Skills Forge** system so someone else can take up your place. You should do this as soon as possible. If it is less than 48 hours before the workshop, please email **ddp@port.ac.uk** to let us know. If you do not attend and do not cancel, the event will appear on your record as a No-show.

Non-attendance

If you fail to attend on three occasions without advance notice, we will inform your First Supervisor. If you persistently fail to attend workshops, we reserve the right to suspend future bookings.

Pre-workshop preparation

Some events require you to undertake work in advance. This will usually involve preparing a piece of work (e.g. writing, a short presentation) to share ahead of the workshop or to bring along on the day. Any preparatory work required will be indicated to you when you book. You may also need to bring a laptop to some events. If you don't have access to one, let us know as we have a small number available to borrow.

Changes to workshops

Occasionally we may need to reschedule a workshop (for example, as a result of tutor illness or severe weather). If this happens, we will let you know as soon as possible using your student email address. You will then be given priority booking for the rescheduled date.

Getting the most from online learning

Learning online is a very different experience from learning in person, but there are things you can do to make the most of it. Wifi connections are sometimes a problem but, where possible, please put your camera on and interact with the tutor and other students according to the tutor's wishes. People sometimes have trouble finding the link to a session, so it's a good idea to check in with good time beforehand. Once the session has started, the tutor may not see an email if you ask for the link.

Success and wellbeing

In addition to the sessions in this brochure, don't forget to look through the wealth of support and resources available to you at **https://myport.port.ac.uk/pgr-wellbeing**

Whether related to your research, career or wellbeing, you will find resources to guide you and people who can help. If in doubt, contact us at **doctoral-college@port.ac.uk** and we will point you in the right direction.

Book a place at port.ac.uk/skillsforge

ACADEMIC SKILLS

By the time you complete your thesis, you will be expected to have developed high-level critical reading and writing skills as well as the ability to produce high-quality written documents. These workshops and special interest groups offer a supportive environment in which you can work to develop your academic skills.

Getting started with Microsoft Excel ☆

In this course, you will learn a range of core Microsoft Excel skills that will enable you to work with data, perform calculations, and analyse and visualise data. MS Excel skills will be helpful for your studies and future employment.

Reading, Note-taking and Synthesis ☆

Do you ever feel like there is just too much to read? Do you find yourself diligently wading through texts without being clear how they are going to fit into your own research, or only to find that you won't need them? In this informal group, you will learn how to develop a selective and effective approach to reading, and to managing and synthesising multiple texts. You will need to commit to attending all three meetings and bringing academic texts to the sessions (it is important that you do not read the texts in advance of the session). This relaxed, informal course is aimed at improving efficiency and effectiveness, both saving time and providing techniques which have a direct and positive impact on your planning, structure and writing.

Academic writing group ☆

On this relaxed, informal course, you will receive some teaching on academic writing conventions, alongside a group approach to skills-building: 'The Wisdom of the Crowd'. Therefore, the other students in the group will be able to see and provide feedback on your work. This course addresses the writing of theses and is not suitable for short-term writing such as funding applications which have different criteria. Requirements for the Sessions: you will need to send a sample of your work in advance of the session. It could be a basic plan, just some ideas or notes, or a draft.

Critical reading and writing ☆

Have you ever been asked to be more discursive and less descriptive in your writing? Are you unsure how to demonstrate your own voice without going beyond the literature? If so, then this workshop is for you. Come along to learn strategies to help you engage critically with literature and demonstrate this in your writing.

Introduction to writing the literature review ☆

Whether you are writing for your major review, a journal article, or your dissertation or thesis, this workshop will help you to identify the key components and purposes of a literature review. Using real-life examples, you will explore different structures for the literature review and discuss how to develop a coherent line of argument.

The Basics of Microsoft Word for Your Research Thesis or Dissertation ☆

Understanding the advanced features of Microsoft Word can help you save a lot of time and stress when producing your thesis. This training event will help you understand how to use Word to format long documents including outlines, master pages, styles and headings, indexes and contents, headers and footers, and page breaks and numbering.

Writing retreats

Would you like to make progress with your research? Writing retreats are full or half day events that give you the time, space and a supportive environment in which to work. Whatever stage you are at with your research, writing retreats offer a fantastic opportunity to dedicate time to your research.

Producing an authoritative thesis ☆

This session will explore what we mean by an authoritative style in research writing. We will discuss a range of aspects connected to research writing, such as the different rhetorical moves, argumentation and the affective domains of writing. These sessions are aimed at early to mid-stage PGRs.

