Doctoral Training Alliance (DTA) Training Programme – 2026/27

Session	Session overview	Date	Time
Power Hour of Writing	The Power Hour technique is all about focus, discipline and being free from distractions. This is to supplement the work you are already doing and to create an online community where we can all write individually yet together. PGRs at any stage of their research, as well as ECRs and academics, are welcome to attend these sessions. Whether you want to write, read, organise references, analyse data, or work on any other research-related activity, you are welcome to join. Registration not required, simply turn up on the day! **Click to join the call via Teams.**	Every Friday (excluding Christmas/New Year/bank holidays)	10am-11am

Registration information

Visit the DTA website to view and register for upcoming events: unialliance.ac.uk/dta/events.

Use the 'Book Now' button on an individual event page and follow the instructions onscreen to register. Contact dta@unialliance.ac.uk if you experience any issues when registering.

All sessions take place online via Teams/Zoom. The link will be emailed to all registered attendees at least 3 days prior to the session taking place. Contact dta@unialliance.ac.uk in sufficient time if you have registered for an event and not received the link.

Registration closes 3 working days prior to each session.

Note: Remember to add the date and time to your diary of any sessions you have registered to attend.

Participation and cancellation policy

Please join the meeting on time and stay for the full duration of the session. Keep cameras on during online activities and be prepared to participate in group discussions.

If you no longer plan to attend, please email dta@unialliance.ac.uk as soon as possible to cancel your place. This allows us to offer a fair opportunity to all students. Repeated non-attendance may result in eligibility to attend future events being removed.

Session	Session overview	Date	Time	Trainer
Systematic literature reviews: Where to start?	Being able to locate, evaluate and synthesize literature is an essential component of every research project. The common phrase “finding the gap” is one all PhD candidates are likely to have heard when preparing to explore published material. Reviewing the literature, however, is also important for assessing available evidence to inform policy, practice and advocacy. There are many approaches to conducting literature reviews, each with a different purpose and objective. This session offers an introduction to systematic literature searching to inform systematic literature reviews. Covering database selection, creating a search strategy, establishing inclusion and exclusion criteria, screening and analysis, attendees will come away with the foundations needed to determine whether a systematic literature review is right for them, and how to get started. When my supervisors recommended a systematic literature review I was intimidated and overwhelmed at the prospect. My hope is that this session will help demystify the process for others! Presenter bio: Dr. Katheryn Margaret Pascoe is an educator, researcher and registered social worker, currently employed as a Senior Lecturer at the University of Otago in Aotearoa New Zealand. As a DTA alumni, since graduating with her PhD from Ulster University in 2022 Katheryn Margaret has established her academic career across the UK, New Zealand and Australia.	Monday 28th September 2026	11am-12pm	DTA Alumni
Using the Researcher Development Framework (RDF) Planner	Join us for an interactive session with Martha Beard from Vitae, who will introduce the Vitae RDF Planner, a professional development tool designed to help researchers reflect on their skills, track their progress, and plan their future career development. Based on the Researcher Development Framework (RDF), the Planner enables researchers to build a portfolio of experiences, identify development needs, and evidence their achievements for annual reviews, CVs, applications, and career planning.	Tuesday 20th October 2026	2pm-3pm	DTA Team/Vitae

Session	Session overview	Date	Time	Trainer
	This session is open to both doctoral researchers (PGRs) and early career researchers (ECRs) and will provide practical guidance on how to use the tool to support your development throughout your research journey and beyond. Following the session, up to 50 participants will be offered access to the Vitae RDF Planner to explore and apply the tool in their own professional development.			
International PGR Student Network: Career Planning During Your PhD	This session will support international PhD researchers across University Alliance universities to think proactively about their career development during the doctoral journey. We will explore how to identify your career interests early, recognise the skills and experience you may need, and make purposeful use of your time during the PhD so you feel confident and prepared for the job market when you finish. International PhD graduates will share their experiences, insights, and practical advice on navigating career decisions during and after the doctorate.	Monday 26th October 2026	2pm-3pm	DTA Team with guest speaker Samantha Fernandes from MMU
Peer Led Learning: Publishing a paper as a PGR	Thinking about publishing during your PhD but not sure where to start? Join this panel session to hear from doctoral researchers who have successfully published during their studies. Our speakers will share their experiences of navigating the publishing process, including how they selected journals, responded to reviewer feedback, balanced publishing with their research, and overcame common challenges. This is an excellent opportunity to gain practical advice, ask questions, and learn from peers who have recently been through the process.	Wednesday 28th October 2026	2pm-3pm	DTA PGRs
Managing your time in PhD	This interactive online workshop is designed to help PhD researchers take control of their time and make the most of their working habits. Through practical strategies and reflective activities, participants will explore how they currently manage their time, identify patterns that support or hinder productivity, and learn techniques to overcome procrastination. Particularly relevant for PGRs in their first year, this	Thursday 29th October 2026	12pm-1pm	DTA Team

