

Including the [Call for Paper](#) for Mental Health & Wellbeing conference, Concordat consultation survey & events, and latest UKCGE events.

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UK Council for  
Graduate Education

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## Welcome to the November edition of the Postgraduate newsletter.

This month we're delighted to launch the [Call for Papers](#) for the **1st International Conference on the Mental Health & Wellbeing of Postgraduate Researchers** in association with [Nature Research](#).

This is an especially timely conference that continues the Council's support for a topic that's a high priority by the whole sector. But what's making us especially excited about this conference, is the opportunity to bring together both research *and* practice.

So on **16th & 17th May** in Brighton next year, conference delegates will hear from the World's leading researchers into the mental health and wellbeing of PGRs as well as from institutions where ground-breaking support initiatives have been implemented effectively supporting their doctoral candidates.

Organised in partnership with the **University of Sussex** and **University of Portsmouth**, both holders of [Research England Catalyst Fund](#) awards, the conference will give a national and international view of sector policy developments and share insights from some of the Catalyst Fund projects.

If you're interested in presenting at the conference, find out more about submitting a paper below or [on our website](#).

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IN ASSOCIATION WITH  
**nature**  
research

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH  
   
UNIVERSITY OF PORTSMOUTH UNIVERSITY OF SUSSEX

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE  
CALL FOR PAPERS!

## MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING OF POSTGRADUATE RESEARCHERS

Brighton, UK  
16th & 17th May 2019

The [Call for Papers for the 1st International Conference on the Mental Health & Wellbeing of Postgraduate Researchers](#) is now open!

The UKCGE's **1st International Conference on the Mental Health and Wellbeing of Postgraduate Researchers** will bring together the world's leading researchers and practitioners to present the latest research projects and to highlight the good-practices in the provision of appropriate and timely support for postgraduate researchers.

### CONFERENCE THEMES

The conference will explore the general challenges facing both institutions and the students themselves. Topics may include but are not limited to:

- Causes, correlates, precipitating and maintaining factors.
- Academic context, culture, and precarity.
- Development and delivery of effective interventions.
- Access to help, support, online spaces and resources.
- Relationships and communities: peer support, coaching and mentoring, and the supervisory relationship.
- Equality, diversity, and intersectionality.

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- Mental health and wellbeing during transitions.
- Part-time/distance postgraduate researchers.
- Mental health literacy.
- Self-care approaches, art, craft and play.



## CALL FOR PAPERS

The Call for Papers is now open. Authors are requested to [submit a 300 word abstract](#) by **Friday 18th January 2018**.

### Conference Paper Formats

Papers can be presented in a range of formats:

- Oral presentation
- Round Table Discussion
- Workshop Sessions
- Poster Presentations

The call closes on **Friday 18th January 2019**

[SUBMIT A PAPER](#)

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## SECTOR NEWS

### SECTOR CONSULTATION RESPOND TO THE CONSULTATION OF THE **CONCORDAT TO SUPPORT THE CAREER DEVELOPMENT OF RESEARCHERS**

Don't miss your opportunity to respond to the consultation of the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers.

This once a decade opportunity is your chance to help shape revisions that ensure the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers remains fit for the future.

The Concordat can make a real difference in improving the environment and career development for researchers and is important in helping develop the pipeline of talent and ensuring the UK maintains its leading position in research and innovation.

Organisations and individuals, including all staff engaged in research, as well as those managing or supporting research and researchers, should consider responding to the consultation.

[COMPLETE THE SURVEY >](#)

## Take Part in Face to Face Concordat Consultation Events

The Concordat Strategy Group is inviting members of the research community to a series of consultation events to further inform the revision of the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers.

In support of the online survey, these free-to-attend events give you an opportunity to discuss the Concordat Review recommendations in further detail. Summaries of the discussions will feed into the consultation analysis helping inform the new revisions to the Concordat and ensure the UK maintains its leading position in research and innovation.

