



Researcher Development 2025-2026

Doing a PhD is a training ground – the knowledge and experiences you acquire will support you whatever career and personal path you choose.

‘The prime gain from doing a PhD is nothing to do with the subject. It is the life skills: surviving countless struggles, persisting through difficult times, becoming a resourceful problem solver and independent thinker, and knowing when to ask for help. Invaluable for any future role!!’

And that is where Researcher Development comes in- to support you as a new, and also developing researcher.



Whether it is getting the tools to do the job, understanding concepts of research practice, getting yourself organised, keeping yourself and life on track, or taking time to listen and understand other people's research, the Researcher Development Programme is designed by you, for you. We use a Performance Coaching Development model which puts you in charge of your own learning, supports your creativity and curiosity and works to your strengths and needs.





Researcher Development Online workshops

We developed a Researcher Development Online programme in May 2020, not just in response to Covid, but primarily because it reflects our position as globalised researchers; that we need to be able to connect to colleagues across the world, interacting with new and different research; and also that we need to connect at different times of the day, around fieldwork, jobs, caring responsibilities and lab commitments.

Most of our online sessions are 90 minutes and are coaching and development focussed where we may share knowledge and help you find the answers for yourselves.

Importantly, the delivery team are all active researchers, lecturers or both; and skilled facilitators. We do not run webinars or seminars. The sessions are interactive and you are fully in charge of your own learning & development.

Finding RDO training and development



Go to our [RD Online Teams](https://tinyurl.com/Researcher-Development-Online) site or <https://tinyurl.com/Researcher-Development-Online> and you can request to be added to our Team (there's about 2500 of us there so you won't be alone)

Every week (Wednesday) we post an update to workshop availability, booking links and any news that we think is important to the group. This is the only time we send you a direct post.

Other times colleagues (including you) can post under the General or Research Culture channels anything we think is useful - adverts for conferences, research requests, jobs or funding, anything relevant really. We ask that you don't tag the whole RD team in, it means that we don't make people's Teams channels so busy.

The other four channels include a repository of RDO YouTube Videos and the RDO Podcast links; a Resource bank, and connections spaces for Parents doing a PhD (The Parent Juggle) and for colleagues doing their PhD part time. These are sites for you to use , to make connections and ask for advice.

The RDO is very popular, with many people now preferring this way to access the development and support opportunities that we offer. 97% of workshop attendees would agree that it has been a good use of their time and they would recommend it to others.

Using SkillsForge for professional development and booking



Warwick offers you a Professional Development Tool which allows you to consider what knowledge and skills you already possess, what you might need to improve upon and what you need to learn. This is called Warwick SkillsForge.

1. SkillsForge allows you to plan your professional development, look through the training opportunities available, book yourself onto workshops, and record your training & development to produce annual reports. We run workshops on getting the best from Skills Forge, but you can also check our video training resources and Q&A on our SkillsForge webpage [Warwick SkillsForge](#) (WSF)
2. Once you have booked an RDO workshop on WSF you will receive a confirmation email. Please add the workshop to your own calendar; WSF does not do this for you.
3. The day before the workshop, you will receive a Teams meeting link from us at the RDO.
4. On the day, just click on the event when it's about to start. We tend to start with cameras on so that we know who we are chatting too, we are small focussed groups so it is good to see people, but feel free to turn them off as time goes on.

5. Our sessions are interactive, we don't run webinars, they are Performance Coaching focussed so you may have a solution or idea for a colleague in the room and you are taking ownership of your own learning , so please feel free to join in. If you want to listen and think whilst others talk, then please do so.
6. If you're in a public space then chat to us via the 'chat' function; we've got very practiced at using all of Teams functions
7. Our sessions are very popular, so you may need to add yourself to a waiting list for a repeat workshop. We try to catch up with waiting lists within two months; if you are on a waiting list you will get first refusal on an offered space.
8. Because we are so busy (we run 300+ workshops per year) and we are overbooked on many sessions, we ask you to cancel as soon as you find out you cannot attend. WSF does not allow you to cancel within 72 hours of the workshop (we cannot move people off waiting lists at that level of notice) but it is always good practice to let us know you cannot make it (We totally understand that life happens so if you can drop us an email at RDContact@warwick.ac.uk we can pass it along to the facilitator so they know not to expect you)
9. We will send you an Evaluation form after the workshop and any other materials that are not available on our Researcher Development Moodle. Please do complete them and let us know what you think. It helps us design and deliver the programme and make the changes that we can.