Session	Session overview	Date	Time	Trainer
	session offers a supportive space to build sustainable working routines early in the doctoral journey.			
Peer Led Learning: How to Write an Academic Paragraph: The Basic Building Block of your PhD thesis	Writing a clear, coherent paragraph is a fundamental academic skill, yet many researchers and students receive little formal guidance on how to do it effectively. This interactive session explores the building blocks of a strong paragraph, from generating ideas quickly and overcoming perfectionism to structuring and refining your writing. Through practical activities and examples, participants will learn how to develop a single clear argument within a paragraph, distinguish between productive and unhelpful editing, and use simple techniques to evaluate and improve their academic writing. Ideal for PGRs looking to strengthen their writing confidence and communicate their ideas more effectively.	Monday 2nd November 2026	2pm-3pm	DTA PGR
From Thesis to Book	This session is designed to support PhD students in navigating the transition from doctoral thesis to book, exploring how to rethink, reshape and reposition research into a compelling book project. Participants will be introduced to the key differences between a thesis and a monograph, with particular attention to language, structure, narrative, and audience. We will examine how academic writing needs to shift when moving from a document written for examiners to one aimed at readers, including how rethink structure and identify selling points for the book proposal. A central focus of the session is helping participants clarify their core argument, identify their target audience, and position their work within the field.	Tuesday 3rd November 2026	10.30am-12pm	Nico Pizzolato (MDX)
Thesis Bootcamp	Are you going through a PhD slump and struggling to find the motivation to write? If so, the DTA Online Thesis Bootcamp is for you. As part of Academic Writing Month 2027, our Online Thesis Bootcamp offers a supportive, flexible, and intensive writing experience for postgraduate researchers (PGRs) at various stages of their doctoral journey across DTA member universities.	Thursday 5th & Friday 6th November 2026	10am-4.30pm on both days	DTA Team

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	The Bootcamp is designed to create a collaborative and focused writing environment that supports substantial progress on your thesis. Whether you need dedicated time to write your literature review, analyse data, draft a discussion chapter, edit and polish your thesis, or complete post-viva corrections, this event will help you make meaningful progress in a supportive community of fellow researchers. You are eligible to attend if you: • are willing to complete the preparatory activities (including a thesis map) prior to the event and commit fully to the Bootcamp experience; • are at a stage in your doctorate where you would benefit from dedicated, distraction-free writing time. In addition to focused writing sessions, participants will have the opportunity to meet, network, and share experiences with fellow PGRs from across the DTA.			
Using creative writing techniques to communicate research beyond the thesis through blogs	A well-developed literature review is the foundation of a strong doctoral thesis, yet many researchers find it challenging to move beyond summarising individual papers. This interactive session explores the purpose and process of the literature review, providing practical guidance on how to find, evaluate, organise, and synthesise academic literature. Participants will learn how to critically engage with research, identify gaps and key debates in their field, and develop a coherent review structure. This session is particularly suitable for first-year PGRs who wish to build a strong foundation for their literature review and develop their academic writing skills.	Tuesday 17th November 2026	3pm-4.30pm	DTA Team and Katherine D'Souza (UA)
Supervisor Best Practice Sharing: Using AI in Doctoral Research	This session explores a practical framework designed to help PGRs and supervisors engage in informed and constructive discussions about the use of AI in research. Drawing on their experience of developing and implementing the framework, Dr Anna and Dr Elisa from University of Greenwich will share strategies for promoting transparency, accountability, academic integrity, and the responsible use of AI throughout the doctoral journey.	Wednesday 18th November 2026	4pm-5pm	Anna Piazza & Elisa Pannini (Greenwich)