Getting started with Microsoft Powerpoint

In this session, we will look at planning a presentation, what you need to include in the presentation, time constraints when delivering, differences between individual and team presentations, the target audience, and ideas for virtual and in-person presentations. We will then go on to look at creating a basic PowerPoint, including adding images and videos, and working with styles and formatting.

Using Artificial Intelligence for Research (for non-AI/Data Science specialists)

In this session, we will explore the practical applications of generative AI tools in academic research gaining insights into how these technologies can enhance our research practices, free up time and increase the quality of our outputs. The session will cover some fundamental AI concepts, the landscape of the available tools, and some approaches and methodologies, all tailored for non-AI specialists. Participants will learn the strengths and weaknesses of different tools and identify suitable AI applications for their own research problems. Through hands-on practice and case studies, we will explore how new AI tools can be effectively integrated into research practices as well as some of the risks and limitations of their use.

Book a place at port.ac.uk/skillsforge

LIBRARY SKILLS

Identifying relevant literature and referencing it correctly is a crucial skill for postgraduate researchers. In these workshops, you'll learn how to find and manage literature effectively, keep up-to-date with ease and cite references accurately.

An introduction to using EndNote Basic and Mendeley to manage your references ☆

Using web-based reference management software can help you to manage your references and cite-while-you-write wherever you are working – a huge advantage when working on something as large as a thesis. In this introductory workshop you will learn about the benefits and limitations of the available tools, and how to make the best use of web-based management software including EndNote Basic and Mendeley.

Effective literature searching for researchers ☆

Do you ever feel like you are drowning in the literature or just don't know where to look? These are common feelings in the early stages of a research degree, but effective literature searching can help you feel in control. This series of workshops organised by discipline will help you to take a thorough and systematic approach to your literature search, employing strategies to help you keep up-to-date with ease.

Referencing and citation skills for your research degree using the latest APA style protocol ☆

Skillful use of referencing and citations can allow you to support your assertions with evidence without interfering with the flow of your writing. Whether you are new to this style of referencing or wish to hone your skills, this workshop will help you to use the latest APA referencing protocol accurately for both in-text citations and your reference list.

Systematic literature reviews in social sciences ☆

There is growing interest in Systematic Literature Reviews (SLRs) in social sciences following their emergence in medical sciences. An increasing number of postgraduate research students prefer SLRs as the starting point of their research journey. This session aims to explain the pros and cons of SLRs for postgraduate research and to give information on the procedures and methodological steps of conducting, synthesizing and writing a SLR.

PERSONAL EFFECTIVENESS

Successful researchers are highly skilled at managing research projects and their time. Our workshops in personal effectiveness will help you make the transition to postgraduate research by developing your ability to manage your research and time effectively.

Making best use of your time

As a postgraduate researcher, you will be juggling your research degree studies with a range of other commitments, while also aiming to maintain a good work-life balance. In this workshop, you will be supported to reflect and share common challenges to effective time and self-management and discuss strategies to help you make the best use of your time.

A view from the far side: tips for managing the lifecycle of a doctorate ☆

We all want to get through a doctorate as smoothly as possible, which involves navigation work at each stage. Using examples from personal experience, as well as drawing upon those of the group, the presenter will discuss the key considerations that present throughout the lifecycle of a doctorate, including managing milestones, time, friends, family and supervisors. The session offers realism about the hurdles that might be faced, as well as practical strategies to help PGRs move past them.

Vocal Communication Techniques

In any job, and in life generally, your voice can be a key factor in the way you are understood and regarded. Whether presenting, teaching, contributing to a meeting or simply talking with colleagues, there are techniques you can use to ensure you speak with clarity and confidence. This will be a small group workshop in which you will be invited to take part in exercises that focus on protecting your voice, vocal dynamics for engaging the listener, storytelling techniques and non-verbal communication. If you are happy to do so, you will deliver a one-minute talk to the group at the end of the session.

Surviving and thriving in academia

This workshop will introduce you to some practical strategies to become more productive and focused in your research. It will also explore how to thrive in academia, through developing good support networks, managing your workload and overcoming impostor syndrome. We will introduce you to the benefits of action learning sets, where you can work with other PGRs on developing solutions to problems that you encounter during your doctoral journey.

