



THE UNIVERSITY  
of EDINBURGH



INSTITUTE FOR  
ACADEMIC  
DEVELOPMENT

# Postgraduate Research Supervisor Newsletter

## February 2019

As part of the Excellence in Doctoral Education and Career Development programme of work, the University is committed to strengthening the support for PGR supervisors. More information on this work and of the Senate Researcher Experience Committee can be found here: <http://edin.ac/2pFy7zo>

This newsletter contains links to events and signposts relevant information and resources. If you would like to feature an event or resources in the newsletter please contact us.

### Programme of events and workshops March — May 2019

<p><b>Creating the Seven Secrets of a Highly Successful Research Student (For Supervisors)</b></p> <p>Hugh Kearns of Flinders University, Australia. will describe the key habits that will make a difference to how quickly and easily research students complete their doctorate with minimal stress.</p>	<p>Tuesday 26th March, 9:30—12:30</p>	<p><a href="https://edin.ac/2FyUulp">https://edin.ac/2FyUulp</a></p>
<p><b>Practical Strategies for... Using a Solution Focused Approach in PhD Supervision</b></p> <p>This workshop will give you powerful conversation tools which can quickly shift conversations from problems and complaints to solutions, and empower PhD students to take more personal responsibility for success. The conversation tools are easy to learn and use, and research has shown that one of the greatest benefits of Solution Focus is in reducing practitioner stress.</p>	<p>Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 14:30 – 16:30</p>	<p><a href="https://edin.ac/2Gb8gKk">https://edin.ac/2Gb8gKk</a></p>
<p><b>engage: PGR student and supervisor writing retreats - building a sense of community</b></p> <p>The engage network is running an event on writing retreats that may be of interest, led by Marc Metzger and students from the School of Geosciences.</p>	<p>Thursday 11th April, 9:00—10:30</p>	<p><a href="https://edin.ac/2xVUzZP">https://edin.ac/2xVUzZP</a></p>
<p><b>Spotlight on....Supporting International Doctoral Students</b></p> <p>You will have the opportunity to discuss specific approaches to supervising international doctoral students and to share any challenges. We'll hear about the research on the international doctoral student journey, and from different services about the support they provide.</p>	<p>Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April, 9.30 – 12.30</p>	<p><a href="https://edin.ac/2GcPrGH">https://edin.ac/2GcPrGH</a></p>
<p><b>Gaining Teaching Accreditation for Your PhD Supervision</b></p> <p>This workshop will help you to identify ways of gaining teaching accreditation for the work you do in doctoral supervision. You will find out about Higher Education Fellowship and the Edinburgh Teaching Award.</p>	<p>Wednesday 8 May, 14:00 - 15:30</p>	<p><a href="https://edin.ac/2FyHIDk">https://edin.ac/2FyHIDk</a></p>

## English Language Education (ELE)

English Language Education provides a range of general, academic and specialist English courses for students, professionals and groups, including courses specifically for PhD students. PhD Supervisors can 'refer' a student to English Language Education, which means that the student would be prioritised in the allocation of places on courses. If you feel your student would benefit from support from ELE please contact [Mike.Garbutt@ed.ac.uk](mailto:Mike.Garbutt@ed.ac.uk)

More information can also be found here: <https://www.ed.ac.uk/english-language-teaching/university-of-edinburgh-staff/supporting-your-students>

## Informal Supervisor Discussions

We hold informal discussions for PGR supervisors on a monthly basis. They are open to all supervisors (all levels of experience) and are a forum for sharing practice and discussing common challenges and approaches. Each discussion has a theme. All are held in the back area of Levels Café on Holyrood Road and coffee/tea and cake is provided. We would love to see you there!

**Wednesday 20th February 15.00 - 16.00** - Supporting wellbeing and mental health

**Thursday 21st March 09.30 - 10.30** - Supporting students to become part of the research community

**Wednesday 24th April 15.00 - 16.00** - Keeping on top of regulation, policy and change

## Compulsory Supervisor Briefings

All new supervisors are required to attend a supervisor briefing. Continuing supervisors should renew these every five years. These are run by the Colleges and Schools in partnership with IAD. You can find a list of these with dates and booking links here: <http://edin.ac/2zsxyQT>

## Supervisor resources

We have developed, or link to, a number of online resources to help support you in research supervision. These include resources on:

- Checklist for students – a guide as they start their degree
- Checklist for supervisors – get ready for supervision
- Setting expectations between student and supervisor – first meeting
- Discussion prompts for supervisory team – to facilitate good working relationships
- Managing difficult conversations
- Supporting students with mental health problems

You can view these resources at the link below:

<https://www.ed.ac.uk/institute-academic-development/research-roles/supervisors/resources>

**Contact us** If you have something you would like to add to future newsletters or have any queries, please get in touch.

## IAD Supervisor Support - Contact Details

Phone: **0131 650 9590**

Email: [iad.phdsupervisors@ed.ac.uk](mailto:iad.phdsupervisors@ed.ac.uk)

Website: [www.ed.ac.uk/iad/supervisors](http://www.ed.ac.uk/iad/supervisors)

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/researchersated>

Blog: <https://iad4researchers.wordpress.com/>

The IAD can be found at: 1 Morgan Lane, Edinburgh, EH8 8FP