

I would like to start my first email for 2024 by wishing you a very happy and prosperous New Year. I am happy to welcome a new cohort of graduate research students this trimester, while nearly 100 theses have been submitted already this month for examination. Whatever stage you are at – if you are just starting, continuing or completing your studies – I would like to congratulate on pursuing your graduate research degree.

Please see below some upcoming events you might like to attend and updates for this month.

### **Orientation for new graduate research students**

Graduate Studies will hold an orientation for new January-start research students in the Red Room, [UCD Student Centre](#) on Thursday 8 February from 10 am to 1 pm.

You can [register](#) for Orientation via the Booking Centre.

[Resources for incoming graduate research students](#) can be found on our website.

### **Taught module registration**

Registration is currently open for taught modules for graduate research students and will remain open until 10 am Tuesday 6 February. As part of a UCD PhD, students must complete 30 credits of modules relevant to their area of research over the course of their programme.

Details of recommended modules and the [registration procedure](#) can be found on the UCD Graduate Studies website.

### **Online and in-person Graduate Studies workshops**

Please remember to check and register for a place on our [PhD workshops](#), which run from February until April 2024. The programme of activities starts with online workshops, which are delivered by the international expert Hugh Kearns (Flinders University, Australia).

Based on your feedback to date, these are very popular workshops that students have found both enjoyable and useful. Graduate Studies also run in-person workshops, which help students to navigate their PhD. Please keep an eye out for workshops offered by colleagues in the Careers Network, Library and the Writing Centre below.

- You can register for all workshops via the [Booking Centre](#).

Please also note that [Research Integrity Training](#) is a compulsory element for all Research Degree programmes for students admitted after 31 August 2019.

### **WOW (Write on Wednesday)**

WOW (Write on Wednesday) is an online writing group for research students, facilitated by the Writing Centre and supported by Graduate Studies and Students' Union. Participants meet every Wednesday morning, via Zoom, and work on their writing. Attending the group could be particularly beneficial if you are looking for motivation and a supportive community of fellow student writers.

To [register](#) and to find out more about the purpose and operation of the group, visit the UCD Library website.

The Student Survey showed that being a part of a WOW writing community gave the students focus, motivation, and a sense of community and accountability, all of which helped their productivity.

### **UCD Student Adviser – Graduate Research Students**

Eamonn McHugh, your UCD Graduate Research Student Adviser, can assist you to find pathways to deal with personal, social and emotional issues. An extended section on [student supports](#) that Eamonn can help you with is on UCD Student Advisers website.

You can also contact Eamonn directly by email at [eamonn.mchugh@ucd.ie](mailto:eamonn.mchugh@ucd.ie).

Come and meet Eamonn at the first graduate research student Coffee Morning of the New Year on Thursday, 25 January at 10.30 am in the Red Room in the [Student Centre](#). If you are planning to attend, please [register](#).

[Tara Hughes](#), Career and Skills Consultant for graduate research students, will be joining us on the day.

### **UCD Careers Network**

You can find the list of careers workshops available for bookings now via [MyCareer](#). A number of Masterclasses are available:

#### *Graduate Researcher Careers Masterclass*

- Wednesday, 31 January 2024, 3.00 pm – 5.00 pm, Global Lounge – Restaurant Building

#### *Graduate Researcher Careers Masterclass*

- Tuesday, 20 February 2024, 10.00 am – 12.00 pm, Global Lounge – Restaurant Building

#### *Graduate Researcher Alumni Panel*

- Thursday, 7 March 2024, 12.00 pm – 2.00 pm, Global Lounge – Restaurant Building

#### *Graduate Researcher Careers Masterclass*

- Friday, 12 April 2024, 10.00 am – 12.00 pm, Online – Zoom

### **PGR StudentSurvey 2024**

I would like to give you an update on the PGR StudentSurvey.ie. A UCD report based on the anonymised 2023 PGR StudentSurvey.ie data was generated and disseminated to all Colleges and Schools. This report provides data at University, College and School level.

Based on the received student feedback from the survey, each School was asked to develop a quality enhancement action plan, which will be reviewed before the next survey cycle in 2025.

As mentioned in an earlier email, the response rate for UCD in 2023 was 45%. This is a significant increase of 15% from the previous University response rate of 30%. While this result is higher, I want to highlight it is important to maintain and increase the level of participation for the upcoming surveys.

Your questions and feedback are always welcome via our [Graduate Studies Connector](#).

Last but not least, please do not forget to visit our [News and Events](#) page regularly for events that may be of interest.

Wishing you all the best in 2024.

Very best wishes,

Barbara

Professor Barbara Dooley Dean of Graduate Studies

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