Three events are being held Bristol, London and Edinburgh during December. Each is open to all who support researchers in the UK, including researchers, researcher developers, principal investigators, pro-vice chancellors, funders and other stakeholders.

[Visit the Vitae website](#) to reserve your place at a consultation.

[RESERVE YOUR PLACE >](#)

## UKCGE PUBLICATIONS

### POLICY BRIEFING **ADVANCEHE PRES 2018: WHAT DOES IT REALLY TELL US?**

With the release of the 2018 PRES results the sector once again can examine the view of our doctoral candidates and consider how this reflects on provision and impacts on experience.

Notably, this is the first year that institutions have had the option to run PRES annually, giving them more frequent opportunities to respond to the candidates' feedback. However, the shift to annual surveying and the en bloc non-participation of Russell Group institutions has made analysis and interpretation of results more challenging.

To aid you in that analysis, this UKCGE Policy Briefing gives an overview of the stand out results and our view on those findings.

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## POLICY BRIEFING GLOBAL CHALLENGES RESEARCH FUND

UK higher education institutions continue the push to grow their doctoral populations despite increasingly challenging home and EU recruitment and funding markets. In response, many are looking to take advantage of new areas of activity that are emerging thanks to Global Challenges Research Funding (GCRF).

In this UKCGE Policy Briefing we look at the aims of the GCRF and its impact so far.

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## SECTOR RESEARCH ELIGIBILITY TO SUPERVISE: A STUDY OF UK INSTITUTIONS

Supervision is crucial in determining the quality of the experience of research students and the chances of their completing on time. It has long been recognised that appropriate criteria are needed to determine eligibility to supervise. In many countries, these are specified at national level, but in the UK, since 1992, it has been left up to institutions.

Dr Stan Taylor, of Durham University and the UKCGE's Research Supervisors Network has written [a paper examining the requirements at UK HEI's relating to eligibility to supervise research](#). The paper uses publicly available institutional regulations and codes of practice - supplemented where appropriate by e-mail and telephone enquiries - of 142 of 143 UK institutions providing research degrees.

### DOWNLOAD THE FULL REPORT

To see the full report findings, including the common eligibility criteria conclusions and recommendations, [download the report from the UKCGE website](#).

[DOWNLOAD THE PAPER \(PDF\) >](#)



## T.H.E. AWARDS OUTSTANDING RESEARCH SUPERVISOR OF THE YEAR

Yes, it's nearly THE Awards time again. It's an evening when the sector comes together to celebrate achievements in Higher Education during the past twelve months. It's also the time when we'll discover who'll become 2018's **Outstanding Research Supervisor of the Year**.

We're proud to continue our sponsorship of the Outstanding Research Supervisor of the Year award. And once again we'd like to thank you for the bumper crop of nominations in the category. It's a continuing testament to the quality and commitment of so many research supervisors working at UK HEIs.

The [awards ceremony](#) takes place tomorrow evening in London, and we're sure you'll join us in wishing [all the nominees](#) the very best of luck!

Follow [#THEAwards on Twitter](#) for all the latest news and winners from the ceremony.

### [Improving the Experience for Part-time and Distance Learning Postgraduate Students](#)

**Brunel University, London**

*12th December 2018*

#### **Event Overview**

This full-day workshop will share the latest good practice developments in the support of part-time and distance learning postgraduate students.

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experience is different from full-time, campus-based students.

The event will feature a selection of presentations on initiatives that have been used to improve the student experience. There will also be significant discussion opportunities where delegates will have the opportunity to share their own experience and practice.

### **Who Would Benefit by Attending?**

Anyone involved in the experience of part-time and distance learning students will benefit from this workshop in terms of reflecting on their own practice and gaining ideas by hearing about and discussing other experiences.