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Literature Review: From Reading to Critical Synthesis	A well-developed literature review is the foundation of a strong doctoral thesis, yet many researchers find it challenging to move beyond summarising individual papers. This interactive session explores the purpose and process of the literature review, providing practical guidance on how to find, evaluate, organise, and synthesise academic literature. Participants will learn how to critically engage with research, identify gaps and key debates in their field, and develop a coherent review structure. This session is particularly suitable for first-year PGRs who wish to build a strong foundation for their literature review and develop their academic writing skills.	Monday 23rd November 2026	11am-12pm	DTA Team
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Research Impact and Engagement	Research impact is increasingly important for doctoral researchers, both within and beyond academia. This interactive session will introduce the concepts of research impact and public engagement, helping participants understand how their research can contribute to meaningful change in society, policy, practice, and the wider community. Through practical examples and activities, attendees will learn how to identify beneficiaries and stakeholders, develop impact pathways, measure impact, and explore a range of effective public engagement approaches. The session will also provide guidance on embedding impact and engagement throughout the PhD journey and strengthening future funding and career opportunities.	Tuesday 1st December 2026	2pm-3.30pm	Arun Ulahannan (Coventry)

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Becoming a Net Zero Researcher	Becoming a Net Zero Researcher is an introduction to issues relating to planning and delivering research in such a way as to limit unnecessary environmental impacts and harm. Taking the ethics process as a starting point we will cover elements of the Concordat for environmental sustainability and discuss opportunities for researches to incorporate sustainability and social justice into their study design and use good practice when planning knowledge mobilisation. The workshop will be interactive and include discussions about some of the critical issues arising from a university's commitment to the Concordat for Environmental sustainability. Whilst information sharing about the urgency of the climate crisis is included, the sessions will be about methods aligned to the international academic movement of planetary health that is designed to a) engage staff and students and the wider public through civic activities b) ideas and actions associated with carbon and bio-diversity improvements c) consideration about the possible barriers and experiences of enabling sustainability and planetary health.	Wednesday 2nd December 2026	10am-1pm	Sally Fowler-Davis & Stefano Magariello, ARU
The Brilliant Club: How PGRs can get involved	In this session, the Brilliant Club team will provide an overview of their Scholars Programme and how PGRs can get involved as PhD tutors to deliver the Scholars Programme in schools and colleges across the UK; sharing their subject knowledge and passion for learning with students aged 8-18.	Wednesday 9th December 2026	2pm-3pm	Brilliant Club
Journalling during your PhD: Reflect, Organise, and Thrive	Keeping a research journal is often recommended to doctoral researchers, yet many PGRs are unsure how to use one effectively. This interactive session explores how journalling can enhance your PhD experience by helping you capture ideas, reflect on challenges, develop your thinking, and monitor your progress over time. Participants will be introduced to a range of journalling approaches, including reflective writing, idea capture, visual journalling, and reflexive project journals for recording research decisions, assumptions, and learning. The session will also provide practical templates and reflection prompts that can be	Thursday 7th January 2027	11am-12pm	DTA Team

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	adapted to support individual research projects. Whether you are looking to organise your research, develop deeper self-awareness, navigate uncertainty, or establish a sustainable reflective practice, this session will equip you with valuable tools to support your doctoral journey.			
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From Research to Commercial Impact: How ICURe Can Help	If you are a PhD Researcher, ECR, TTO or KE specialist - this session is for you. Find out more about how the Innovate UK ICURe Programme gives researchers the chance to turn research with commercial potential, into investment-ready spin-out companies. We provide personalised support and funding to test the commercial potential of an idea – while enabling researchers take their first steps into the world of business. In this session we will provide you with an overview of the Innovate UK ICURe Programme, you will hear from ICURe Alumni who have been through the programme and you can take part a Q&A session to ask questions and have initial conversations about your ideas.	Thursday 21st January 2027	10.30am-12pm	Nikki Matthews (Innovate UK ICURe)

