

I hope you enjoyed your Halloween break as we head toward the end of Trimester 1.

During November there are several activities you may wish to participate in. You will see details of workshops on offer across Graduate Studies, the Library and Careers.

There is also an initial report on the results of the Student Survey and a big thank you to all who participated.

PGR StudentSurvey.ie

I would like to say a huge thank you to all PGR students who responded to the 2023 Student Survey. This year we had an unprecedented response rate of 45% (915 responses). This is a significant increase of 15% from the previous University (and national) response rate of 30%. The increase in engagement was across the University; the lowest response rate in any college was 38% and the highest was 59%. The data from this 2023 survey will be the most robust to date. Early analysis on the data reveals that students are reporting higher levels of satisfaction in comparison with 2021 results in all areas: supervision, research culture, progress and assessment, as well as development opportunities. It is important to highlight the big increase of almost 17 percentage points between 2023 and 2021 results in questions related to Research Culture. The reported improvement is very encouraging, but more work continues in this area (see in depth Research Culture Survey below). On the other hand, only 45% of students are stating that they have received advice on career options, which is higher than 35.3% reported in 2021 but is still an area to focus on.

At the core of UCD's graduate education strategy lies a commitment to fostering a consistently high standard of research student experience that is independent of funding, School or discipline. Your feedback is crucial to informing and driving quality enhancement initiatives in your Schools. By fully engaging with the University in the [StudentSurvey.ie](#), you are ensuring that research students will receive the appropriate support and resources you need to succeed in your academic and professional pursuits.

ThesisIn3 Irish Universities Association National Final 2023

You are invited to attend the 3 Minute Thesis – IUA National Final 2023 on Wednesday, 15 November in the Royal Irish Academy, Dawson St and online. The competition will see 8 PhD students using one slide each to tell us about their research within a 3-minute timeframe.

Each of the 8 IUA universities will be represented by the winner or runner up of the individual university competitions held throughout the year. This promises to be a very exciting event with cash prizes for the winners and an opportunity for the audience to vote for their favourite presentation. The [IUA website](#) has details of the competitors, the programme and judging panel. We invite you to attend in-person or online.

Registration links:

[Register to attend in-person](#)

[Register to attend online](#)

Transferable Skills workshops

Graduate Studies TSkills workshops running this month and next month are open for [registration](#).

There is a [RESET](#) workshop with Dave Delaney on Wednesday, 15 November 2023 (10 am to 11 am), with an additional workshop in December. This workshop will be hybrid, with a zoom link sent to all participants so you can choose how to join on the day.

In these sessions, Dave (Wellness and Community Projects Officer in the Student Adviser Unit) will expand your understanding of yourself. He will explain the process of thinking, perception and decision-making.

Final call for the Thesis Boot Camp with Peta Freestone

- Are you a late-stage PhD student struggling with the writing-up battle?
- Do you put off writing tasks until 'tomorrow'?
- Are you finding it tough 'going it alone'?

[Apply](#) by 10 November.

Library

There are a number of [Library Research Toolkit workshops](#) available.

Career Development Workshops

Tara Hughes is the Career and Skills Consultant for Graduate Research Students and can be contacted by email at tara.hughes@ucd.ie.

The Careers Network offer a series of workshops throughout the year, which can be booked via [My Career](#).

Research Culture Survey

The Research Culture Survey 2023 opened on 6 November. All members of the UCD research community including graduate research students are invited to participate. This is your opportunity to share your views on the culture of research at UCD through an anonymous survey. In the 2021 Survey you told us that quality mentorship is essential for early career researchers, and in response we interviewed 10+ award-winning mentors and mentees about best practice and posted these on the [Mentoring webpage](#) available as part of the Research Culture toolkit.

We want to hear from you! [Complete the survey](#) today.

C'Mere Till I tell Ye Festival

As a friend of Simply Science, we'd like to offer you access to our festival – C'mere Til I Tell Ye.

It's a UCD, Simply Science, Science Foundation Ireland event for Science Week.

The website is live at www.cmere.ie and if you use the promocode 'simplysciencefriend', it'll give you a 100% discount on the ticket cost. People can still pay and proceeds will go to charity as it is a sponsored event already.

Student Support

We are always mindful of our students' health and wellbeing at UCD. A list of available [student supports](#) is available on the UCD Graduate Studies website.

Best wishes and warmest regards,

Paul

Professor Paul McCabe, Dean of Graduate Studies