THE UNIVERSITY OF
NORTHAMPTON
Graduate School

POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH SKILLS

DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

SEPTEMBER 2014-JULY 2015

TRANSFORMING LIVES **+** INSPIRING CHANGE

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RESEARCHERS & THE RDF: A BACKGROUND

In 2010 Research Councils endorsed the Research Development Framework (RDF) as setting out the knowledge, behaviours and attributes of effective and highly skilled researchers appropriate for a wide range of careers. According to the RDF, by the end of a postgraduate research degree students should have gained skills in the following areas:

- *Knowledge and intellectual abilities, including research techniques and critical thinking*
- *Personal effectiveness, including career management, networking and integrity*
- *Research governance and organisation including professionalism, ethics, income generation and project planning*
- *Engagement, influence and impact including communication skills, teaching, leadership and collaboration.*

These skills, many of which are developed naturally during the course of undertaking a postgraduate research degree, can be applied to a wide range of sectors beyond academia and research. For example, Physical Sciences and Engineering PhD graduates have been recruited into project management roles across various sectors or into analytical roles within business and finance. Research students can gain great stimulation and a sense of achievement by undertaking more in-depth study and perhaps push the boundaries of their intellectual limits.

EMPLOYABILITY

Statistics published for 2010 showed that:

- *92% of doctoral graduates are in paid employment between three and four years after graduating*
- *41% are employed in the Higher Education (HE) sector, 59% outside HE.*

Source: Vitae http://www.vitae.ac.uk/CMS/files/upload/WDRD_3_%20years_%20on_soft%20copy.pdf

Becoming an academic is no longer a primary career path for doctoral graduates. Many first destination data studies show a wide variety of occupations available. Statistics, such as those shown above, regularly suggest that over 50% of doctoral graduates work outside Higher Education. Transferable skills, such as communication and presentation skills, creativity, leadership and networking become as important as research methods, intellectual knowledge and critical thinking, in order to help doctoral graduates continue to develop in the workplace after finishing their research degree.

"I think the generic programme is great, and it allows you to interact with other students too that you do not normally see. I only presented at the conference once, and that was closer to the end of my PhD, so for me, presenting in front of audience was not a problem or daunting experience. But I really enjoyed the community feel it gave us."
University of Northampton PhD Alumnus Dr. Monna Arvinen-Barrow, PhD (C.Psychol),
Assistant Professor, Department of Kinesiology, PO Box 413, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Milwaukee, USA

VITAE AND OUR GENERIC TRAINING PROGRAMME

Vitae is the UK organisation championing the personal, professional and career development of researchers and research staff in higher education institutions and research institutes. The RDF is Vitae's approach to building and supporting researcher development, which aims to enhance capacity to build the UK workforce, develop world-class researchers and build the UK higher education research base. The RDF was developed by and for researchers, in consultation with academics and the public and private sector.

The UN Graduate School provides a series of workshops, based around the RDF which will raise students' awareness of issues to be tackled and tasks to be undertaken when carrying out postgraduate research.

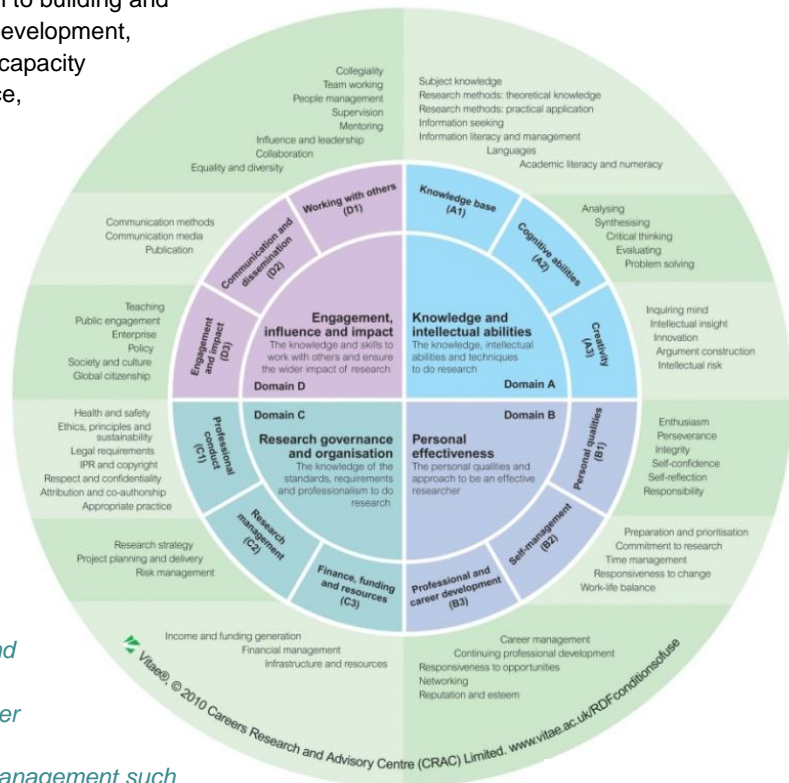The Generic Training component of the programme aims to:

