

Monthly supervisor update – March 2023

Content at a glance

1. [Supervisor Forum – 19 April](#)
2. [PGR Student Dashboard](#)
3. [PRES \(Postgraduate Research Experience Survey\) 2023](#)
4. [PGR Career Enhancing Placement Scheme – new opportunities available](#)
5. [Doctoral School administration turnaround times and quick links](#)

1. Supervisor Forum – 19 April 1-2pm – online

Please join us for an initial Supervisor's Forum online where Dr Emma Brodzinski will discuss the common challenges for supervisors and invite people to share their thoughts. We hope these informal forums will be held termly and provide a support network and community for supervisors. Please do email Laura.Christie@rhul.ac.uk to register and receive the Teams link and do email with any challenges you are currently experiencing or have experienced that can be discussed with the group. These topics can be shared anonymously if you wish.

Dr Emma Brodzinski is host of The PhD Life Raft which is a blog, newsletter and podcast: <https://thephdliferaft.com/>

2. PGR Student Dashboard

In your role as supervisor, if you are not already a user, you may find the student record interface system (Dashboard), an invaluable tool. Not only can you access information about students you supervise (e.g. annual review details, funding and current supervisory team information), but you can also access tracking information about groups of students by supervisor, department or School. All of this information is updated daily so information will be current and with speedy access at your fingertips.

If you are new to the Student Dashboard and would like an overview, please visit: <https://intranet.royalholloway.ac.uk/doctoral-school/pgr-staff-tools/pgr-student-dashboard.aspx>. Here you will find demonstration videos and information on how to access the Dashboard. If you would like some bespoke training on getting the most out of the PGR Student Dashboard, please contact [Doctoral School](#).

Don't yet have access to Dashboard? You will need to have completed a data protection overview first in [Moodle](#). Once you've completed the course send an email to dashboards@rhul.ac.uk, together with the answers to the following questions:

1. Are you studying on any modules as a student (e.g. for personal development or other reasons)? If so, which modules?
2. Do you have any family members within the student body (e.g. parent, partner, child, sibling)? If so, please give the students name.

3. PRES (Postgraduate Research Experience Survey) 2023

The [Postgraduate Research Experience Survey \(PRES\)](#) is a national survey of postgraduate researchers conducted by institutions across the UK and globally which allows the College to compare how we are doing with other institutions, to make changes that will improve what we do in future, and to keep doing the things that our postgraduate researchers value.

This year's survey was launched on 15 March and remains open until 15 May. Could you please encourage your supervisees to complete this survey (should take approx. 15 minutes) so that we can ensure the full range of our PGR community's views are represented. Engagement updates will be sent out to Directors of PGR Education and Department PGR Leads in mid April and the beginning of May.

4. PGR Career Enhancing Placement Scheme

As part of the [PGR Career Enhancing Placement Scheme](#), we have recently launched four new, exciting PGR placement opportunities:

1. [Archive Assistant at Royal Holloway's Library](#): opportunity to help make Royal Holloway's archival collections accessible to broad audiences, supporting their use in teaching, research and public engagement.
2. [Curatorial Assistant at Royal Holloway](#): opportunity to help make Royal Holloway's art collections accessible to broad audiences, supporting their use in teaching, research and public engagement
3. [History of Parliament Trust and the UK Parliamentary Archives PhD placement](#): opportunity to work with the History of Parliament Trust and the UK Parliamentary Archives on a project to explore the place and future of Parliamentary history in the GCSE curriculum, helping to convene a working group of experts to identify new perspectives on the history of Parliament as it currently features in exam board specifications and, informed by the latest scholarship, potential new topics that could inform future specifications.
4. [Give a Book charity PhD placement](#): [Give a Book](#) is a registered charity established to provide books and promote the pleasure of reading in the hardest places. This placement provides an opportunity to take a closer look at what books can do behind bars.

All these placements are funded, and time taken away from research to do the placement is reflected in an extended submission deadline. If you think any of these would provide your supervisee with invaluable career-enhancing experience, please do encourage them to apply.

Interested in setting up a placement opportunity with one of your external collaborators? Please contact [Alex Borrett](#) to discuss further.

5. Expected Doctoral School turnaround times for email responses / request processing and quick links on the Doctoral School microsite

The Doctoral School receives a very high volume of emails / processing requests every day. The team works very hard to respond to emails / process forms etc. as quickly as our resources allow. However, we do appreciate that we may not always be able to respond to emails / process something for you quite as quickly as you would like, especially if you sent us a last minute email or process request. To help you understand how long you can expect for a response / for a form to be

processed – and plan accordingly - please refer to our new [Doctoral School Processing Turnaround Times](#) webpage.

- [Quick link to PGR forms and guides](#)
- [A to Z of the Doctoral School microsite](#)