Session	Session overview	Date	Time	Trainer
3MT prep and practice sessions	Getting ready for the Three-Minute Thesis (3MT) competition? This hands-on session will guide you through the rules, help you refine your presentation, and give you the chance to practice in front of your peers. Learn how to communicate your research clearly, confidently, and compellingly—in just three minutes. Ideal for doctoral researchers looking to sharpen their public speaking and storytelling skills.	Tuesday 26th January 2027	2pm-3pm	DTA Team
International PGR Student Network: The beauty of different accents	For many international researchers, speaking with a non-British accent can sometimes affect confidence and create feelings of self-doubt, particularly when presenting research, contributing to discussions, or networking professionally. Yet accents are not a sign of ability, intelligence, or expertise; they reflect our experiences, identities, and multilingual achievements. This interactive session will explore the relationship between accent, confidence, and belonging in academia. Drawing on lived experiences and group discussion, participants will reflect on common challenges faced by international researchers and consider practical strategies for communicating with confidence. The session aims to celebrate linguistic diversity, challenge misconceptions about accents, and encourage researchers to recognise that clear communication matters far more than sounding like a native speaker.	Thursday 28th January 2027	2pm-3pm	DTA Team and external guest (tbc)
Social media for PGRs	This online workshop will highlight the value of social media to PGRs and ECRs offer practical suggestions on ways it can be used to (i) increase the engagement and impact of your work, (ii) expand your network for future collaborations, and (iii) open opportunities for learning, professional development, and employment. By the end of this session, you will be confident in sharing your work in interesting ways online and have an understanding of the platforms that best suit your needs and personality.	February 2027 - Date to be confirmed	Time to be confirmed	Emma Cowley (DTA alumna)
Research Design: Developing Research Topics and Questions	A strong research project begins with a well-defined topic and clear research questions. This interactive online session will introduce students to the fundamentals of research design, focusing on how to identify and refine a research topic, develop focused and feasible	Monday 1st February 2027	11am-12pm	Julia Gauly (UoB)

Session	Session overview	Date	Time	Trainer
	research questions, and establish a solid foundation for academic research. Participants will gain practical strategies and guidance that they can apply to their own projects. The session will be delivered online via Microsoft Teams by Dr Julia Gauly, Assistant Professor at the Centre for Evidence Synthesis and Implementation Science (CEIS), University of Birmingham, who brings extensive experience in research design and supporting students in developing independent research projects.			
Viva Voce: Tips & Advice	A viva voce examination is an opportunity to explain and justify your research, demonstrating what you did, how you did it, and why you chose that particular approach. It is a chance to discuss your work with experts in your field and to showcase the depth of your knowledge, critical thinking, and contribution to research. In this session, DTA Future Societies Co-Director, Dr Arun Ulahannan, will share practical advice, useful preparation strategies, and insights from his own viva experience to help you approach your thesis defence with greater confidence.	Tuesday 2nd February 2027	2pm-3pm	Arun Ulahannan (Coventry)
How to Finish your Thesis Avoiding bottlenecks	Feeling stuck with your writing progress? Most doctoral researchers aren't stuck everywhere. They're stuck in one place, and treating the wrong problem makes it worse. You write harder when the argument isn't clear yet. You seek reassurance when the real block is a writing habit, not your worth as a researcher. You read more when what you actually need is to sit down and write. After registering to attend, complete this short 3-minute survey. Your responses will help identify common challenges and enable the facilitator to tailor the session to your needs. Answer honestly. There are no wrong answers.	Thursday 11th February 2027	10am-11.30am	Gina Holmes