- *introduce a variety of research skills and techniques*
- *develop an understanding of the broader context of the research environment*
- *establish good practices of research management such as monitoring progress*
- *help students manage time and deal with their supervisor*
- *develop and raise awareness of the skills associated with personal effectiveness*
- *heighten communication skills, particularly the ways in which research can be presented in writing, by graphics, through oral presentation and using other media*
- *provide training in appropriate key (transferable) skills associated with the processes of effective career management*

The RDF Wheel:
https://www.vitae.ac.uk

After completing the generic training component of the programme students should be able to:

- *see value in the benefits of integrating skills training as part of their research degree*
- *show a broad understanding of the context in which research takes place*
- *demonstrate original, independent and critical thinking*
- *support their learning using self-direction and supervisor support*
- *apply effective project management through the setting of research goals*
- *appreciate the need for and show commitment to continued professional development*
- *set realistic, achievable career goals, identify and develop ways to improve employability*

"My thanks for running such a good Part Time Researcher Day. I really got a lot from it - felt rather re-invigorated afterwards. It really is so worthwhile coming together with others rowing the same boat."
Part Time Researcher Workshop, University of Northampton, September 17th 2013. Elaine Mitchell, PhD Student at the University of Birmingham

SKILLS TRAINING AND PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

"Doing a PhD helped my communication skills – you have to be able to discuss what you're doing with others and take on board their views and suggestions, and justify the decisions you make. You also get the opportunity to undertake a variety of short courses in different transferable skills whilst you're here, which will really help you in the future." Michelle has presented her work at internal conferences within the university and more currently at two international conferences. She says *"It also gave me the opportunity to meet and network with people who were links to gaining future employment. I think the University's got something special, as it's got what feels like a small community but there's such a diverse range of research going on within it. The support network is excellent, both within the School of Social Sciences and outside it."*
Dr Michelle Pyer. Researcher for the University of Northampton's Centre for Health and Wellbeing Research.

The University is committed to ensuring that all postgraduate research degree students receive suitable skills training and personal development planning (PDP). All postgraduate research degree students will:

- *be provided with appropriate opportunities for developing personal and research skills*
- *have their development needs identified and agreed with an appropriate member of academic staff and regularly reviewed and amended as appropriate during the research programme*
- *maintain a progress file which encourages self-reflection on their learning and records progress in developing their research and other skills*

Students will undertake three levels of training – generic training provided by the Graduate School, discipline-based training and project-specific training, provided for at School level. Research training will be provided by a variety of means that include workshops, conferences, seminars and online packages.

DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME FAQ

WHO CAN ATTEND THE WORKSHOPS?

All students registered for postgraduate research degrees at The University of Northampton can attend the programme. Students join the generic training programme as soon as they have completed induction and enrolled as a postgraduate student.

HOW DO I FIND OUT ABOUT WORKSHOPS AND EVENTS?

As well as in this brochure, workshops are advertised on the Research Support Hub http://researchsupporthub.northampton.ac.uk/. Simply choose the *Category* 'Training' or 'Workshops' from the *Tag Cloud*. Additionally they are marketed via University email, Facebook and Twitter on a regular basis. This year's quick-link to the Research Hub post, featuring all our 2014-15 workshops and events, is http://wp.me/p2eVC1-1Ds. Or you can type *skills development* in the search box and look for the post entitled "The Graduate School PGR and ECR Skills Development Programme 2014-15".

