Postgraduate Research Student Induction

School of Law and Social Sciences

Dr. Kaat Smets - Director of PGR Education
6 October 2020
Key people

Prof. Matthew Humphreys
Head of School of Law and Social Sciences

Dr. Kaat Smets
Director of Postgraduate Education in the School of Law and Social Sciences (cover); PGR lead in Politics, International Relations and Philosophy

Dr. Ija Trapeznikova
Director of PGR Education at the School of Law and Social Sciences (scheduled to return in late October)

Dr. Emily Glorney
PGR lead in Law and Criminology, and Social Work

Dr. Ahu Gemici
PGR lead in Economics
Today’s session

• School of Law and Social Sciences structure
• Expectations by year
• Review of academic progress
• Attendance and/or engagement requirements (incl. for Tier 4 visa students)
• How to work with your supervisor?
• Research training
• Study space and resources
• Staff-Student Committee and PGR rep elections
• Covid
• Useful links
School of LSS structure

- **Department of Economics** (Horton building)
  - Strength in labour and education economics, microeconomic theory, behavioural economics.

- **Department of Law and Criminology** (Arts building)
  - Wide range of areas spanning law, criminology, sociology, social policy and forensic psychology.

- **Department of Politics, International Relations and Philosophy** (McCrea building)
  - Global politics and development, democracy and elections, gender studies, international security, political communication, applied ethics, Deleuze, stoicism and others.

- **Department of Social Work** (Arts building)
  - Focus on the themes of inequalities, justice and power, and contemporary professionalism.
## Expectations by year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Your PhD Research</th>
<th>PhD Training</th>
<th>Career Planning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>§ A clearly defined research topic</td>
<td>§ Department-specific training</td>
<td>§ Career direction</td>
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<td>§ A draft of good quality literature review and/or methodology chapters</td>
<td>§ Researcher Development Programme (RDP)</td>
<td>§ Workshops to improve your skills</td>
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<td></td>
<td>§ Fieldwork/Data collection</td>
<td>§ Annual PhD Conference (Department, Funding Body, Royal Holloway)</td>
<td>§ Create a PURE profile</td>
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<td>§ Ethical clearance</td>
<td>§ Departmental Seminars</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Annual review (Upgrade in PIRP)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>§ Continue working on your research project</td>
<td>§ Additional research-specific training</td>
<td>§ Attending career talks</td>
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<td>§ A good quality draft of the 1\textsuperscript st chapter (and working on the 2\textsuperscript nd)</td>
<td>§ RDP workshops</td>
<td>§ External conferences, etc.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>§ Fieldwork/Data analysis</td>
<td>§ PhD Annual Conference</td>
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<td></td>
<td>§ Ethical clearance</td>
<td>§ RHUL Annual PhD conference</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Upgrade</strong></td>
<td>§ Departmental Seminars</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>§ Data analysis</td>
<td>§ RDP workshops</td>
<td>§ CV/job application</td>
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<td>(and 4)</td>
<td>§ Writing up the thesis</td>
<td>§ Viva preparation</td>
<td>§ Mock interviews</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>§ Writing up publications</td>
<td>§ PhD Annual Conference</td>
<td>§ Publications</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Annual review / Mock viva</strong></td>
<td>§ RHUL Annual PhD conference</td>
<td>§ External conferences</td>
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<td>§ Departmental Seminars</td>
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Review of academic progress

- **Annual review**: All full-time and part-time students should be formally reviewed at least once every 12 months.

- A key milestone: **Upgrade** from MPhil to PhD status
  - PIRP: At the end of the first year
  - Economics: At the end of the second year
  - Law and Criminology, Social Work: At the end of the second year

- Department-specific information can be found in the Departmental Appendices to the PGR Handbook and on the Doctoral School microsite for Annual Reviews and Upgrades. Links are also on the LSS PGR Moodle page.
Attendance and engagement

• All students need to complete 5 days of training per year (10 days per year for RCUK funded PhD students). This training includes attendance of workshops, seminars, the Researcher Development Programme, etc.

• Students on a Tier 4 visa can be out of the country for up to 60 days a year without reporting to the UKVI
  o Need to fill in authorised absence form or get approval for annual leave.