Session	Session overview	Date	Time	Trainer
Peer Led Learning: Fear of 'isms': Figuring out Ontology/Epistemology	Positivism, post-positivism, interpretivism, feminism, postcolonialism, critical realism…If you have got the fear of isms, you are not alone! In this session we will get back to basics on what the isms are about, how far down each rabbit hole you really need to go, and think about the relative importance of theoretical frameworks, ontology and epistemology.	Jan/Feb 2027 - Date to be confirmed	Time to be confirmed	DTA PGR
Reflecting on Your Doctoral Progress: Preparing for Annual Review Conversations	This session will support PhD researchers in preparing for annual progress review discussions with confidence. While annual review processes vary across universities, the underlying purpose is often similar: to reflect on progress, discuss challenges, and plan the next stage of your doctoral journey. Participants will gain practical guidance on how to prepare effectively and make the most of this important developmental milestone. We will cover: • What annual progress reviews typically involve and their purpose within the doctoral journey • How to reflect on and communicate your research progress effectively • Strategies for discussing challenges and demonstrating learning and development • Tips for preparing review documents, presentations, and future plans • Responding confidently to questions and feedback • Q&A and discussion to demystify the review process Whether you are approaching your first review or preparing for a later-stage progression review, this session will help you reflect on your achievements, identify next steps, and communicate your doctoral progress with clarity and confidence.	Wednesday 17th February 2027	11am-12pm	Andrew Rawnsley (Teesside)

Session	Session overview	Date	Time	Trainer
~~**Academic Writing: reduce anxiety**~~ CANCELLED	~~This popular academic writing course is based on a unique practice-based 7-step strategy developed by Dr. Catriona Ryan. It enhances traditional approaches to academic writing. Students are encouraged to work on a thesis chapter or paper throughout the workshop. This session has helped many PhD researchers over the years to overcome writer's block and build confidence as academic writers.~~ ~~The workshop focuses on argument construction and removing blocks that generate writing apprehension. Participants must bring a thesis chapter or writing project, as the session is practice-based. It goes beyond writing skills, offering academic guidance in developing a comprehensive discursive framework. There is also an emphasis on the importance of self-compassion in the writing process.~~	~~Wednesday 3rd March 2027~~	~~10am-1pm~~	~~Catriona Ryan (Scriptor Cube)~~
Reducing Overwhelm	Do you feel like you're on the verge of burning out? That there's no time for you and your PhD has become all consuming? In this workshop, you'll learn the signs of burnout, strategies for prevention, how to manage overwhelm and maintain your wellbeing. Delivered by Dominique De-Light, a wellbeing coach, and PhD graduate who knows the pressure you're going through, her research included studying activities that support wellbeing. She'll share techniques based on neuroscience research and personal experience to help you reduce overwhelm and avoid burnout. By the end of this 90-minute workshop you'll have the tools to complete your PhD whilst supporting your mental health and wellbeing. This lunchtime session is designed to be relaxed and accessible, so feel free to bring your lunch and take part while you eat.	Wednesday 3rd March 2027	1pm-2.30pm	DTA Alumni

Session	Session overview	Date	Time	Trainer
Thesis Editing	TBC	March 2027 – Date to be confirmed	Time to be confirmed	Stephanie Zihms (GCU)
Uni Mental Health Day: Five ways of wellbeing for PGRs	The PhD journey can be rewarding, but it can also bring challenges such as isolation, uncertainty, imposter feelings, and difficulties maintaining a healthy work-life balance. In this interactive workshop, participants will explore the Five Ways to Wellbeing framework (Connect, Be Active, Take Notice, Keep Learning, and Give) and consider how these evidence-informed principles can support wellbeing throughout the doctoral journey.	Thursday 11th March 2027	11am-12pm	DTA Team
Using creativity to spark and fuel your academic writing	A one-hour presentation and discussion about using everyday creative approaches to post-graduate academic writing. There will also be an opportunity to try this out. • Presentation: An exploration of (everyday) creativity and how this approach can be applied at any stage of academic writing • Participation: An opportunity to try everyday creative approaches and apply them to your own research • Conversation: A chance to question, discuss and share ideas Everyday creative approaches to writing may offer reflexive opportunities and enable a 'way in' to academia, particularly if you find academic writing difficult or have a 'block'. Creative approaches can offer an accessible space to explore and refine ideas and fully immerse and engage in the writing process. **Who is it for?** Post-graduate Research (PGR) students at any stage of their studies, from any discipline. This may be more relevant/of interest to qualitative researchers, however all PGR's using any methodology are welcome. All	Thursday 8th April 2027	11am-12pm	Angela Carter (UWS)

