## At-a-glance for Affiliated Research Centre PhDs

As a research degree student registered with one of the OU Affiliated Research Centres, you are a member of the OU Graduate School, along with the approximately 200 other students based in the OU ARCs around the world and the approximately 700 students who are registered at the OU campus in Milton Keynes, UK. Your local ARC team will be a major source of support and information during your studies but, like all members of the OU Graduate School, you also have access to lots of resources produced by the OU. The subsequent sections of this document provide more details, but a good first place to look is the OU Graduate School Network website (<https://shorturl.at/iDO89>).

### Training

* Dr Jude Taylor and Dr Helen Bowes-Catton run the Core Training Programme, and Dr Julia Molinari runs Professional Academic Communication in English: the current programme can be found <https://shorturl.at/qLMQS>.
* These Graduate School sessions and some Faculty-specific training are listed with sign-up information on PGR Manager <https://shorturl.at/foSVZ>.
* Many sessions are hybrid; they are streamed and recorded in the Graduate School Network MS Team <https://shorturl.at/brZ69>.
* Find training resources/videos on Research skills <https://shorturl.at/cdjn6>.

### Administration and feedback

* The Research Degrees Team administer the student journey and can answer questions, e.g., about fees and registration: <https://shorturl.at/stR38>.
* They also manage the PGR Manager platform; guidance for this can be found here: <https://shorturl.at/vKXZ9>.
* The Graduate School run a liaison group where student reps collaborate on improving the student environment – we’d love an ARC rep or two. We also administer the Postgraduate Research Experience Survey (PRES) every two years. More about feedback <https://shorturl.at/izGMP>.

### Community and groups

* Our online community space is the PGR Community Team <https://shorturl.at/afkmS> with channels for different interests; do join!
* The Grad School Community organisers are PhD students contactable at [PGR-Community@open.ac.uk](mailto:PGR-Community@open.ac.uk). ARC PGRs are welcome to get involved.
* Here’s the programme for 23/24 events <https://shorturl.at/uBLQ7>; if you are largely off campus look out for hybrid or online events.
* Jude runs a drop-in online PGRs Writing Group in the PGR Community Team <https://shorturl.at/bkvCX> on Mondays and Fridays 10:00-17:00 GMT.

### Regular Graduate School events

We would love ARC PGRs to be involved in these or arrange parallel events:

* **June**: Poster Competition – runs on campus and online.
* **November**: Bake Your Research – runs on campus and online.

See more information about both competitions here:<https://shorturl.at/gnoN7>.

There may be other interesting events going on in Faculties that you can link up with. As a starting point, you might contact the Faculty administrators via the email list on this page <https://shorturl.at/kxyFO>

Every two years or so, we hold an ARC conference where colleagues from ARCs around the world can meet up with OU staff. You will hear more about these from your ARC’s OU coordinator.