• Students who are away for more than 60 days need to fill in the change in study location form specifying why they need to be away
  o Students have to keep in regular contact with their supervisor;
  o This gets reported to the UKVI to keep the sponsorship of the visa.

• For questions in relation to Tier 4 visas, please contact the International Student Support Office
Working with your supervisor

First steps

1. Arrange your first formal supervisory meeting

2. Establish mutual expectations
   o Frequency of meetings
   o General ways of working and communication
   o What do you prepare in advance for each meeting?
   o Record meetings using the supervision log
   o In PIRP you are also expected to fill out a supervision report form (see LSS PGR Moodle page)

3. Agree your supervisory team and complete the form

4. Discuss potential training needs -> See training needs and analysis tool

5. Discuss ethical concerns -> Read about the ethical approval process here
Working with your supervisor

What your supervisor does for you:
• Helps consolidate your research topic/question
• Suggests appropriate reading materials
• Advises on techniques and methods
• Provides feedback on work practices
• Guides you to relevant network activities
• Identifies research ethics queries

What you can do for your supervisor:
• Keep in regular contact with your supervisor
• Read and respond to your (College) email
• Keep to deadlines
• Send materials promptly, allowing time to read
Research training

• All full-time PhD students should attend an average of at least 5 days training per academic year (10 days for RCUK students). Part-time students do half of this. Training can be made up of the following:

• Department-specific training
  ○ E.g. Departmental seminars, reading groups, workshops for PGR students, PR9000 in PIRP

• Methods courses offered in the School (see the LSS PGR Moodle page)
  ○ Qualitative methods
  ○ Quantitative methods

• Find your own training:
  ○ The College’s Researcher Development Programme
  ○ inSTIL
  ○ Summer and winter schools*

• You need to keep a log of the training sessions you have attended (see LSS PGR Moodle page)

* Some financial support available through the Departments
Research training: Generic research skills

- **Researcher Development Programme**
  - Applying for jobs
  - Applying for postdocs and research grants
  - Presentation skills
  - Ethics
  - Improving writing skills
  - From surviving to thriving
  - And many more

- **inSTIL (Skills of Teaching to Inspire Learning) Programme**
  - Develop teaching skills
  - Minimum of 2 hours of teaching experience required
  - Successful completion automatically qualifies you for an Associate Fellowship of the Higher Education Academy (AFHEA)
Study space and resources

PGR study space:
The School of Law and Social Sciences has two rooms for PhD students:

• McCrea 0-02 (all students)
• Horton 209 (Economics only)

Due to social distancing the number of workplaces is reduced and a booking will be required to use the rooms. Bookings last for four weeks (starting on Mondays) and can be obtained by emailing LSSSchooladmin@rhul.ac.uk.

Travel and conference budget

• We encourage students to present at external conferences.
• There is a limited budget available for students to apply for.
• Attendance at departmental seminars and PhD workshops is a requirement to be able to apply for a travel grant.
• The purpose of the **PGR Student-Staff committee** is to maintain and foster communication within the School.

• Meets at least once every term.

• You can raise any issues by either attending one of the meetings or passing the information to the current **student representatives**. Contact information of the current reps can be found on the LSS Moodle page.

• Course representatives are elected by you to represent your views.

• Applications for new reps are now open:
  - PGR Collective Convenor: Deadline 8 October 2020
  - Reps for the staff-student committee: Deadline 28 October 2020
  - For more info, click [here](#)
Covid

- Covid-19 continues to have an impact on the way we work.
- Induction meetings are taking place via MS Teams, your supervision sessions may take place online instead of face-to-face, and all training sessions have been moved online.
- Keep a list of the ways Covid affects your work. This can pertain to problems with library access and changes to fieldwork plans, but also to mental health issues or childcare problems.
- Please discuss any problems you encounter with your supervisors as well.
- Student Wellbeing Services can be found here.
Useful links

• The LSS PGR Moodle page
• The Doctoral School
• PGR Handbooks 2020-21
• Research Degree Regulations 2020-21
• Quick links to forms and guides
• Researcher Development Programme
• Ethical approval process
• Patter - A blog on research education, academic writing, public engagement, funding, etc.