Session	Session overview	Date	Time	Trainer
	that is required is curiosity - you do not need to have an art/creative background or be 'good' at art. **Anything else I need to know?** If you would like to participate in the short activity during the presentation, please bring up to three different objects that relate to your research. These can be literal, e.g. rubbish found on the beach if you are exploring the effects of marine pollution, or a shoe if you are investigating human gait patterns. Alternatively, it could be more abstract, for instance, the veins of a leaf to resemble a conundrum with selecting appropriate methods, or some basil to remind you of the 'smell' of the setting during data collection. Interpret it as you wish, just remember, there is no right or wrong!			
Playing with language: Untangling the threads of your research with poetry	In a time where information can feel fragmented and chaotic, research can provide us with ways of organising information creatively and coherently by making and shaping meaning with and through language. In this session we will use poetry as a vehicle to play with language and to convey meanings by looking at your research from different perspectives. You will be supported in writing simple poems to explore different ways in which you can articulate your thinking on your research. Please come along with a research topic, concept or research question in mind. *Dr Martina Diehl has a PhD in Education, exploring creative and critical engagement with poetry teaching and learning in secondary schools. She now works at Durham University as an academic development advisor, supporting primarily PhD students in their development as a researcher, with a particular interest in research communication and playful learning.*	Tuesday 13th April 2027	10.30am-11.30am	Martina Diehl (Durham)

Session	Session overview	Date	Time	Trainer
Peer Led Learning: How to enhance your data analysis using Rstudio - Part 1	Statistical analysis is a fundamental tool for interpreting results but can be time-consuming and complex. RStudio is a statistical coding software that can be applied to many forms of data analysis to simplify the process, but it can often be difficult to know where to start. This 2-part series will first cover how to download the software, basic functions, best practice for coding and go through common visualisation techniques (e.g. boxplots, bar charts and linear regressions). The second session will review the common stats methods based on your requests and how to tackle them in RStudio. These sessions are designed to be accessible for beginners, but all are welcome.	Tuesday 13th April 2027	2pm-3.30pm	DTA PGR
Translating research beyond academic language	What might an ordinary object reveal about your research that academic language cannot? This interactive online workshop invites postgraduate researchers to explore a different way of communicating the ideas, experiences and questions that shape their work. Through a creative and reflective activity, participants will consider how research can be expressed with clarity and depth beyond the conventions of abstracts, chapters and presentations.	Thursday 15th April 2027	2pm-3pm	Shameela Yoosuf (BCU)
Owning your voice: authentic and engaging presentations for different audiences	In any kind of presentation we give, we try to make the complex simple by telling a story. Stories can be told in many different ways, and in this session we will explore different story telling and creative techniques you can use in your presentations to make them engaging for the audience and fun for you too as you play with language and voice to share your story authentically. In this online workshop you will be introduced to narrative techniques and go on a journey to finding your authentic academic self. This is a hands-on session where you'll be working together and individually to explore and experiment with techniques you may want to apply to your own presentation skills to own your voice and find ways to engage your audience with clarity, purpose and fun. **Aims** • Experimenting with new techniques for audience engagement. • Exploring different ways of telling your research story.	Monday 19th April 2027	10.30am-12pm	Martina Diehl (Durham)

Session	Session overview	Date	Time	Trainer
	• Developing yourself as a confident, authentic and flexible presenter to engage your audience in different settings. • Observe how others present, become an active listener, and learn from each other as well as playing with new tools and techniques. *Dr Martina Diehl has a PhD in Education, exploring creative and critical engagement with poetry teaching and learning in secondary schools. She now works at Durham University as an academic development advisor, supporting primarily PhD students in their development as a researcher, with a particular interest in research communication and playful learning.*			
Reimagining neurodivergent postgraduate research communities through zine making	In this session, we present insights from a participatory research project about the lived experiences of neurodivergent PGRs using zine making. We show how creative activities such as zine-ing can work to facilitate networks, support systems, and solidarities. These disrupt and reclaim 'solution' focused narratives, towards experiential and continuous ways of knowledge making through embodied listening, care, community building, and collaboration. The findings challenge dominant accommodation-based approaches to doctoral support and propose a shift towards collective, co-produced models of research training.	Monday 26th April 2027	2pm-3pm	Louise Lambert (BCU)
Identifying and Applying for Research Grants and Funded Opportunities During Your PhD	Securing research funding and undertaking Research Assistant work during your PhD can be a valuable way to support your project, develop new skills, and enhance your researcher profile. This interactive session will introduce participants to the research funding landscape in the UK, helping them identify both internal and external grant opportunities that are relevant and accessible to doctoral researchers. Attendees will gain practical insights into the grant application process, including how to align proposals with funder priorities and develop compelling applications. Drawing on her own experience of successfully applying for and receiving small research grant(s) during her PhD and securing a postdoc fellowship towards the end of her PhD, Dr Kate Marks, DTA Future	Wednesday 5th May 2027	10.30am-12pm	Kate Marks (DTA alumna)