Your PhD as a 'hero's journey'

The prototype narrative that underpins all storytelling, from ancient myth and fairytale to modern fantasy or science fiction, can be applied to your postgraduate writing process in order to strengthen its structure, test its arguments and clarify your conclusions. Enjoy a writing workshop that draws on your w films and books to explore ways of improving your own powers of expression, helping to focus your mind on academic objectives, creative aims and a confident completion.

Being a confident postgraduate researcher ☆

This relaxed, informal session explores techniques for developing research confidence. It will look at the things which can impact how confident we feel as researchers, readers, thinkers and writers,

and with verbally presenting research. As a group, we will explore lack of confidence, and techniques and ways of thinking which can help with overcoming it.

Wellbeing Strategies for Challenging Research

Wellbeing strategies for challenging times whilst completing your research! As a postgraduate student you may be juggling your research with teaching students and supporting colleagues. In any of these roles, you may be exposed to sensitive and distressing information which can be challenging, and over time could have an impact on your own health and wellbeing (through no fault of your own- we are not robots!) This training is focused on building on your skills to help support you and your research, including understanding our interactions and distress, finding strategies for managing challenging times, and developing our communication skills to help in challenging situations.

Mentoring Circles

Access to mentoring is an extremely valuable and successful way of receiving support and guidance for professional and career development, at all career stages. 1:1 mentoring can be provided but sometimes mentors can be difficult to identify and/or their capacity to support is limited. In addition, there can often be added value to hearing more than one perspective on an issue or career goal. Mentoring Circles provide a different approach to mentoring. A mentoring circle is a confidential peer-to-peer group mentoring format that enables individuals to discuss their current situations and future aims in a safe space, and to seek guidance, suggestions and potential solutions together as a group. This practical workshop will enable attendees to understand the benefits of this type of mentoring, learn how to facilitate a mentoring circle, and to experience being part of a 'practice' circle.

DOCTORAL PROCESS

There are certain milestones you will need to navigate during your doctoral journey. Through these workshops, we will demystify the research degree process, help you to understand what is required at each milestone, and show you how to prepare yourself for each stage of your research degree.

Preparing for your major review ☆

Many postgraduate researchers approach the major review with trepidation, but this need not be the case. Your major review is a valuable opportunity to discuss your developing research project and gain feedback from experienced researchers. In this workshop, an experienced supervisor and major review assessor will talk you through what to expect and how to prepare yourself effectively for this important milestone.

Planning and writing your thesis ✹

Probably the longest document you will have written, sitting down to write your thesis can be a daunting task. However, with careful preparation you can make this a manageable and (relatively) pain-free process. Whatever stage of your research degree you are in, book a place to learn how to plan your thesis and how taking advantages of opportunities to talk about your research can help you when you need to get down to writing.

Preparing for your doctoral viva voce examination ★

Feeling adequately prepared can help to alleviate any anxieties you might have about this important event in your research degree timeline. Designed for those who are six to nine months away from their viva voce examination, this workshop will help you to understand the purpose, process and possible outcomes. You will also gain practical experience of defending your work using typical viva questions.

Compilation style PhD thesis ☆

Do you want to publish your research during the course of your PhD? Are you interested in an efficient way of incorporating your publications within your thesis? Then you might like to consider writing a compilation style PhD thesis, in which your published peer-reviewed journal articles form the core of the thesis. Come along to this workshop where, alongside PhD supervisors, you can find out more about this different style of PhD thesis.

Annual and Major Review Presentation Workshop ☆

As a Doctoral student, you have to make a presentation at an Annual or Major Review at the end of each year that demonstrates your research progress (Annual Review only for Prof Doc students and not applicable to PhDs by Publication). This small-group workshop is an opportunity to practise your presentation and get feedback from your peers. In addition, much can be learnt from seeing other people present and having the opportunity to ask them questions about their choices. You will prepare a version of your presentation including slideshow (usually about 10 minutes) to deliver during this session. You may still be undecided about certain aspects of it, but prepare as well as you can and we will give feedback to help you finish it. Following a brief reflection on the purpose of the reviews, each delegate will present before taking questions and feedback from the rest of the group.

RESEARCH GOVERNANCE AND ORGANISATION

Research governance is a core skill for all researchers and our DDP workshops will help you to understand what is expected of you as a postgraduate researcher and how to meet your ethical and legal obligations. They will also help you to learn how to organise your research project and keep it running smoothly.