Six Pillars of support

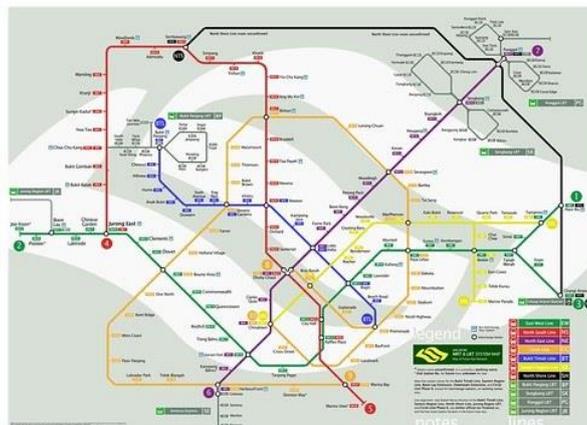
1. Research Methodologies and practice
2. Writing Series
3. PhD Essentials – Productivity, Wellbeing and Planning
4. Preparing for your Career
5. PhD in Second Language
6. Accelerator Series

Research Methodologies & Practice:

Good knowledge of research practices and methodologies is fundamental for your PhD and will be crucial even in your future career. RDO offers a series of sessions to support your understanding of research methods, integrity & ethics.

So, whether you are currently deciding which approach to use; want to understand why a researcher has utilised a methodology that you are not familiar with; or even decide why you will NOT be using a particular method or practice, these sessions are for you to explore.

For further details of what the sessions cover, for what stage of PhD it is most suited, and how to book, check out the current [RDO programme](#) Check out our [RDO Moodle](#)



PhD Essentials, Productivity and Wellbeing key areas that we all will need to cover no matter what our discipline and sessions to keep us on track, motivated, and meeting milestones.

Researcher Development involves supporting the individual behind the research process. Being researchers ourselves, we know the intricacies and challenges of PhD life. We believe that a balanced approach to the PhD process allows for more effective, productive (and joyful) ways to lead academic research. From learning the basics on how to prepare for your

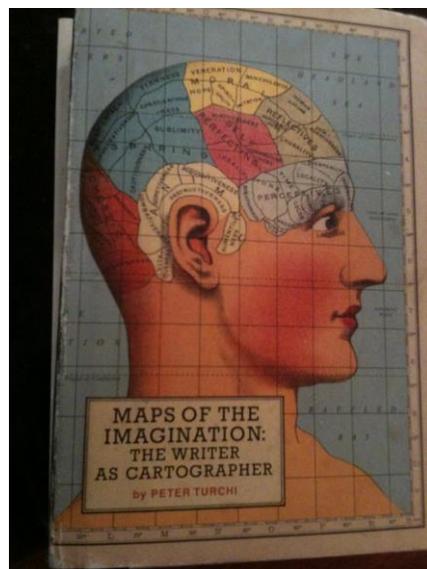
examinations and communicating research to building emotional intelligence, the sessions have been designed to assist in a wide range of common issues researchers face and can affect academic life

All our Mental Health and Wellbeing sessions have been designed and /or supported by our in house psychologist and facilitator Frane Vusio

For further details of what the sessions cover, for what stage of PhD it is most suited, and how to book, check out the current [RDO programme](#)

Wellbeing sessions can be booked via our [Expression of Interest Form](#). This means that your booking will not show on your SkillsForge record.

