

## Monthly supervisor update – April 2023

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#### 1. New interim Dean of the Doctoral School

Following Ken Badcock's departure, Professor Dawn Watling, the current Director of PGR Education for the School of Life Sciences and the Environment, is acting as interim Dean of the Doctoral School. This interim role is likely to last until the end of June, pending the appointment of the new Associate Pro Vice Chancellor (Postgraduate Research).

#### 2. Doctoral School Research Awards 2022/23

Many congratulations to the 25 postgraduate researchers who have been awarded a [Doctoral School Research Award](#) this year. The panel was impressed by the quality of the applications made and we are delighted that we have been able to fund well over a third of these who applied.

[Find out what winning this award means to the recipients](#)

#### 3. Update to PGR College studentships Terms and Conditions

The PGR College Studentships Terms and Conditions have been updated with effect from 1 April 2023 to align more closely with UKRI's Terms and Conditions. The link to the updated document was emailed to all College funded students on Tuesday 26 April, outlining the substantive changes, which include the following:

Emergency and compassionate leave

- Caring responsibilities
- Phased return to studies following long-term sickness
- Residency requirements for students to be located in the UK and within reasonable travel time of the College
- Revised parental leave

[Read the updated Terms and Conditions here](#)

#### **4. PRES (Postgraduate Research Experience Survey 2023 update)**

The 2023 Postgraduate Research Experience Survey (PRES) launched on Wednesday 15 March and is due to close on Monday 15 May 2023. Completing PRES is, of course, optional, but it provides us with very useful and meaningful feedback that can help improve students' experience. As of 19 April, we have an overall completion rate of 34%. We only get detailed departmental analysis if at least 10 students from each PGR programme respond, so it would be much appreciated if you can encourage your supervisees to complete it if they haven't already done so.

#### **5. Annual Royal Holloway Doctoral Conference – 9 June**

Our annual Doctoral Conference takes place online on 9th June. We invite all supervisors to the poster competition and prizegiving. Please see schedule attached and email [pgrtraining@rhul.ac.uk](mailto:pgrtraining@rhul.ac.uk) to register.

[Find out more](#)

#### **6. Placements update – new funded placements available at the Department for Education**

The PGR Career Enhancement Placement Scheme is funding a couple of placements at the Department for Education – in their 'Disadvantage' team and in their 'Climate Change and Sustainability' team. Please do encourage any of your supervisees to apply if you think that they would benefit from gaining experience of policy-making at the heart of government. They will work with experienced civil servants on topics of the utmost importance, learn about how policy-making works in practice and demonstrate that they have the skills needed to perform effectively in a policy setting. All PGRs have been emailed directly about this.

[Find out more about the Department for Education placements](#)

[Find out what other funded placements are currently being advertised](#)

#### **7. Bullying and harassment guidance and support for PGRs**

The Doctoral School has created a [webpage on Bullying and Harassment](#) for researchers that contains information on recognising bullying and harassment, signposts to our policies and resources, advises how to report incidents, and advises where to find wellbeing support. Do have a look and if there's anything you think we've missed, please email the [Doctoral School](#).