HOW TO BOOK

All our workshops must be booked online through the Eventbrite event management system http://www.eventbrite.co.uk. Each workshop has its own Eventbrite link, which look like this https://parttimeresearcher.eventbrite.co.uk/. It is important that you book online through this system and provide an email address that you use consistently, so that in the event of any cancellation or venue change you can be quickly informed. Please note, we are unable to use an Eventbrite index page as all our events are private so you need to find the Eventbrite link for the workshop in which you are interested.

ARE THEY FREE?

All workshops and events are *free* to registered students, unless otherwise stated. Please note that events outside the University will be advertised on the Research Support Hub and social media; some of these may not be free.

BOOKING ETIQUETTE

Although our workshops and events are free there is a cost implication to the University in the printing of handouts, the provision of refreshments and the professional time, not to mention the effort, of the trainer. Many other Universities charge a booking fee or deposit, but we have chosen not to do this, so please DO NOT abuse the system by booking and failing to turn up! Booking etiquette is as follows:

- Please always check the email account you used for Eventbrite booking before you travel to the University to make sure the workshop is running. If any details change you will be notified **BY EMAIL** through Eventbrite.
- If you have booked a workshop please turn up on time. Make sure you know where the room is situated!
- If you cannot make a workshop please free up your place for another student by emailing simone.apel@northampton.ac.uk or telephone her on 01604 893418, at least 24 hours before.
- Three no-shows (booking and not turning up!) will result in a formal letter warning, a copy of which will be sent to your Supervisor and held in your file at the University.

CANCELLING YOUR BOOKING

By registering on a workshop you are committing to attend. We understand, though, that situations arise and priorities change. You can easily cancel your booking by logging into Eventbrite, choosing My Tickets from the top menu and *View Order*. Cancel is an option. Here, you can also see a list of the workshops you've booked. Alternatively you can email simone.apel@northampton.ac.uk to cancel.

LAST MINUTE CANCELLATION BY US

It is with regret that we sometimes have to cancel a workshop. It is usually due to trainer illness or an inadequate number of bookings. Cancellation notifications will be sent via your **Eventbrite registered email address** so, please, always remember to check your email before you travel on the day.

AT THE WORKSHOP

- **Register: Please make sure you sign the register**. This ensures your attendance record at the end of the year is accurate. Attendance is monitored electronically so that, at the end of the academic year, both you and your Supervisor can hold an accurate record of the workshops and events that you attended.
- **Feedback:** We love to hear your feedback! Please make sure you fill in a workshop evaluation form at the end of the workshop. If you forget or leave early you can email simone.apel@northampton.ac.uk for an electronic copy afterwards.
- **Arriving late or leaving early?** If you know you will be arriving late or leaving early please tell us beforehand. This is simply courteous.

FURTHER INFORMATION

If you have any special requirements with respect to skills development then please contact Simone Apel, Research Training Coordinator. Email: simone.apel@northampton.ac.uk Telephone: 01604 893418.