Session	Session overview	Date	Time	Trainer
	Societies alumna from Leeds Beckett University, will share practical tips, lessons learned, and the impact that securing funding and externally funded Research Assistant work had on her doctoral journey and career development. The session will conclude with a hands-on activity, giving participants the opportunity to explore and identify a grant that they could realistically apply for, leaving with greater confidence to take their first steps towards securing research funding.			
Beyond the PhD: Excelling at Assessment Centres and Interviews	Most jobs require a form of interview and/or presentation element. This session will guide you through how to prepare and package your skills up for roles outside of academia. Specific objectives: • To consider what an assessor is looking for throughout an assessment process • To share best practice and common pitfalls in presentations and interviews To reflect on (and practise) how you can talk about your skills in an assessment setting	Monday 10th May 2027	11am-12.30pm	Brilliant Club
European Doctoral Day 2027: Life After the PhD	What happens after the PhD? As part of our European Doctoral Day 2027, join a small panel of PhD graduates working across a range of sectors as they share their experiences of transitioning from doctoral research into professional careers. Panellists will reflect on their career journeys, discuss how their PhD has influenced their work, and offer insights into the opportunities, challenges, and decisions they encountered along the way. This is an excellent opportunity for current PGRs to explore different career pathways, gain practical advice, and ask questions about life after the PhD.	Thursday 13th May 2027	2pm-3pm	Emma Brodrick (DTA alumna) and Amelia Langley (UWE)

Session	Session overview	Date	Time	Trainer
CV Masterclass: Academic and Industry CVs	This masterclass will unpack the two basic CV styles: academic and industry CV approaches, and the differences in the format of these styles. CV templates will also be provided to guide the CV presentation. At the end of the session, the participants will have the opportunity to ask questions in relation to the CV styles and discuss specific elements of their own CV.	Wednesday 19th May 2027	11am-12pm	Mark Adams (Coventry)
Building your employer network on LinkedIn	LinkedIn is a powerful tool for building a professional network and advancing your career. This is particularly true for international postgraduate researchers and graduates, as it offers opportunities to connect people of influence who have been on a similar journey and can therefore empathise with and support your career goals. This session will guide you through the essentials for building a winning profile on LinkedIn. For example, how to headline your selling points and make your profile more visible. The session will also provide practical advice in the form of four key strategies for building an invaluable employer network, whether in the UK or overseas. The session will also be beneficial for home PhD researchers seeking to strengthen their professional presence and expand their career opportunities.	Tuesday 25th May 2027	2pm-3pm	David Gee (GradLink)
How to Explore your career options beyond academia	If you're a PhD researcher wanting to explore what could be out there for you beyond academia then it can be difficult to know where to start, particularly because these possibilities are dependent on your skills and preferences. This interactive workshop is designed to give you a starting point to help you get going with researching your career options beyond academic research and teaching. The workshop is designed to help you: • Move beyond job boards and internet searches to explore career options more effectively. • Use a range of techniques to research career options beyond academia.	Friday 28th May 2027	11am-1pm	Holly Prescott