### **Cost**

**£245 per delegate.**

*More information & bookings:*

<http://ukcge.ac.uk/events/ptdl18-132.aspx>

*Workshop*

### **Overseas Development: The Challenges, Roles and Opportunities for Doctoral Education**

**11th December 2018**

Coventry University

[Event Details >](#)

*Workshop*

### **The Postgraduate Doctoral Loans Scheme**

**29th January 2019**

University of Birmingham

[Event Details >](#)

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## UKCGE NEWS

### SUPPORTING EXCELLENCE UK COUNCIL FOR GRADUATE EDUCATION'S EVENT GRANT SCHEME

**Sharing good-practice between colleagues and across institutions improves the quality of postgraduate education. This ideal is a fundamental part of every UKCGE learning and professional development event.**

As the Council seeks new ways to invest its charitable resources to drive excellence in postgraduate education we pleased to launch our new Event Grants Scheme.

This scheme has been developed to enable you to share your good-practice, experience and expertise in key areas, with the wider postgraduate sector.

#### **ABOUT THE GRANT SCHEME**

The grant, of up to £2000, is for UKCGE member institutions to run a one-day workshop for colleagues from across the postgraduate community.

Applications will be judged on their ability to engage cross-institutional interest from the wider postgraduate community, and on their alignment to one of the UKCGE's key strategic priorities:

- Promoting the Value of Postgraduate Education
- Providing World-class Postgraduate Experience
- Enhancing Research Cultures

The successful applicant will design, deliver and manage the workshop, with administrative support from the UKCGE in relation to delegate recruitment, registration and evaluation.

#### **ELIGIBILITY**

The scheme is open to all colleagues from UKCGE member institutions. Applications must have institutional approval from Pro-Vice Chancellor or equivalent.

[ukcge@ukcge.ac.uk](mailto:ukcge@ukcge.ac.uk)

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## CALL FOR MENTORS **GRADUATE SCHOOL MANAGERS MENTORING PROGRAMME**

**Another new initiative to support the postgraduate community that we're delighted to launch is our Graduate School Managers Mentoring Programme.**

Proposed by delegates at last year's Graduate School Manager Network, the scheme is for experienced Graduate School Managers to help those new in role to work through some of the more challenging situations they might face while in role.

The programme is completely voluntary, confidential, and will consist of 4 one-to-one meetings over 6 to 9 months, with the UKCGE team will act as the matchmaker between mentors with mentees.

### **WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

The programme is now almost ready to go live. The final step before launching in November is recruiting mentors. This is where you come in.

We're looking for Graduate School Managers who:

- Have been in the role for at least two years.
- Have specialist knowledge in an aspect of the role.
- Can offer advice, guidance, make suggestions
- Can encourage new managers to generate their own solutions to challenges
- Will bring a range of approaches and interventions to the conversation and has the ability to think differently

If this sounds like you please [email Ian Covey in the UKCGE team](#) and we'll give you more details about the programme.

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### **ON THE UKCGE BLOG**

[How to Make PhD Students Feel Included in the Academic Culture? Insights from Inter- and Transdisciplinary Programmes](#) | By Ola Michalec PhD student of Environmental Policy, UWE Bristol

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[Advancing an authentic writing experience among international PGRs](#) | By Dr Dely Elliot & Dr Kara Makara, University of Glasgow

[The Professional and the Personal – Reflections on a Survey of LGBTQ+ Doctoral Students](#) | By Ross English & Kieran Fenby-Hulse

[Mentoring of Novice Supervisors: Training and Support](#) | By Elly S Grossman, Walter Sisulu University and Nigel J Crowther, NHLS/University of the Witwatersrand

### Running a project you'd like us to feature?

Send [Ian Covey from the UKCGE team an email](#).

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## JOIN THE COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH SUPERVISION



Run by research supervisors, for research supervisors, the network brings together practitioners from across the sector to showcase and develop our understanding of excellence in research supervision.

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**THE VOICE OF THE POSTGRADUATE COMMUNITY**



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