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT DAYS & WORKSHOPS BY DATE

		Individual workshop list by date	
Please note: Some workshops listed below are Development Days, which are full day workshops for a certain stage of a research degree. They offer 3 individual sessions and it is beneficial to attend all three. If you wish to miss a session then book on the day and email simone.apel@northampton.ac.uk to advise.			
September 23rd 2014	11:00-13:00	**Preparing for Transfer (PGRs)** *David Watson*	http://preptranssept14.eventbrite.co.uk/
September 25th 2014	9:30-12:30	**Nvivo 1: Introduction** *Brenda Padilla Rodriguez*	http://nvivo1sept14.eventbrite.co.uk/
September 25th 2014	13:30-16:30	**Nvivo 2: Intermediate** *Brenda Padilla Rodriguez*	For those who have attended Nvivo 1 or already have a good working knowledge of Nvivo. http://nvivo2sept14.eventbrite.co.uk
September 30th 2014		**Preparing for the Viva (for part time PGRs).** *Prof Chris Roe*	In Part-Time Researcher Finishing Workshop (full day) Email Simone.apel@northampton.ac.uk to attend only the Viva workshop on the 30th Sept.
October 15th 2014	11:00-13:00	**Making the most of NECTAR** *Nick Dimmock & Dr Miggie Pickton*	https://nectaroct14.eventbrite.co.uk
October 30th 2014	11:00-13:00	**Finding Resources on the Web** *Nick Dimmock & Dr Miggie Pickton*	https://findresourcesoct14.eventbrite.co.uk
November 13th 2014	9:30-11:30	**Systematic Literature Searching** *Dr Miggie Pickton & Gillian Siddall*	*In "Getting Started Part 1: Development Day"* See November 13th Development Day above to book
November 13th 2014	11:45-13:15	**Risk Assessing your Research** *Paul Bradley*	*In "Getting Started Part 1: Development Day"* See November 13th Development Day above to book
November 13th 2014	14:00-16:00	**MS Word: Working with Long Documents (PGRs)** *Simone Apel*	*In "Getting Started Part 1: Development Day"* See November 13th Development Day above to book
November 17th 2014	10:00-12:00	**SPSS part 1: Introduction to SPSS** *Paul Rice*	http://spsspart1intronov14.eventbrite.co.uk/ Paul Rice is also available for 1-1 training via CfAP. There are a series of SPSS training videos on the SkillsHub.
November 18th 2014	17:00-19:00	**Preparing for the Viva (PGRs)** *Prof Chris Roe*	http://prepvivanov14.eventbrite.co.uk/
November 26th 2014	12:00-14:00	**Careers focus: Preparing for Interviews (PGRs)** *Lynn Finn, Careers*	POSTPONED TO BE RESCHEDULED

December 1st 2014	10:00-12:00	**SPSS part 2: Basic Inferential Statistics in SPSS** *Paul Rice*	http://spsspart2inferdec14.eventbrite.co.uk/ Paul Rice is also available for 1-1 training via CfAP. There are a series of SPSS training videos on the SkillsHub.
December 4th 2014	9:30-13:00	**Qualitative methods: Interviews and focus groups** *Dr Jane Callaghan*	http://interviewfocusdec14.eventbrite.co.uk
December 4th 2014	14:00-16:00	**Qualitative methods: Working with Children** *Dr Jane Callaghan*	http://workchilddec14.eventbrite.co.uk
December 17th 2014	9:30-12:30	**Successful Research Proposals and Ethics (PGRs)** *Prof Ian Livingstone, David Watson & John Morris*	*In "Getting Started Part 2: Development Day"* See December 17th Development Day above to book
December 17th 2014	13:15-15:15	**Writing & Structuring your Thesis (PGRs)** *Prof Ian Livingstone, Prof Jeff Ollerton*	*In "Getting Started Part 2: Development Day"* See December 17th Development Day above to book
December 17th 2014	15:30-16:30	**Project / time planning tips and resources (PGRs)** *Simone Apel*	*In "Getting Started Part 2: Development Day"* See December 17th Development Day above to book
January 15th 2015	9:30-10:45	**Preparing for Transfer (PGRs)** *David Watson*	*In "Pre-Transfer Development Day"* See January 15th Development Day above to book
January 15th 2015	11:00-13:00	**Create your own data management plan (PGRs)** *Dr Miggie Pickton & Nick Dimmock*	*In "Pre-Transfer Development Day"* See January 15th Development Day above to book
January 15th 2015	14:00-16:30	**Communicating your research: Preparing for the mock viva and transfer seminar (PGRs)** *Simone Apel*	*In "Pre-Transfer Development Day"* See January 15th Development Day above to book
February 4th 2015	15:00-17:00	**Careers Focus: Marketing yourself effectively** *Lynn Finn, Careers*	http://marketyrselffeb2015.eventbrite.co.uk/
February 5th 2015	11:00-13:00	**Qualitative Methods: Grounded Theory** *Alasdair Gordon-Finlayson*	http://groundtheoryfeb2015.eventbrite.co.uk/
February 10th 2015	9:15-16:30	**Presentation skills: Development Day for PGRs and ECRs** *Dr Adair Richards.*	http://presskillsfeb15.eventbrite.co.uk/
February 13th 2015	13:30-16:30	**Defeating self-sabotage** *Hugh Kearns*	http://defeatssfeb15.eventbrite.co.uk
February 19th 2015	11:00-13:00	**What can bibliometrics do for you?** *Dr Miggie Pickton and Nick Dimmock*	http://bibliometricsfeb15.eventbrite.co.uk/
March 2nd 2015	10:00-12:00	**Q Methodology: An Introduction** *Roshni Khatri*	http://qmethodmar15.eventbrite.co.uk