An introduction to research ethics, integrity and governance ☆

Mandatory for all postgraduate research students, this workshop will help you to consider the ethical and legal obligations that come with research, and how to take these into account when designing your projects. Also gain tips and guidance on how to make your way through the ethics review process within and outside the University.

Design and implementation of ethical research involving animals ☆

All postgraduate researchers who plan to conduct research involving animals or that might have an impact on their environment (whether or not the research is covered by the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986) should attend. Discuss how to design ethical animal-based research and meet your legal obligations as a researcher. You will also learn how to navigate the submission process for the University's Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body.

Managing your research data and documents ★

Data management is a core skill for all researchers, not only to ensure you meet legal and ethical obligations, but also to protect yourself against data loss. Good document management can make it much easier to write your dissertation or thesis. Book this session to ensure you are following good practice and know how to plan record-keeping and data management.

Project management for research ☆

A research degree may be the largest and longest project you have undertaken; it will almost definitely be the most uncertain. Good project management can help you successfully manage all aspects of the process. This workshop demonstrates how to apply the key project management principles effectively in a research context and provides the opportunity to problem solve common issues arising in research projects.

Book a place at port.ac.uk/skillsforge

EXPLORING RESEARCH DESIGN

A robust and carefully considered research design is a fundamental part of good research. These workshops will help you understand the philosophical underpinnings of research and kick-start the process of designing your own research project.

Research Questions: Do/Don't ☆

Designing specific and efficient research questions is a critical step in the doctoral journey. They provide a focus and orientation to the thesis and allow us to intentionally express what we would like our original contribution to research to be. We will discuss the Do and Don't of designing research questions, with practical examples and activities.

Researching within your workplace ☆

For postgraduate researchers conducting research in their own workplace, this workshop will provide a forum to discuss the specific issues that arise for practitioner researchers. We will discuss concepts such as positionality and reflexivity. We will consider the implications of researching your own workplace on data collection, research ethics and your own career. It will also help you to plan an effective professional or work-based project that is academically credible and professionally relevant.

Doing research with the NHS ☆

Are you planning on conducting research using NHS patients, data or other NHS resources such as staff time? Then book a place on this workshop run by Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust to learn how to navigate your way through a successful research project in the NHS. You will learn about the governance framework for NHS research and regulatory requirements for working with NHS patients. You will also get tips on how to design your research in a way that is practical and deliverable in the NHS, and who to contact to help you get started.

Getting started with qualitative research ☆

If you are considering using qualitative research methods but aren't sure where to start, this workshop will help demystify the principles and practice of qualitative research. You will explore the assumptions on which qualitative research is based, and find out more about qualitative data collection and analysis.

Principles of research design ☆

All research is underpinned by assumptions about the nature of reality and knowledge. This workshop provides an accessible introduction to the philosophical underpinnings of research. You will work to identify your own assumptions on the nature of reality and knowledge and explore how these relate to your own research questions. You will have the opportunity to receive feedback on your research ideas from fellow PGRs and experienced researchers.

Quantitative research for complete beginners ☆

This workshop has been designed for those who are new to quantitative research and data analysis. Book your space before you start data collection to help you plan your approach to analysis. You will learn about the key concepts in quantitative research, what statistical tests can be used and how SPSS can be used to support your analysis.

Philosophy and qualitative research ☆

Contemporary qualitative researchers recognise that our worldviews help shape what we come to know and discover. The terms ontology and epistemology are often accompanied by a flight response; however, understanding what these terms mean and how they inform the decisions we make which shape the research process is fundamental to carrying out high quality qualitative research. The session on philosophy and qualitative research will provide a broad overview of the different philosophical positions that underpin research and how to approach aligning your research process from ontological and epistemological assumptions through to theoretical perspectives, methodological considerations and the methods used to carry out the research proces.

Experimental Research Design and Analysis ☆

This interactive session introduces doctoral researchers from a range of disciplines to the logic and application of experimental research. The session explores key principles, including manipulation, control and randomisation, and guides participants through the process of designing an experiment, selecting appropriate statistical tests, and interpreting results. Particular focus is given to internal validity, sample size considerations, and real-world relevance. Through group activities and discussion, participants will have the opportunity to apply the concepts to their own work. Attendees are welcome to bring research ideas or thesis projects for feedback. No prior statistical expertise is required—only a clear research question and an interest in experimental methods.