Check out our dedicated [PhD Wellbeing \(warwick.ac.uk\)](#) and [RDO Moodle](#)



PhD in 2nd Language Series – If you are doing your PhD in your second, third or even 4th language then we run weekly sessions focussing on writing, presenting, speaking and also navigating the strange accents and behaviours of the British. The sessions are facilitated by Luana Tavano Garcia who is used to multicultural diversity, as her upbringing was based on multiple cultural influences. This positionality allowed her to develop a transnational, open, and engaged mindset not only with regards to intercultural practices and knowledge production, but also interpersonal connections within different contexts. All this has extended to her research and teaching practices and methodologies.

She brings those experiences to the PhD in a Second Language sessions, which can be seen as a space for doctoral candidates to share the challenges of doing research in a foreign language and develop skills and strategies to move beyond their perceived limitations.

For further details of what the sessions cover, for what stage of PhD it is most suited, and how to book, check out the current [RDO programme](#) Check out our [webpage](#) and [RDO Moodle](#)

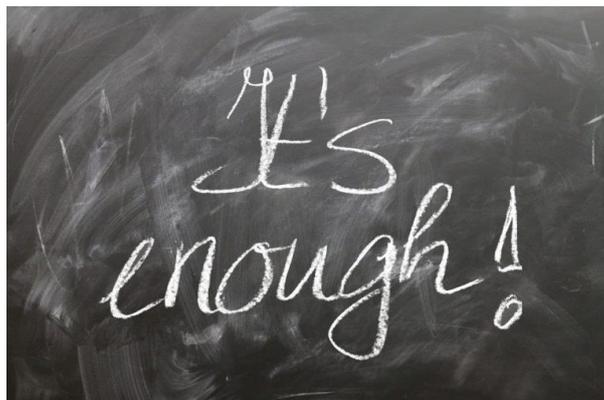


Accelerator Series- Designed for early stages of the PhD, ‘Accelerator’ is a series of sessions which we think is invaluable to getting your research journey off to the best start. There is no need to attend all of them, you can choose which sessions you wish to come to

It will bring you into contact with other new arrivals at Warwick, starting to build your professional network and peer group of colleagues.

For further details of what the sessions cover, for what stage of PhD it is most suited, and how to book, check out the current [RDO programme](#)

For resources check out our [RDO Moodle](#)



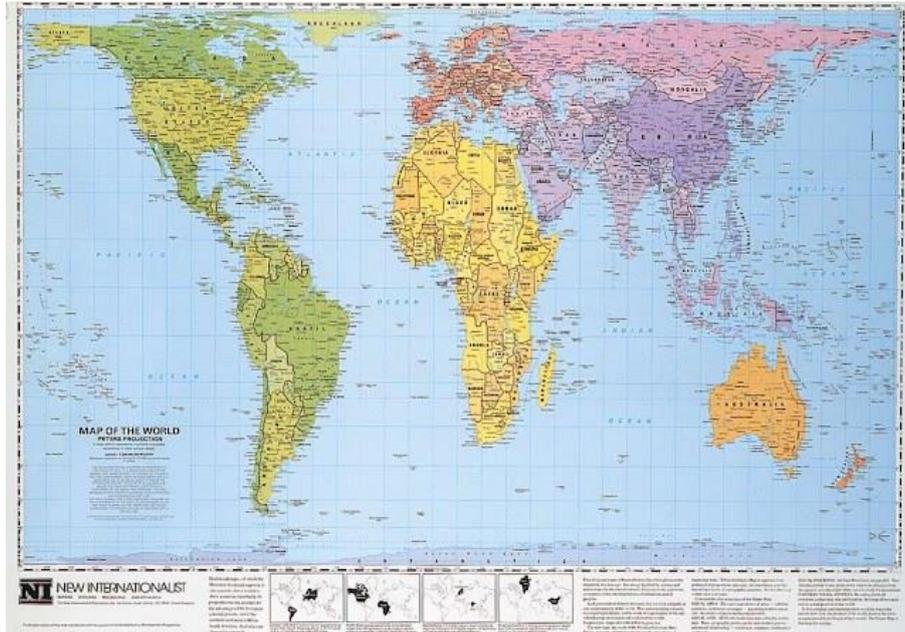


Writing Support RDO offers a wide range of writing sessions to support you with your PhD thesis. It doesn't matter the writing stage you are in; we have workshops in our Main RDO sessions and an entire Writing Series with additional Writing Tips that will help you at all phases of thesis writing. We also offer support on how to communicate your research through writing to different audiences (in and out of academia).