March 3rd 2015	9:30-12:30	**Negotiation in work and study** *Karin Blak*	In *"Personal Effectiveness Day: Managing professional relationships & handling the doctoral roller coaster"* **This is a full day. To book go to** http://personaleffectmar15.eventbrite.co.uk/
March 3rd 2015	13:15-16:30	**Experiencing the doctorate – Exploring strategies and emotions (PGRs)** *Dr Matthew Callender, Dr Richard Hazenberg*	In *"Personal Effectiveness Day: Managing professional relationships & handling the doctoral roller coaster"* **This is a full day. To book go to** http://personaleffectmar15.eventbrite.co.uk/
March 4th 2015	14:00-16:00	**Quantitative Data Analysis 1: Basic data analysis and variability** *Dr Catherine Fritz, Graham Smith*	https://quantdata1march.eventbrite.co.uk
March 12th 2015	15:00-17:00	**Open Access: The implications for your research** *Dr Miggie Pickton and Nick Dimmock*	http://openaccessmar15.eventbrite.co.uk/
April 1st 2015	14:00-16:00	**Quantitative Data Analysis 2: Analysing secondary data** *Dr Catherine Fritz, Graham Smith*	https://quant2april15.eventbrite.co.uk
April 14th 2015	13:45-16:45	**Qualitative Data Analysis Using NVivo: Level 2 Intermediate**	https://nvivointapr15.eventbrite.co.uk
April 16th 2015	15:00-17:00	**Poster Design & Presenting** *Simone Apel*	http://posterapr15.eventbrite.co.uk
April 22nd 2015	14:30-16:30	**Editing and Finishing your Thesis (PGRs)** *Prof Ian Livingstone, Prof Jeff Ollerton*	https://finishthesisapr15.eventbrite.co.uk
April 22nd 2015	17:00-19:00	**Preparing for the Viva (PGRs)** *Prof Chris Roe*	http://prepvivaapr15.eventbrite.co.uk/
April 27th 2015	11:00-13:00	**SPSS Intermediate: ANOVA**	https://interspssanovaapr15.eventbrite.co.uk
April 29th 2015	09:30-12:00	**Academic writing for journals** *Prof Ale Armellini*	*In "Publishing Development Day"* See April 29th Development Day above to book
April 29th 2015	13:00-14:20	**Blogging for researchers** *Rob Farmer*	*In "Publishing Development Day"* See April 29th Development Day above to book
April 29th 2015	14:35-16:45	**Getting published** *Ian Livingstone & Matthew McCormack*	*In "Publishing Development Day"* See April 29th Development Day above to book
May 1st 2015	11:00-13:00	**Constructing Questionnaires** *Prof Jackie Campbell and Dr Mary Dobson*	https://conquestmay15.eventbrite.co.uk
May 7th 2015	09:30-13:30	**Successful Research Proposals and Ethics (PGRs)** *Prof Ian Livingstone* *David Watson*	http://succrespropsmay15.eventbrite.co.uk/
May 12th 2015	14:00-16:00	**SPSS Intermediate: Factorial ANOVA (follows on from SPSS Intermediate: ANOVA)**	https://interspssfactormay15.eventbrite.co.uk
May 27th 2015	13:00-15:00	**SPSS Intermediate: Regression analysis**	http://interspssregresmay15.eventbrite.co.uk