MOVING FORWARD WITH RESEARCH DESIGN AND DATA COLLECTION

Once you have decided on a research question and overall research design, these workshops will help you think carefully about the finer details and consider how you will collect your data to enable you to create a coherent and robust research project.

Ethnography and observation ☆

Are you interested in conducting research that involves observing 'real-world' situations? This workshop will be useful for you if you plan to study people and activities in context. In the first part of the workshop we will discuss ethnography as a research stance, and go through research designs, phases and levels of observation, and how to craft ethnographic methods to meet your research aims. In the second part we will be more hands on: with examples from previous research and from your own projects we will discuss how to select and access participants, when and how to film, how to conduct ethnographic interviews, how to work with texts and documents, and how to identify relevant objects and material aspects of the environment. We will also explore the role of the researcher in ethnographic and observational research, and different solutions for presenting ethnographic data in research reports.

Getting started with survey design ☆

Surveys are much more than a data collection tool; they are a research method in their own right. This workshop will help you understand this common approach to research, clarifying issues relating to sampling, data collection and analysis. Importantly, you will identify the difference between a survey and a questionnaire and find out about how to design and evaluate an effective survey instrument.

Introduction to archival research ☆

If you are planning to conduct archival research, this workshop will help you to understand how to search and access archive collections, and give practical advice on using archive material and the potential challenges you may encounter. As part of the in-person workshop, you will have the opportunity to visit a local archive: Portsmouth History Centre at Portsmouth Central Library.

Introduction to critical and interpretive research perspectives: taking a hermeneutics approach ☆

The belief that reality is socially constructed, and that people create their own subjective meanings as they interact with the world around them, has profound implications for how research is conducted. This workshop will help you to understand how research that seeks to explore the 'meaning-making' practices of participants is conducted, explore the opportunities and challenges of such research, and discuss the underpinning philosophy and theories.

Mixed methods ☆

If you are undertaking research in which you plan to bring together the findings of qualitative and quantitative data analysis, this workshop will help you consider the potential and challenges of this approach. You will learn about the different forms of mixed methods research, and discuss appropriate ways in which a mixed methods approach may be applied. Key considerations and issues in data collection and data analysis will also be discussed. This will be a blended session in which you watch a recorded lecture and then attend a live session for Q&A and further input.

Qualitative research skills ☆

Looking for some practical guidance about how to conduct qualitative research? This workshop will help you to move forward with the key decisions you need to make as a qualitative researcher. Find out more about effective data collection, including how to organise and conduct high-quality interviews and focus groups, and record and store qualitative data. You will also learn how to make a start with your qualitative data analysis.

Book a place at port.ac.uk/skillsforge

ANALYSING AND PRESENTING RESEARCH DATA

Whatever type of data you will be collecting, you should take time to plan your data analysis before you start – so you can be confident that you are collecting data that can help you to answer your research question. These workshops will help you plan your data analysis, work with a variety of types of data, conduct robust analyses and present your findings effectively.

QUALITATIVE DATA

NVivo qualitative data analysis software: part one, an introduction to the software ☆

Computer-aided qualitative data analysis software (CAQDAS) can be a fantastic tool to help you manage the analysis of textual, pictorial or video data. This workshop will help you to understand the potential of NVivo, a commonly used CAQDAS, to support your own data analysis. You will learn how to upload your data into NVivo, build a project database, and initiate coding processes.

NVivo qualitative data analysis software: part two, advanced skills ☆

For postgraduate researchers who have already attended part one (an introduction to the software), this workshop will take a hands-on approach to help you understand the potential of the advanced features of NVivo to support your qualitative data analysis. There will be the opportunity to discuss different analytical strategies using qualitative data analysis software. You will also learn how to make effective use of the query, relationship coding, and modelling functions of NVivo.

Writing and reporting qualitative data analysis ⭐

Writing and reporting qualitative data analysis often presents interesting challenges such as how best to use quotes and how to express broader themes without losing the underlying subtleties in your data. You may even find that writing forms part of the analysis itself as you choose how best to structure and communicate your findings. Book a place on this workshop to learn how to communicate your data analysis process and findings, and construct meaningful and justified conclusions.

"Themes do not emerge!?" - Thematic Analysis ☆

This session is a deep-dive into Thematic Analysis (TA) as a data analysis method. TA has rich potential and wide-ranging adaptability to various research projects. However, its founders, Virginia Braun and Victoria Clarke (2020), contend that many researchers make spurious claims of using TA due to a lack of attention to either the rigour of the method, or to its compatibility with their study's paradigm and design. This session compares the various strands of TA, explains how these work, and considers how you as researcher can best ensure an authentic use of TA through aligning it with your broader research design.

