

Overview of RIDA and Doctoral School development sessions and programmes 2025-26

Theme	Programme/Session Title	Short description / overall aim	Audience	Date(s) – click to book
AI in Research	AI and Narrative CVs	This will be a practical and in-person only event where we will discuss the ethical ways to use LLM as a supporting tool to write your Narrative CV with a focus on Innovation and Knowledge Exchange (IKE) for the RIKE plans 2026/27. Bring your device and your enthusiasm as we plan to leave the session with your first NCV draft!	Staff	23/01/26
AI in Research	Gen AI and the Researcher	<p>This introductory course aims to demystify the rapidly evolving area of generative artificial intelligence (Gen AI) tools & provides a practical insight into how these tools can be integrated into the research process. There has been an explosion of GenAI tools since 2022, many of which are specifically tailored to researchers, and this technological leap has provided both exciting new opportunities and challenges in the world of research.</p> <p>The course begins with a 45-minute webinar which gives an introduction to GenAI and emphasises the ethical considerations, limitations and responsibilities associated with using these tools. This will be followed by access to an asynchronous course which will describe a variety of tools and how they can be used for research.</p>	PGRs and Staff	16/01/26
AI in Research	AI and Literature Reviews	A practical workshop for PGRs on how to use Co-pilot to help you write your literature review. Attendees should bring their own laptop.	PGRs	13/01/26
Career planning/career development	Planning your development as a new researcher - where to start?	This session will take you through the process of Development Needs Analysis against the Researcher Development Framework (RDF) that is required for RF1. There will be the chance for discussion to help you identify what you need to know right now and seek out opportunities for practising, improving and reflecting on these skills.	Open to all PGRs, aimed at new starters	03/11/25 03/03/26 02/06/26
Career planning/career development	Career management workshop	This workshop builds on key career management theories and contextualises them for individuals to use. This is presented as 'the 3Cs of career management': Connectedness, Curiosity and Courage. Each of the 'Cs' has interactive exercises that personalise the learning to the individual and signposting to open-source follow-on resources. Opportunity for questions is given throughout.	Staff	16/01/26 25/03/26

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Climate Action	Carbon Literacy for Research, Innovation & Knowledge Exchange (RIKE)	<p>This interactive session will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build understanding of the science of climate change and its relevance to research and innovation. Explore how our work as researchers, innovators and knowledge brokers can drive meaningful climate action and support a just transition. Provide sector-specific examples and case studies to help you identify opportunities for change within your own projects, partnerships and professional practice. Support you to develop individual and group actions that contribute to Sheffield Hallam's sustainability goals and the wider RIKE community. <p>By completing this accredited training, you'll join a growing network of Carbon Literate colleagues across the University - embedding sustainability and climate awareness at the heart of everything we do.</p>	PGRs and Staff	03/02/26
Ethics	Ethics briefing for new doctoral students	<p>An introduction to Ethics in the context of Doctoral Research, addressing the key questions of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why do Ethics matter? What are your responsibilities? How do you apply for Ethical approval? What can go wrong? 	Open to all PGRs, aimed at new starters	21/10/25 25/02/26 19/05/26
Fellowship	Early Career Research and Innovation Fellowship (ECRIF) Scheme	Targeted support for staff at a relatively early stage of their research careers to establish their research and innovation portfolio and/or develop a new research area or collaboration. Support for prospective and successful fellows includes 2 application workshops, launch/close event and monthly ECRIF cohort discussions.	Staff	Jan 26-Jan 27 Jan 27-Jan 28
Funding	New Investigator Award GrantCraft webinar	An overview of the New Investigator Award scheme which is available across the UKRI funding councils to support researchers at the start of their careers to enable their transition to become independent researchers. The session will include top tips on how to make a successful application; the impact of this award on career development; insights on	Staff	TBC