June 2nd 2015	14:00-16:00	**Delivering research impact: how to ensure your research makes a difference** *Dr Miggie Pickton and Nick Dimmock*	http://delresimpactjun15.eventbrite.co.uk
June 10th 2015	11:00-13:00	**SPSS Intermediate: Psychometrics**	http://interspsspsycjun15.eventbrite.co.uk
June 23rd 2015	11:00-13:00	**How to Argue (Argument mapping)** *Dr Graham Smith*	https://howtoarguejun15.eventbrite.co.uk
June 24th 2015	16:00-18:00	**Finding alternative sources of funding (PGRs)** *Lucy Atkinson*	https://altfundingjune15.eventbrite.co.uk

GRADUATE SCHOOL EVENTS			
5th February (until 27th April) 2015		***Images of Research* competition: vote online for your favourite**	See the Research Support Hub post for the catalogue and how to vote. http://wp.me/p2eVC1-1Rk
16th-19th March 2015		**New PGR 4-day Induction**	**Volunteers needed Thursday 19th** (current PGRs). Email Simone if you are interested.
Weds 13th May 2015	Lunchtime	**Graduate School Poster Competition**	Open to all PGRs. Newton Hall, Avenue. *Call for posters* http://wp.me/p2eVC1-1Vo
Weds 17th June 2015	9:30am -4:30pm	**Graduate School Annual Post-Graduate Researcher Conference HLT3**	Conference for all PGRs and ECRs. *Call for papers* http://wp.me/p2eVC1-1Yb
Mon 22nd June 2015	9:30am - 2pm	**Graduate School Update Day HLT3**	For Supervisors and PGRs
27th-30th October 2015		**New PGR 4-day Induction**	**Volunteers needed Friday 30th** (current PGRs). Email Simone if you are interested.

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS IN DETAIL (ALPHABETICAL ORDER)

WORKSHOP KEY DESCRIPTORS

*Stage***:** The stage of your research degree. Some workshops may be suitable for those early on in their degree (between Enrolment and Registration) (ER), Between Registration and Transfer (RT) and Transfer to Submission (TS)

RDF Category: See the RDF wheel on page 4 for fuller details of the Domains.
Domain A: Knowledge & Intellectual Abilities *A1: Knowledge Base, A2: Cognitive Abilities, A3: Creativity*
Domain B: Personal Effectiveness *B1: Personal Qualities, B2: Self-management, B3: Professional Development*
Domain C: Research Governance *C1: Professional Conduct, C2: Research Management, C3: Finance, Funding*
Domain D: Engagement / Influence *D1: Working with Others, D2: Communication, D3: Engagement and impact*

Academic writing development day

Stage: From Transfer to Writing-Up   RDF: A1, A2, A3

Dr Adair Richards: Professional Trainer and Academic

- Wednesday, 10 December 2015 from 09:15 to 16:30
- MY120, Avenue Research Centre, Maidwell, Avenue Campus

This development day has been designed for research students who are well into the task of writing their thesis. The day will feature workshop activities, plus writing exercises and free-writing time.

Please bring some examples of your writing with you. *This workshop is restricted to 20 students maximum.*

Dr Richards is a trainer, consultant, broadcaster and academic who specialises in providing high quality training to PGR students and early career researchers.

https://writingdevdaydec14.eventbrite.co.uk

Academic writing for journals (in Publishing Development Day)

Stage: All   RDF: A1, D2, C1

Prof Ale Armellini

- Wednesday, 29th April 2015 from 9:30 to 12:00
- T-Pod, Rockingham Library, Park Campus

Academic Writing for Journals is a hands-on workshop that offers participants opportunities for

- reviewing and assessing journal submissions
- generating and enhancing their own drafts

- peer-reviewing those drafts based on agreed criteria
- providing peer feedback for enhancement.

Participants are expected to bring samples of their own academic writing (early versions are perfectly appropriate) and a laptop. They will also be asked to carry out activities in preparation for the workshop.

http://pubdevdayapr15.eventbrite.co.uk

Analysing secondary data (quantitative): Going beyond the published results

Stage: All   RDF: A1, A2

Catherine Fritz, Graham Smith, Prof Chris Roe

- Date & time to be confirmed

It is surprisingly common for authors of research articles not to fully understand their own data; secondary analysis of reported findings can reveal important conclusions that they have overlooked. Building from basic descriptive statistical concepts (central tendency, variability), we will explore the usefulness of confidence intervals and effect sizes for interpreting and comparing statistical data. We will describe how these statistics can be gleaned or derived from most published research and introduce some of the basic ideas related to meta-analysis. The session will include practical activities and we will encourage students to work with literature in their own research areas.