QUANTITATIVE DATA

You do not need to attend all these workshops, but it is essential that you attend the introductory workshops (or are confident that you have the equivalent knowledge and experience) before attending the later, more advanced, workshops.

Understanding data and descriptive statistics ☆

Whether you are new to quantitative research or looking to refresh your knowledge, this workshop takes a hands-on approach to help you to understand the core concepts and terminology that underpin how we work with research data. You will learn how to conduct exploratory data analysis and produce meaningful descriptive statistics. No prior knowledge of statistics will be assumed, but you might find it useful to have previously attended the Quantitative Research for Complete Beginners Workshop (see page 15).

Introduction to inferential statistics ☆

For those conducting quantitative research, this workshop introduces you to the topic of inferential, or 'testing', statistics, through explanation and contextualisation of concepts, and use of data-driven exercises and examples. Bring along a description of your own datasets and project (regardless of whether or not you have acquired data yet) for the opportunity to discuss potential approaches with an experienced quantitative researcher.

Introduction to SPSS ☆

SPSS is widely used for quantitative data analysis, so knowledge of how to use this software is key for many researchers. If you are new to using SPSS or need a refresher, this online resource will help you to understand the potential of this powerful software and give you hands on experience to develop your confidence. This resource covers key features and functions of SPSS and some simple statistical analyses.

Introduction to R statistical software ☆

R is an increasingly popular free, open-source software environment for statistical computing and graphics. This half-day workshop will help you to find out about this alternative to SPSS, and learn how to use it to meet your data presentation and analysis needs. A hands-on workshop, you will have the opportunity to develop your confidence working with R and undertake simple and inferential statistical processes.

Introduction to Basic Structural Equation Modeling (SEM) for Survey Research Using SmartPLS4: A Hands-on Approach ☆

This workshop will introduce participants to structural equation modeling (SEM), a family of statistical techniques designed to explain the relationships among multiple variables. The session will focus on the use of SmartPLS, a widely adopted software for SEM analysis, and will guide postgraduate students in conducting analyses and presenting their findings professionally. Adopting a practical, hands-on approach, the workshop will use real research datasets and address research questions that can be answered with the data provided. While all participants are welcome, a basic understanding of statistics, linear regression, and the properties of normal random variables and probability distributions will be advantageous.

Book a place at port.ac.uk/skillsforge

Using MS Excel for your data analysis ☆

Excel is the most popular software package for displaying and understanding numerical information. This session provides an overview of the ways in which Excel can be used to explore, manipulate and understand research data. From entering data to producing charts, working with table objects and pivot charts to undertaking descriptive and inferential analyses, this workshop will introduce you to the possibilities for data analysis using this software.

Making best use of SPSS for social scientists ⯪

Imagine this common scenario: you know how to do research, you have collected your data, you learnt about SPSS in the past and know roughly what you hope to find, but you find yourself unsure about how to begin your analysis. This session is for those many researchers who find themselves in this situation, find their SPSS is rusty or just wish they had a bit of guidance or a checklist to remind them where to start.

Introduction to multivariate statistics ☆

Multivariate statistics allow you to conduct analyses using more than one outcome variable. This workshop uses a hands-on approach to introduce you to the principles and practice of a wide variety of multivariate statistics that you might come across in your studies, including MANOVA, multivariate regression, and factor analysis.

Introduction to factor analysis ☆

If you are considering using factor analysis, or will be reading research that has used this analysis, this workshop will help you to understand the potential of this powerful tool to explore the factors underlying your research data. The similarities and differences between factor analysis and principal components analysis will be explored, alongside a discussion of the strengths and limitations of this type of analysis. Using a hands-on approach, learn how to conduct a robust factor or principal components analysis and interpret the resulting factors/components.

Introduction to confirmatory factor analysis ☆

Confirmatory Factor Analysis (CFA) is an increasingly popular method for determining whether data that has been collected fits a theoretical model and is often used to demonstrate the factorial validity of a psychometric scale. This workshop provides a practical introduction to CFA and how it is set up and interpreted using the IBM SPSS AMOS package using examples from survey methods. A basic understanding of Factor Analysis would be helpful to get the most out of this session.

