

PGR-Postdoc Buddy Scheme 2024 – Research Staff Overview

Overview

The Researcher Development & Culture team within The Academy are running the second round of the PGR-Postdoc Buddy Scheme, following a successful pilot of the scheme in 2023.

We're looking for postdoc and ECR research-only staff to lead the buddy meetings and facilitate the conversation between PGRs. You would be assigned a group of 3-5 PGR buddies and expected to organise and facilitate 1 buddy group meeting (online or in-person) between 4th and 25th October 2024.

Register before 27th September 2024 to participate in the scheme:

<https://app.onlinesurveys.jisc.ac.uk/s/liverpool/pgr-postdoc-buddy-scheme-2024>

Benefits of taking part

For research staff the scheme provides an opportunity for self-reflection and to develop your own active listening, mentoring and leadership skills. The scheme also provides research staff with evidence of supporting others, valuable for reporting in narrative CVs and during annual PDRs (logging the activity against Categories 1 'Supporting people' and 3b 'Supporting PGRs' using the University's new [Contributions Framework](#)).

By acting as a lead buddy in the scheme you will provide an opportunity for a group of University of Liverpool PGRs with the opportunity to meet their peers, engage in discussions about their doctoral programme and enrich their experience of the University's research culture in an informal setting. This is a chance for you to help support the PGR community, gain a better understanding of the experiences of PGRs at the University and help build your experience of leading and facilitating group discussions.

The majority of PGR and research staff participants in the 2023 round of the scheme reported that their experience was good or very good (90% PGRs, 85% research staff) and almost all participants would take part again (91% PGR, 100% research staff). Highlights reported by research staff from the 2023 round of the PGR-Postdoc Buddy Scheme included:

- "Seeing one PGR realise they were not alone in their experiences and that gave them reassurance moving forward"
- "Engaging with PGRs and using my experiences to help them"
- "I enjoyed that I was able to facilitate a meeting without feeling anxious or nervous and was able to use it as a way to improve my own confidence and skills."
- "A chance to reflect on the social aspects and challenges of postgraduate research; early steps towards mentoring experience (as an early career researcher) in this regard."

[See the report on the 2023 round of the scheme for more information.](#)

Requirements of the lead buddy

The lead buddy would be assigned a group of 3-5 PGRs and would be expected to organise and facilitate 1 buddy group meeting between 4th and 25th October. Each lead buddy would only be assigned 1 PGR buddy group.

Buddy group meetings are expected to be 30-60 minutes, can be face-to-face or online, and should be accessible and inclusive of all members of the group.

As facilitator, the lead buddy would enable discussion between the PGRs in their group, ensuring that all members of the group had a chance to participate and be heard, and providing conversation prompts if required.

Further guidance, example prompts and resources will be provided to lead buddies when their groups are assigned to them.

Timeline

11 September 2024	Scheme launches and Expression of Interest for taking part opens for PGRs and Research Staff
27 September 2024	Deadline for Expression of Interest
4 October 2024	All successful participants notified and informed of their buddy group
5 – 25 October 2024	Buddy group meeting to take place
28 October 2024	Short evaluation survey sent to PGR and Research Staff participants
8 November 2024	Deadline for completing short evaluation form

Further information

If you have any further questions about the PGR-Postdoc Buddy Scheme and what the role of the lead buddy involves, please email researcher@liverpool.ac.uk