Session	Session overview	Date	Time	Trainer
	• Discover manageable, low-pressure ways to build and use your network for career exploration outside academia. • Feel more positive about pivoting your career beyond academia. Since the range of career possibilities beyond academia is wide, varied, and highly dependent on your own skills and priorities, it isn't possible to give a comprehensive list of all the possible options open to you. Consequently, this session focuses on strategies that you can apply to your own situation and interests. In the workshop, you will be invited to take part in a range of exercises and to share ideas with the group. To get the most out of the workshop, you are encouraged to engage with the interactive exercises included; all exercises are completed individually (with no break-out rooms). *Trainer bio: Dr Holly Prescott is a career guidance practitioner specialising in supporting doctoral and postdoctoral researchers, with 10 years' experience helping researchers to feel more confident about their next steps and to make career transitions into a variety of sectors. She is also the founder of Post-PhD careers blog 'PostGradual' which, since its launch in 2021, has attracted 85,000 unique readers in over 150 different countries. Holly's book, 'Navigating Careers Beyond Academia: A Practical Handbook for Doctoral and Postdoctoral Researchers,' was released by Routledge in August 2026.* *Holly holds a PhD from the University of Birmingham, PGDip (QCG) in Career Guidance from Coventry University and the Career Development Institute, and is a Fellow of Advance HE (FHEA).*			
Narrative CV	The aim of this session is to help you understand what narrative CVs are, why they've been introduced, and to support you in getting started with writing your own.	May 2027 – Date to be confirmed	Time to be confirmed	Emma Cowley (DTA alumna)

Session	Session overview	Date	Time	Trainer
International PGR Student Network: Ideas Xchange	Creating a welcoming and inclusive environment for Global Majority PGRs and other domestic PGRs from underrepresented or non-traditional backgrounds, including first-generation university students. Full details to be confirmed.	May 2027 – Date to be confirmed	Time to be confirmed	DTA Team and external guests (tbc)
Peer Led Learning: How to enhance your data analysis using Rstudio – Part 2	Statistical analysis is a fundamental tool for interpreting results but can be time-consuming and complex. RStudio is a statistical coding software that can be applied to many forms of data analysis to simplify the process, but it can often be difficult to know where to start. This 2-part series will first cover how to download the software, basic functions, best practice for coding and go through common visualisation techniques (e.g. boxplots, bar charts and linear regressions). The second session will review the common stats methods based on your requests and how to tackle them in RStudio. These sessions are designed to be accessible for beginners, but all are welcome.	Wednesday 9th June 2027	2pm-3.30pm	DTA PGR
Generative AI & the researcher: strategies, insights & practical uses	The initial uncertainty that greeted generative AI in research has given way to something more practical: researchers are now using these tools daily, often without clear guidance on how to do so effectively or responsibly. The questions PGRs frequently ask are: which tools are worth using, for which tasks, what am I allowed to do and how do you document your AI use in a way that is transparent? The workshop begins with an overview of generative AI and the current landscape, covering the capabilities, limitations and the ethical considerations that apply across the research lifecycle. Using the seven stages of the research process, we discuss how and where AI is being used - whether a researcher is designing a study, analysing data, drafting a manuscript or disseminating findings. Participants will be given access to AI & ME, Electv's directory of AI tools mapped to specific research tasks, enabling researchers to identify and compare tools relevant to their own work. The workshop also	Thursday 10th June 2027	2pm-4.30pm	Joanna Young (Electv)

Session	Session overview	Date	Time	Trainer
	emphasises responsible and documented AI use via the AIR Framework, a structured approach developed by Electv for recording how AI has been used at each stage of a research project. Through discussion, a series of live tool demonstrations and individual reflections, this course aims to equip researchers with the knowledge and skills to effectively integrate AI into their workflow and inspire them to explore how GenAI can support them throughout their research journey. After this workshop participants will have: • an understanding of what GenAI tools are & their various capabilities; • been introduced via live demonstrations to several tools & how to integrate them into the research process; • discussed the ethical considerations & limitations of using these tools in research; • access to our AI tools resources database which compares 40+ tools that we have tried & tested.			
International PGR Student Network: Exploring Your Career Direction: Identifying Your Strengths, Interests and Opportunities	This interactive session will help international PGRs identify the skills they enjoy using, explore career options that align with their interests, and understand what employers look for in those roles. Participants will leave with practical ideas for building their profile and preparing for future career opportunities	Thursday 22nd July 2027	2pm-3pm	DTA Team