Presenting quantitative data analysis ★

For those familiar with descriptive and inferential statistics, and data analysis software, this workshop shows you how best to present the results of your quantitative data analysis. You will learn how to identify what information to report from the output of statistical analyses including t-test, ANOVA, correlation, multiple regression, MANOVA and factor analysis, and present these meaningfully in your results section using text, tables and graphs.

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PGR
SOCIETY
Renold Devaraj
PGR
PGR

ENGAGEMENT, INFLUENCE AND IMPACT

Excellent research is nothing if we cannot communicate it effectively to other researchers and the wider public. In these workshops, you'll learn how to skilfully communicate your work and its implications to a wide variety of audiences.

Conference skills

Attending or presenting at a conference is an exciting opportunity to join the wider research community in your field.
A mini-conference itself, this workshop will help you to get the most out of conference attendance. You will learn how to select an appropriate conference and present your work effectively and about important practical and travel considerations. You will also have the chance to practise your own mini-conference presentation. Some pre-workshop preparation is required.

Getting published in print

If you are aiming to publish your research in print, you will need to navigate the publishing and peer review process. Finding out about this process before you start can save you time and energy in the long run. In this workshop, you will consider how to develop a strategy to publish your work, and learn how the peer review and publishing process works (including the chance to get hands-on experience as a peer reviewer).

Making best use of presentation software

We're all familiar with 'death by PowerPoint' but careful use of innovative software can help you to communicate research and presentations in an engaging and effective manner. For those experienced in traditional software packages, this workshop will help you to learn how to make the most of this while exploring other presentation software to complement speech and enhance communication.

Presenting with confidence

An effective and engaging presentation style can transform an audience's enthusiasm for your research. Whether you experience presentation anxiety, or wish to polish your skills or grow in confidence, this informal, friendly group will help you to develop an academic presentation style that suits you. You need to commit to attending all three sessions and to preparing short presentations for them.

Principles of successful poster design

Postgraduate researchers are often invited to present posters at events and conferences. Learning how to design an eye-catching poster that communicates your research clearly will help your work stand out from the crowd. This workshop will help you understand the essential principles of successful poster design, and ways of presenting information in a visual format that engages the audience so that it can be viewed as a standalone piece of work.

Writing a journal article, book chapter or research monograph

Sharing your findings through a publication is an important part of the research process, and seeing your work in print for the first time is a special moment. But, where do you start and how do you give your work the best chance of being accepted? This workshop will help you to understand the publishing process from start to finish, including how to write a high-quality publication.

Writing a successful abstract ★

A successful abstract is a vital means by which to communicate the importance of your work, and will be the first thing peer reviewers, researchers and your examiners read. Whether you are preparing for conference submission, a journal article or your thesis, this workshop will help you to write a professional and polished abstract.

Open research part 1 (Choose either the SaH and Tech session or the BaL, CCI and HSS session) ☆

Students can attend either or both of these sessions. Over the past decade there has been a demonstrable rise in the promotion and uptake of open research across an array of disciplines. Open research describes a range of practices relating to the conduct of research (e.g. pre-registration) and communication of its outputs (e.g. open access publishing). While open research is increasingly emphasised by external bodies such as funders and journals, it can be daunting to begin to apply it. The first session will focus on the questions of "What" is open research and "Why" you should engage with this topic. We will provide a brief background to some of the issues that have led to the uptake of open research, including our own experiences, in order to establish what it means in practice.

Open research part 2 (Choose either the SaH and Tech session or the BaL, CCI and HSS session) ☆

The second session will have more of a practical focus, with activities oriented to support you with "How" you can engage in open research practices. These practices vary extensively from field to field and, after a brief overview of different ways of being 'open', we will focus on activities that can help you to implement these in your own research.

The Research Excellence Framework for beginners ☆

The Research Excellence Framework (REF) is the UK's system for assessing the quality of research in higher education institutions. It happens every 7 or 8 years and spans 34 broad subject areas. Its results are used in various university "league tables" and determine millions of pounds of funding for each university. This session explains what it is, how it operates, how universities make submissions to it and what researchers at all levels can do individually and collectively to maximise the University's success in future REFs.

Engaging the public with your research ★

Public Engagement is about involving members of the public with your research. It can take many forms, including active participation in your research process or sharing your research with public audiences. It can inform your research project or be a tool to achieve research impact. This workshop will introduce the basics of public engagement: what it is, why it's important, and what you should consider when planning public engagement activity. This workshop will include a group planning task. Before you attend, think about an element of your research that could be translated into an activity for members of the public.