Writing series- we start from the basics of sentence structure, through to writing your first press release. We cover how to manage large volumes of material, organising your argument, signposting and storyboarding. And when you are writing up, we offer retreats, proof reading circles and creative writing sessions to deal with writers block.

For further details of what the sessions cover, for what stage of PhD it is most suited, and how to book, check out the current [RDO programme](#)

Take a look at our dedicated [RDO Writing Support \(warwick.ac.uk\)](#) and [RDO Moodle](#)



Careers

No matter what stage of your PhD, you need to start planning where next now.

Deciding what career will suit you and your skills, abilities and what you value will help you think about what you need to be doing now to get the career of your choice.

The Next Steps Series covers support for staying in academia, moving to industry, preparing for leadership

We run a larger focused Next Steps Series throughout the summer, but we also run several [Careers themed](#) workshops throughout the year. [Researcher Development](#)

See our dedicated [Careers page](#)

Researcher Development Online Moodle



Want the Top Tips from your workshop?

Looking for the follow up material?

Or do you want a refresher of the key areas covered in your workshop?

Or maybe you're on the waiting list for the workshop and want some key learning now?

Check out our

[Researcher Development Moodle](#)

[RDO YouTube Videos](#)

[RDO Podcasts](#)

The site is an on-going resource so more is being added throughout the year.

RDO Research Activities

We are all actively researching and contributing to the field of scholarship as well as continuing to develop our coaching and teaching proficiency.

Vitae 2025

Using Vitae's Researcher Development Framework 25 to design our Doctoral College practice.

REDS (Researcher Education Development & Scholarship) Conference Proceedings (May 2025)

[Meddling with Purpose: Reimagining Researcher Development](#)

REDS (Researcher Education Development & Scholarship) Conference October 2024

Empowering postgraduate researchers: A six year study on PGR-Led Researcher Development Programmes

Vitae Conference September 2024

Training Postgraduate Researchers to Deliver and Facilitate Researcher Development Programs

Research Culture Project August 2024

[Empowering Minds: Navigating Mental Health in Academic Research](#)

Invisible Disability Podcast 2023-2024

Invisible Disability | [Podcast on Spotify](#)

Research Culture Conference September 2023

Should Researcher Development programmes be involved in mental health literacy of PGRs mental health and wellbeing?

Paper & Publication Exchanges Journal 2024

Developing Researchers' Writing Skills: A critical reflection of developing a series of academic writing workshops for postgraduates

REDS Conference October 2020

[Coached: Researcher Development Online](#) - a narrated flipbook presentation



Wider research activities include:

Widening research and participation (wrap) a Students as Research partners research project. In 2018 the team set out to explore best practice in the role of undergraduate research's potential to widen participation and contribute to an improved university experience and outcomes for all students.

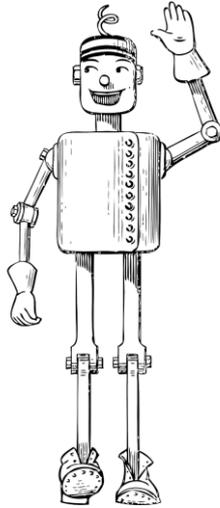
[Widening Research and Participation \(warwick.ac.uk\)](https://warwick.ac.uk)

Or influencing best practice in these areas:

PhD In Second Language- an initiative to support PGRs researching in their second or third language

The Parent Juggle- supporting parents whilst they undertake their PhD

PhD Networks- bring groups of PGRs together to explore interests



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Meet the team (warwick.ac.uk)

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