



LONDON
METROPOLITAN
UNIVERSITY

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Research Newsletter

Welcome to the first research newsletter from the recently launched [Research and Postgraduate Office](#) (RPO).

Research forms a core part of what we do at London Met and how we contribute to the local community and the wider world. A key target in our recently announced [Strategy 2019/20 – 2024/25](#) is to support an excellent Postgraduate Research (PGR) student journey, high quality and impactful research and build a strong and interdisciplinary research community.

Since his arrival in Summer 2019, [Don MacRaid](#), Pro Vice Chancellor for Research and Knowledge Exchange has already put in place a number of

initiatives to support and grow research at London Met, including launching [The Graduate School](#) and setting up the Research and Postgraduate Office in September 2019.

The last three months have been busy and we have enjoyed getting to know our PGR students and research staff across all six Schools.

As we approach the end of the first term, we wanted to update you on what we have been doing and to celebrate some of the collaborative successes, to which both students and staff have contributed. We also wished to give you an idea of what we will all be working on together in 2020.

The Graduate School

Led by [Klaus Fischer](#), the Graduate School brings together postgraduate research students, academic staff, and others, across the University to make academic life as a postgraduate research student as smooth as possible. This includes academic support for students at every stage, including advising prospective applicants, and giving PGR students a platform to give feedback and contribute to the student journey.

The Graduate School has so far delivered 13 PGR student training sessions since October designed to help research students negotiate the different phases of study and the varying challenges each phase presents.

The sessions have been well received and the feedback from students has been fantastic:

“Brilliant! Very handy session. Thank you.”

“It was informative, engaging and well structured.”

“I have attended all the sessions and have got a lot out of them”

“Extremely useful!”

We have a dedicated [Eventbrite](#) page for PGR Training Sessions and seminars as well as pages for School specific seminars, such as the [School of Social Professions](#) and the [AAD Seminars](#). Keep checking for updates and announcements on Weblearn and via your London Met email account.

The Research and Postgraduate Office

The RPO plays a key part in supporting PGR students and research staff in a variety of ways.

Work on improving processes and how we communicate is already having an impact – the Research webpages, Student and Staff Zones are more informative than ever thanks to ongoing work from the Marketing and Communication teams and [Maeva Khachfe](#), Research and Postgraduate Office Manager.

We plan further improvements which will support and promote Research at London Met for all key stakeholders, both internal and external.

PGR student life

We are building a stronger research community, listening to your feedback and providing better support:

October

- Induction delivered with contributions from staff and students
- Two focus group sessions were held for PGR students
- Designated PGR study rooms allocated
- Inter-Library Loans for PGR students launched
- PGR student training sessions launched

November

- Drop-in sessions established
- Research student lanyards distributed

December

- PGR Student and Staff Liaison Forum launched.

PGR Student Drop In

Sessions - if you need advice, you can see [Oliver Brooks](#), PGR Student Coordinator any time between 1.30 and 5pm on the following days:

Tuesdays/Fridays – Holloway
Wednesdays – Aldgate

Book a slot via [Qudini](#).

Key information:

You can find information on our London Met [Research webpages](#).

PGR students, check the [Student Zone Research](#) page for all PGR related information, including the [2019/20 Research Student and Supervisor Handbook](#) and all the forms you will need during your time here.

Key information for research staff can be found in the [Staff Zone](#).

All our webpages are regularly updated so please log in regularly.

Students, please email us at research@londonmet.ac.uk.

Staff can email rpo@londonmet.ac.uk.

Please note, we have now moved to our new office in AB1-28.

Postgraduate Research Society

Initiated as a project in October 2018, the PGRS was approved by the Students' Union in January 2019 as a society for London Met's PhD, Prof Docs and MPhil students.

The general aim of the PGRS is to build a research community thereby enabling research students from different Schools within the University to work together. Through the PGRS, research students can:

- Connect with like-minded people for mutual support and peer-support;
- Socialise with others through social events, academic seminars and meet-ups outside University;
- Promote and develop a research community from all backgrounds and studies;
- Meet to develop research ideas among peers;
- Create network opportunities;
- Get support from their whole research journey;
- Attend activities aiming at developing research skills.

Join the PGRS:

- [Join us on Facebook](#)
- Subscribe to updates at: londonmetpgrsociety@gmail.com
- [Find out more on Students' Union pages](#)

Next meeting:

Tuesday 11 February 2020 - 1 to 2 pm (room TM1-42).

We also invite you to share with us your stories, experiences and activities as research students in order to promote and develop our research community.



REF 2021

Work on getting London Met ready for the Ref 2021 submission continues apace, led by Don MacRaid, Pro VC for Research and Knowledge Exchange and Anne Markey, Head of Research Policy and Implementation and supported by the RPO, in particular, [Dr Diane Smith](#), Impact Manager. Diane has met with a number of Impact Case Study authors and will be delivering a workshop to relevant members of staff in January.

