

I am delighted to welcome you all to the new academic year 2023–24, whether you are starting your degree with us in UCD or continuing your studies.

As we prepare for the new academic year, I wanted to share some initiatives and information from Graduate Studies to support our community of research students.

Orientation Graduate Research Students 22 September 2023

UCD Graduate Studies will provide a Graduate Research Student Orientation for incoming graduate research students only on Friday 22 September 2023 at 10am in the UCD Village Auditorium. This event is intended to give research students a helpful overview of key information and supports at UCD as well as an opportunity to meet other incoming research students from across the University.

Welcome Guide for graduate research and taught students 2023–24

The [Welcome Guide](#) provides advice around starting life as a graduate student in UCD and I invite you to look at it if you are a new incoming student.

Graduate Research Student Handbook 2023–24

The [Graduate Research Student Handbook](#) is a key support for both staff and students. It is updated for the new academic year and can be found online in the relevant section of UCD Graduate Studies website.

Research and professional development planning

[Research and Professional Development Planning](#) (RPDP) is an integral part of all research degree programmes at UCD. Its purpose is to ensure that your work is clearly focused on achieving your research and professional goals. The RPDP Record captures the outcomes of meetings between you and your Research Studies Panel (RSP): that is, your current research plan, the progress you have made in your research, future plans, and a record of credit awards and any professional development activities undertaken.

Some updates and events for this month:

Programme Registration for Graduate Research Students – Reminder for September Start students

Please note that all graduate research students need to confirm their enrolment/registration at the start of each year of their studies. To do so, please log into your SISWeb account via UCDCoconnect and confirm your details and pay fees. Failure to do so might cause your account to be deactivated and incur a penalty. Further information can be found on UCD Online [Registration Guides](#).

Module Registration for Graduate Research Students

All graduate research students have the opportunity to take taught modules relevant to their area of research or for their professional development in the course of their programme. Each research programme differs in taught module requirements.

For the academic year 2023-24, graduate research students can register for modules using online systems from Friday 1 September to Thursday 14 September 2023. Further information about registration and a full list of curated modules is available on the [Taught Modules for Research Students](#) webpage.

Hello from your Student Adviser

As the new academic year commences I want to reach out to you and wish you well. As Student Adviser for Graduate Research Students, I offer a confidential, non-judgmental space for students to discuss and explore any concerns or difficulties they may be experiencing throughout their time in UCD.

Should you wish to meet [in confidence](#), either in person or on Zoom, you can email me directly at eamonn.mchugh@ucd.ie to arrange an appointment. During the year I will be hosting monthly coffee mornings/networking events and wellness sessions. Keep an eye out for details.

Graduate Research Student Coffee Morning – 26 September

The first of this year's [Graduate Research Student Coffee](#) mornings takes place on Tuesday 26 September at 10.30 am in the Red Room, in the [Student Centre](#). Your Student Adviser, Eamonn McHugh and members of the PhD Society will be available on the day so come along and say hi.

For those of you new to UCD or those yet to come along to one of the events, this is a great opportunity for you to meet with other grad research students and make new connections.

Throughout the year guest speakers will be invited to these events, the details of which will be shared closer to the time.

Career Development Workshops

Tara Hughes is the Career and Skills Consultant for Graduate Research Students.

- 26 September – Masterclass
- 10 October – CV, Cover letters and LinkedIn
- 25 October – Interview Skills

Please book through [My Career](#). My Career can also be accessed through UCD Connect.

Email tara.hughes@ucd.ie with any questions or comments.

Student Support

We are always mindful of our students' health and wellbeing at UCD. The university offers a suite of [supports for research students](#) and for the entire student population. Do stay connected and avail of these valuable supports and services, which are there to help you.

Join the PhD Society

If you want to meet and connect with other PhD students in UCD, join the PhD Students Society!

Find more info on how to join and follow the society under [PhD Society](#).

FindAUniversity are thrilled to announce that University College Dublin UCD PhD Students' Society has been shortlisted for a [Postgrad Award](#) in the category of Outstanding Contribution to Support & Wellbeing.

We received a number of high quality nominations so congratulations to [all shortlisted nominees](#). Our [expert judging panel](#) now have the difficult job of selecting the winners, who will be announced in September.

About FindAUniversity:

FindAUniversity are experts in everything postgraduate. Since 2001, they've been passionate about helping colleagues in the higher education sector to meet their postgraduate recruitment targets. Their portfolio of websites, which includes FindAMasters.com and FindAPhD.com, helps thousands of students to find their perfect postgraduate degree every year. They also work in partnership with leading universities to deliver a series of the UK's largest and busiest postgraduate study fairs. Launched in 2019, the Postgrad Awards celebrate everyone working in the postgraduate community. Find out more about us at [FindAUniversity.com](https://www.findauniversity.com) or follow us on [LinkedIn](#) and [Twitter](#).

I wish you all the best as we commence this academic year. I will be communicating regularly with you and you can always keep an eye on the Graduate Studies website for the latest [news and events](#).

Best wishes for a successful academic year!

Warmest regards,

Paul Professor Paul McCabe, Dean of Graduate Studies

Follow us on [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#).