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		what panels are looking for in a successful application; and details of RIS support to facilitate applications.		
Funding	Proposal Launchpad	This 4-session programme helps ECRs learn how to approach idea generation, preliminary project research, and horizon scanning to ensure that they have a solid foundation in finding and evaluating their ideas throughout their entire academic career. This helps them move beyond fixating on trendy topics or the latest buzzwords, and instead stand out from the crowd in a positive way. After all, it's difficult to show that you're leading the research agenda or carrying out state-of-the-art research if you're doing what everyone else does.	Staff (ECRs)	15/01/2026 , 29/01/2026 , 12/02/2026 , 26/02/2026
Funding	Couch to £500K (C2500K) Programme	The ten-session Couch to £500k course helps participants to develop the skills and confidence needed to develop and write competitive research proposals. The course will first help you to frame your proposal idea and understand your funder. It will then guide you through planning and writing the sections of a research proposal. Alongside this, you will be able to reflect on what create clear and effective communication throughout a proposal.	Staff (MCRs)	<i>April 25 – Jan 26 – new dates will be released in 2026</i>
IP & Commercialisation	Commercialisation of University intellectual property	This interactive session is intended primarily for SHU staff involved in research and innovation activity (current or planned). Following a brief introduction to the basics of what IP is and how it can be protected, the agenda will move on to areas that feature prominently among IP and commercialisation enquiries raised with Innovation Services.	Staff	06/11/25
Leadership	A sustainable academic life - coaching circles	A small group coaching initiative called A sustainable academic life. This initiative aims to support academics and research fellows in their ongoing leadership development. In essence, it is about bringing together a small group of academics, fellows and PIs and offering them structured reflection time about their own context. These sessions are not workshops with a pre-defined theme. They are focused thinking spaces where participants bring their own current challenges, are supported in reframing the issues and explore ways forward.	TLFs	TBC
Mentoring	PGR peer mentoring	A university-wide peer mentoring scheme to help PGRs at the start of the research degree to adjust academically and personally to studying at Hallam; provide a safe space to ask questions to and draw on the experience of another Hallam PGR. The scheme will run throughout the	PGRs	Oct briefing: 21/10/2025

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		year, with termly briefings for new mentors/mentees, and asynchronous training for mentors.		Feb briefing: 19/02/2026
Mentoring	Mid-Career Researcher (MCR) mentoring scheme	A cross-institutional mentoring scheme where MCRs (mentees) and experienced academics (mentors) are matched via a reciprocal arrangement to access support from outside of their normal sphere, giving a broader perspective and increasing networking opportunities.	Staff	TBC
Mentoring	The essentials of mentoring	This session is designed to give those new to mentoring and/or those who would like a refresher on the essential aspects of mentoring including: what mentoring is/isn't; setting up the mentoring partnership; and core mentoring skills.	ECRIFs (but open to all staff)	11/02/26 - <i>booking link will go live in January</i>
Narrative CV	Introduction to Narrative CVs - your career in 1000 words	Introductory session if you're writing a narrative CV for the first time.	Staff	12/01/26
Narrative CV	Refining your Narrative CV - building on your career story	A follow-on session if you've already got a narrative CV that you want to share and improve based on peer feedback.	Staff (ECRs)	19/01/26
Networking	Making the Most of Conferences	This session aims to support PGRs (and ECRs who have transitioned from outside of academia) in developing outcomes from their conference attendance. Over the summer there are numerous conferences, and this session will discuss the many reasons and benefits of attending a conference.	PGRs and ECRs	06/05/26
PGR Lifecycle (RF1, RF2, Viva)	RIDA/Doctoral School Welcome e-learning module	This e-learning module will introduce new starters to the life of a Sheffield Hallam doctoral researcher and provide orientation on a number of key elements relating to doctoral study. It will introduce you to staff and teams involved in supporting your studies and other doctoral researchers from across the University.	New PGRs	Asynchronous – accessible via Blackboard
PGR Lifecycle (RF1, RF2, Viva)	Independent Chair and Examiner Workshop	This combined workshop is intended to be of benefit to a wide range of Hallam staff with an interest in, or responsibility for, research degree student examinations. It raises awareness of examination procedures; explores the roles of internal examiner, external examiner and independent chair; provides opportunity to share good practice and debate on the issues around the definition and maintenance of research degree standards. It also explores the management and conduct of the viva voce examination, awareness of Learning Contracts in the operation	Staff	02/12/2026 14/05/2026

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		of a viva and suggestions to enhancements to process and/or documentation.		
PGR Lifecycle (RF1, RF2, Viva)	Dr App - Is my research good enough?	Join the Dr.App team to discuss the question that's never far from a PhD student's mind. Apart from occasional feedback from your supervisor, how do you know you are on track to meet the required standard? The 90-minute session will include excerpts from several of the Angel Productions videos for doctoral students followed by questions and discussion, with expert contribution from Prof John Wakeford of the Missenden Centre. It will be hosted by Angel Productions and will also serve as an introduction to Dr.App, the online resource which gives Sheffield Hallam staff and students access to the entire video series. This session is recommended for research students at any stage of a doctorate, and for staff who work with them.	PGRs	11/12/25
PGR Lifecycle (RF1, RF2, Viva)	Viva Survivor	<p>Viva Survivor is a three-hour Zoom session designed to help PGRs feel well-prepared for their viva. To date, it's been delivered to over 7000 PhD candidates at universities around the UK. By the end of a session participants will have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identified what examiners are looking for when they examine a thesis; • discussed the many ways that others can support preparation; • explored valuable viva preparation methods; • established realistic expectations for the viva; • discussed common questions about the PhD viva. 	PGRs	05/11/25 05/03/26
Presentation skills	3 Minute Thesis (3MT) Competition	3MT is a research communication competition that challenges doctoral candidates to present their research topic to a non-specialist audience, giving a compelling presentation explaining their work and its significance in just three minutes. Support includes workshops, feedback on draft presentations, and an academic staff mentor. The final event was combined with a visual communications taster session for 2025.	PGRs	Spring 2026 – dates to be released in early 2025