Also, make sure to [familiarise yourself with the Code of Practice](#).

What is REF?

REF - the [Research Excellence Framework](#) is the UK's system for assessing the quality of research in UK higher education institutions. It first took place in 2014.

The next exercise will be conducted in 2021. The REF is undertaken by the four UK higher education funding bodies: Research England, the Scottish Funding Council (SFC), the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW), and the Department for the Economy, Northern Ireland (DfE).

The funding bodies' shared policy aim for research assessment is to secure the continuation of a world-class, dynamic and responsive research base across the full academic spectrum within UK higher education.

Supporting Research Funding

Recently appointed Funding Manager, [Dr Ewald Schröder](#) supports staff in their research by providing guidance on funding processes and opportunities with external funders.

Research Professional

London Met staff also have institutional access to [*RP](#), an extensive online database of research funding opportunities, broad research policy news coverage and analysis, as well as authoritative guidance on how to win funding.

Latest news!

We have already facilitated two external funding bids and announced two internal funding schemes reflecting the research and community themes within the new University Strategy - a Rescaling Fund focused on research worth up to £5,000 and a Transformation Fund for translating our research into tangible community-based activity worth up to £50,000.

We received over 25 applications across both schemes and staff engagement has been positive.

We have initiated a research-based collaboration with the Whittington Health NHS trust, a fellow member of UCL partners. The aim is to explore mutual research interests and develop new collaborations. The Whittington has a broad clinical and health research portfolio reflecting the [range of NHS services provided](#). Contact us at bidsupport@londonmet.ac.uk.

University-wide research

Bringing researchers together

Interdisciplinary Research Forum

The ***Interdisciplinary Research Forum*** aims to provide a focal point within the University for research and builds upon a wide range of research activities at the University concerning key contemporary societal trends and issues, based on London Met and external researcher areas of expertise. It will be strongly interdisciplinary in its conception and will actively encourage participation from all areas of the humanities, social and natural sciences.

Furthermore, it will place emphasis on the involvement of practitioner and policymaker audiences – through direct participation and knowledge exchange.

Proposals have been submitted and we aim to launch the first session in February – further details to be announced soon.

Centres of Research

Staff undertake innovative, relevant, and evidence-based research, as well as offering consultancy and training. **Find out more about the centres.**

Research staff have recently proposed a number of new initiatives which will be launching in the New Year – watch this space for announcements.

Key aims:

- To foster research co-operation between scholars working in London Met and other UK universities, facilitating the development of joint research projects, external bids for funding and publications;
- To enable academics and postgraduates to engage in the exchange of ideas and form close networks, supported by regular workshop participation;
- To promote active debate about real life issues;
- To explore the funding landscape;
- To promote a networking environment and facilitate creation of new working groups;
- To support early career researchers.
- To enhance the impact of LMU research

Researcher Development Programme

A new series of ***staff development sessions*** is being offered by the ***Centre for Professional and Educational Development (CPED)*** team covering topics as diverse as ***'Talking carefully to the Media – disseminating research findings'*** to ***'Developing a research plan'***.

Find out more via the ***Staff Zone***.

Some of the work our Researchers do:

School of Human Sciences: *randomised controlled trials provided evidence for health benefits of omega-3 fish oils against epilepsy: follow-up studies demonstrated their value for diabetic women during pregnancy, and during childhood development (led by Kebreab Ghebremeskel, 2018)*

School of Art, Architecture and Design: *publications from an ongoing research programme incorporating natural materials into architectural design describe further innovations in construction and teaching methods (led by George Fereday, 2019).*

School of Computing and Digital Media: *researchers from the Intelligent Systems Research Centre have incorporated artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) techniques into linguistics, building on research involving cyber security, digital data processing and robotics (led by Hassan Kazemian, 2019).*

Guildhall School of Business and Law: *researchers analysed sport development projects designed to encourage physical and mental wellbeing in order to improve best practice and understand why such projects sometimes fail to deliver health or other benefits to people (led by Stephen Hills, 2019).*

School of Social Professions: *researchers developed and trialled behavioural interventions to promote physical activity and improve health outcomes among cancer survivors, building on a series of previously reported studies (led by Justin Webb, 2019).*

School of Social Sciences: *The Child and Woman Abuse Studies Unit continues to publish high quality research that builds upon their international reputation around combating violence towards women and children (led by Liz Kelly, 2019).*

This is just a small summary of some of the excellent research work being done at London Met. We want to continue featuring our researchers regularly – please get in touch with us in the RPO if you have a story you would like to share!

We have managed to achieve a lot in a short time but there is more to do and more to come so, watch this space... and we need you to help us build on what we have started, grow the sense of community and the partnership between our research students and staff, so keep talking to us, and if you have any news you think we should know about, please let us know at rpo@londonmet.ac.uk.

Wishing you all an excellent break and we look forward to seeing you again in January.

Don, Anne, Klaus, Maeva, Diane, Ewald and Oliver