Book a place at port.ac.uk/skillsforge

CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Whatever your goals and motivations or stage of your research degree, our career development workshops will help you consider and plan your next steps, and make the most of the opportunities available to you during your research degree.

Capitalising on the enterprise culture ★

Many of the qualities you need to be a successful researcher are also those you need to be a successful entrepreneur. If you are interested in starting your own business, or would like to explore how to generate commercial businesses from everyday problems and scale them up, this workshop will help you to understand the basic concepts behind every start-up.

Effective job searching ★

Understanding the best routes to find out about job vacancies is crucial to an effective job search. This workshop will help you to learn about how to search for advertised jobs, identify and work with specialist recruitment agencies, and access the largest source of jobs – the 'hidden job market'.

Enhancing your employability during your studies ☆

A research degree is a fantastic opportunity to focus on your professional development. This workshop has been designed to help you consider how you can make the most of your time as a postgraduate researcher to engage in activities to support your broader career goals. You will find out what employers are looking for and how to take a strategic approach to selecting development opportunities to set you apart from the crowd.

How to search for research funding ★

If you are interested in winning external funding to support your doctoral and post-doctoral research, this online resource will help you with strategies for locating funding, the types of funding that are available, and strategies for success. It will also help you to ensure you and your research ideas stand out in an increasingly competitive funding landscape. This workshop links to the 'Writing a funding application' session.

Marketing yourself: developing an effective application form or CV ★

While you develop a wide range of advanced skills as a postgraduate researcher, you can't assume that an employer will be aware of what these are. Whether you are considering applying for academic or non-academic positions, this workshop will help you understand how to demonstrate your skills and experience effectively in application forms and your CV to persuade employers that you should be invited for interview.

Myers Briggs Indicator and its use in career development ☆

Understanding your personality can be very helpful in your career development from exploring what job roles fit your own working style and preferences, to understanding how your personality type (and others) influence team dynamics. Book a place on this workshop to find out more about your own personality type and how this links to your own strengths and talents.

Preparing for job interviews ★

Job interviews remain the most common form of assessment during the recruitment process. This workshop will help you to

develop your confidence in preparing for and presenting yourself effectively in job interviews. You will have the opportunity to find out about the types of questions most commonly used by postgraduate and postdoctoral recruiters, and consider how to develop strategies to deal with difficult questions.

Pursuing your research beyond your doctorate

Do you want to pursue a research career after your doctorate? If so, you need to lay the foundations for your post-doctoral research as early as possible. In this workshop, you will learn about the funding landscape and career opportunities for researchers. Hear from doctoral graduates who have built a successful research career about their own career paths, and top tips for making the transition from postgraduate to post-doctoral researcher.

What next? Career options for research degree graduates in the creative and cultural industries, humanities and social sciences

75 per cent of research degree graduates from the creative and cultural industries, humanities and social sciences are employed outside of Higher Education (HE) three years after graduation. Book a place on this workshop to explore career options outside of HE. You will learn how your skills, interests and values have direct relevance to your career options, and you will be supported by experienced Careers Advisers to develop a personalised careers action plan.

What next? Career options for research degree graduates in the sciences and technology

Over 30 per cent of research degree graduates from the sciences and technology are employed outside of HE three years after graduation. Book a place on this workshop to explore career options outside of HE. You will learn how your skills, interest and values have direct relevance to your career options, and you will be supported by experienced Careers Advisers to develop a personalised careers action plan.

Writing a funding application

Funding is integral to a successful research career, and although new researchers rarely submit grant applications alone, writing persuasive applications is a core skill for all researchers. In this workshop you will learn about the funding process, the key aspects of a funding application, grant writing tips, project planning, costing and budgets, pitfalls and good practices in grant proposal preparation.

Creating and using professional networks

It has become increasingly important for academics to cultivate a broad professional network but what does that mean and how do you build a network when the thought of these kinds of interactions may fill you with dread? This workshop will explore the importance of building good networks in both your scholarly and wider professional life. We will consider, and practise, techniques for making connections and talk about the barriers that sometimes stifle those connections.

Book a place at port.ac.uk/skillsforge

DOCTORAL COLLEGE

The Doctoral Development Programme is co-ordinated by the Doctoral College and supported by colleagues from across the University, from academic and professional services.

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