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Presentation skills	Visual Storytelling	Each in-person half-day session will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence base and theory behind various visual storytelling methods • Practical frameworks and 'how to's of how to communicate effectively • Guided live activities to build your skill 	PGRs and Staff	October 2025
Presentation skills	Giving a great conference presentation	At conferences, as we communicate our work, whether live or online, it is vital that as researchers we address the questions of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how do effective presenters confidently commit to their material and connect with their audience – live and online • how can we add value to an audience by presenting and how can we make the online experience as stimulating as if we were in the same room • what devices (verbal / vocal / visual) will help us get our message across • how do we get dense and difficult material across to an audience • how can we handle 'difficult' questions from the audience and handle other challenging scenarios in a capable and confident manner. 	PGRs and Staff	09/03/26 (in person) 17/03/26 (online)
Presentation skills	Short Talks, Lasting Impression	Take your communication to the next level and uncover how to deliver an award-winning talk. Discover the hints and tips that will make your talk stand out from the crowd and how to banish nerves to give a confident performance. An optional follow up session provides an opportunity to practice your short talk and receive feedback on how to improve it.	PGRs	09/02/26
Productivity and time management	Time Management	There never seems to be enough time. There is so much to do, competing priorities, looming deadlines. We are often so busy doing things that there is no time to step back and look at how we are doing things and how we are managing our time. This workshop is an opportunity to do just that. It covers prioritising, goal setting and managing competing demands in a university context. If you want to increase your effectiveness without compromising your work/life balance, then this workshop is for you. Key aspects of this workshop have featured in the journal Nature.	PGRs and Staff	09/12/25 09/06/25

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Public engagement	Working with the media	This session will cover: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why work with the media and engage in PR • Types of PR activity • Broadcast interview tips and techniques • Next steps and questions 	Staff (aimed at ECRs but open to all)	23/02/26
Public engagement	Social Media for Researchers	Getting your work on social media may be easy - but making it popular is more challenging. This workshop takes you through the main social media channels and looks at how to create short, sharp, share-worthy content messages. Discover how to use social media to foster meaningful interactions and share your work with as many people as possible.	PGRs and Staff	22/04/26
Public engagement	Writing beyond the academy – popularising your research	In this session, we will look at how we can recontextualise our research in order to communicate meaningfully with readers beyond academia, using a blog post as an example. In the first half of the day, you will take part in genre analytical tasks to develop an awareness of the different rhetorical strategies used in popular/outreach writing versus research writing. After lunch, you will apply those insights by writing your own blog post for publication.	PGRs and Staff	12/12/25
Research methods	NVivo training	This 2-day workshop will introduce NVivo and give you the chance to work on your own data: Day 1 – Introduction to NVivo – setting up your qualitative database Day 2 – NVivo Underway – analysing your data	PGRs and Staff	03/12-04/12/25 (in person) 08/07-09/07/26 (online)
Supervision (PGR)	Let's Talk about Supervisory Relationships	The quality of your relationship with your supervisor or supervisors can be crucial to the progress of your doctorate. There are some common student: supervisor relationship issues for doctoral students in all disciplines. This session focuses on how you can align expectations and build effective collaborative supervisory relationships and trust.	Open to all PGRs, aimed at new starters	06/11/25 04/03/26 03/06/26
Supervision (staff)	UKCGE Supervisor Recognition Application Writing Workshop	To support Sheffield Hallam research supervisors to develop Associate or Full applications for UKCGE Research Supervisor Recognition.	Supervisors	10/09/2025 11/02/2026

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Supervision (staff)	Intermediate Supervisor Development Award (ISDA)	The Intermediate Supervisor Development Award (ISDA) is designed to support research supervisors to develop their reflective practice as they progress their supervision activity. It uses a peer learning approach. Session 1 explores building and managing relationships between candidates and supervisors and between the supervisory team. Session 2 focuses on the various approaches that may be employed to support candidates to research, write and publish throughout their doctoral journey as well as understanding the importance of providing meaningful feedback and support. Session 3 explores the wider skills and responsibilities of doctoral supervisors including acting as a mentor, supporting career aspirations and being a good role model.	Supervisors	Autumn 25 – 23/10/25 to 17/12/25 Spring 26 – 10/03/26 to 12/05/26
Supervision (staff)	Working with your doctoral students' writing	We know that supporting students' writing is one of the most important, but also one of the most frustrating and challenging aspects of the supervisory journey. We all know that doctoral students find writing challenging, complicated, alien, frustrating and so on, and as supervisors, our job to help students meet that challenge. The aim of this workshop is to begin the work of supporting our supervisors better when it comes to working with their doctoral students' writing. The workshop will begin by providing a frame for thinking about what it means to write at the doctoral level and the role of the supervisor, followed by an exploration of concrete strategies and materials for working with your students' writing.	Supervisors	27/11/25
Supervision (staff)	Doctoral Supervisor Development Programme (DSDP)	Aimed at those new to research supervision at SHU as part of onboarding. The programme introduces supervisors to university regulations and policies on doctoral supervision, the PGR student lifecycle at SHU and facilitates discussion and sharing of supervision practices to assist you to develop effective research supervision skills. This programme runs as 2-day block in person sessions or asynchronous content with live drop-in session follow-ups.	Supervisors	Jan 26: 19-20/01/2026 May 26: 20-21/05/2026 Asynchronous sessions w/live follow up
Supervision (staff)	Supervisor Peer Mentoring Circles	Details TBC	Supervisors	TBC

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Supervision (staff)	Peer Observation of Supervision	Details TBC	Supervisors	TBC
Supervision (staff)	Let's talk about supporting international PhD candidates	Details TBC	Supervisors	TBC
Supervision (staff)	Let's talk about developing effective team supervision	Details TBC	Supervisors	TBC
Supervision (staff)	Let's talk about supporting candidates for doctoral examination	Details TBC	Supervisors	TBC
Teaching skills	Teaching Skills for Doctoral Students (TSDS)	To prepare researchers for teaching and supporting learning in HE. Run over 4 sessions: Introduction to teaching in HE; Session planning and delivery; Active learning and Personal approaches/theories.	PGRs	Autumn 25 – 07/11/25 to 27/11/25 Spring 26 – 27/02/26 to 20/03/26
Teaching skills	Digital skills for PGRs who teach	A session on the practical aspects of delivering teaching using digital technologies available at Sheffield Hallam including Blackboard Ultra.	PGRs	24/02/26 04/03/26
Teaching skills	Decoding the language of assessment	What's the difference between an assessment criterion, a module learning outcome and a grade descriptor? The first half of this session aims to improve your own 'assessment literacy', which will help to make the marking process more straightforward for you and transparent for your students. In the second half of the session we introduce and discuss some principles of effective assessment feedback, with opportunities for participants to review their own assessment feedback. We also identify ways to streamline the marking process and explore possible approaches to standardising feedback. The focus is on marking written work and presentations.	PGRs	06/05/26
Wellbeing	Agency and empowerment: exploring	This workshop is designed to empower you with the confidence and the sense of belonging to become powerful advocates for your researcher	Racially minoritised PGRs	11/11/25

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	your identity as a racially minoritised PGR	journey. Through the workshop you will tap into your sense of agency, leadership, resilience and self-efficacy so that new goals become possible.		
Wellbeing	Imposter Phenomenon	In this seminar we cover the definition of impostor phenomenon and its prevalence in the academic population. We provide an overview of symptoms highlighting those seen in academic settings, and we facilitate community discussion on how to overcome impostor phenomenon in our individual lives.	PGRs and Staff	07/11/25 06/03/26
Wellbeing	Basics of burnout	A seminar and facilitated discussion which defines the core components of Burnout, presents evidence-based strategies to treat the symptoms, and discusses how to prevent work-related stress.	PGRs and Staff	12/12/25 10/07/26
Writing	Writing for Publication	The course will show you how to prepare, write and submit an original journal article that has a good chance of being accepted for publication. It goes through the process of writing a scientific paper in 10 easy stages, starting from understanding the game and ending with writing the covering letter and sending off the "package". It is about the writing process and is not a course on technical editing or critical appraisal. During the course you will have the opportunity to develop and work on your idea for a journal article that you have already collected data for.	PGRs and Staff	10/02/26
Writing	RIDA Writing Retreats	Join us for focused time on a writing task of your choice, surrounded by others doing the same. There is no 'facilitation' or specific feedback on your writing but we encourage you to set yourself writing targets and share progress with each other. There will be a member of the RIDA Team on hand to keep time. Bring your laptop, any materials you need, and a plan for what you want to write in the session.	PGRs and Staff	Weekly throughout the year
Writing	Dealing with reviewer comments	Submitting the article is only the beginning... In this workshop we draw back the curtain on the peer review process. We will unpick how the peer review process works, what peer review comments look like, and most importantly, how to respond to them in a way that maximises your chances of publication.	PGRs and Staff	21/11/25

Visit the RIDA website for more info on the [sessions](#), [programmes](#), and [resources](#) on offer.