At the end of the session, students will

- Be familiar with the use of confidence intervals as a descriptive and interpretive tool
- Be familiar with common estimates of effect size and their descriptive and interpretive usefulness
- Have hands-on experience producing these statistics for published research and using them to better understand those results
- Be aware of the benefits of comparing or otherwise bringing together the results of published studies as well as cautions and concerns about doing so

- Be aware of the process of meta-analysis and questions to ask when encountering them.

Booking not yet open

Blogging for researchers (in Publishing Development Day)

Stage: All　　　　　　　　　**RDF: B3, D2**

Rob Farmer

- Wednesday, 29 April 2015 from 13:00 to 14:20
- T-Pod, Rockingham Library, Park Campus

This workshop will provide a brief introduction to academic blogging. We will consider reasons why researchers and academics might want to begin a blog, and will look at the most common technologies to support academic bloggers. Workshop participants will be introduced to MyPAD, which is the University of Northampton's WordPress blogging platform. MyPAD is a safe and supported way to get started with a blog, and is free and private, but can be shared with individuals or with the wider world.

At the end of the session participants should: understand what a blog is, and how it differs from a website; have seen some examples of academic blogs; have a clear idea of the benefits and pitfalls of blogging; know how to get started with a MyPAD blog, and where to learn more about MyPAD.

http://pubdevdayapr15.eventbrite.co.uk

Careers sessions

Stage: All　　　　　　　　　**RDF: B3**

The University Employability Team

These sessions consist of skills clinics, such as CV writing, academic and non-academic careers advice and prearranged 1-1 sessions.

Careers sessions currently planned.
Wednesday 26th November: Preparing for Interviews
https://prepinterviewsnov14.eventbrite.co.uk

Wednesday 4th February: Marketing yourself Effectively
https://marketyrselffeb2015.eventbrite.co.uk

Consulting as a Career: To be confirmed

Email your careers requirements to simone.apel@northampton.ac.uk and we'll arrange a 1-1 session to suit.

Communicating your research: Preparing for the mock viva and transfer seminar (PGRs)

Stage: All　　　　　　　　　**RDF: A1, C2**

Simone Apel

- **In Pre-Transfer Development Day**
  Thursday 15 January 2015 from 14:00 to 16:30
- T-Pod, Rockingham Library, Park Campus.

This session will focus on your communication skills and how you can prepare yourself for both the mock viva and the transfer seminar.

https://pretransdevdayjan15.eventbrite.co.uk (it is recommended that you attend the whole day)

Constructing questionnaires

Stage: All　　　　　　　　　**RDF: A1**

Prof Jackie Campbell and Dr Mary Dobson

- Date and time to be confirmed

This session is an introduction to the role of questionnaires as a data collection tool and to their design and analysis. It will cover the difference between the questionnaire as a survey tool and as a tool for the measurement of a construct, principles of good questions, layout considerations, assessing validity and reliability and planning analytical methods. It will be applicable to participants from all disciplines.

Booking not yet open

Create your own data management plan

Stage: All   **RDF: A1, C2**

Dr Miggie Pickton

- **In Pre-Transfer Development Day**
  Thursday 15 January 2015 from 11:00 to 13:00
- T-Pod, Rockingham Library, Park Campus.

Good research is underpinned by good research data management. This workshop will explain why it is important to actively manage your research data; address the key issues and challenges in data management and introduce the concept of data management planning. Attendees will have the opportunity to use a data management planning tool to complete a data management plan for their research.

By the end of this session attendees will:-

- Be aware of the main drivers for good research data management
- Know the issues they will need to address in managing their own data
- Be able to complete a data management plan.

https://pretransdevdayjan15.eventbrite.co.uk (it is recommended that you attend the whole day)

Defeating self-sabotage

Stage: All   **RDF: B1, B2**

Hugh Kearns

- Friday 13 February 2015 from 13:30 to 16:30
- Sunley Lecture Theatre, Park Campus.

Do you find that despite your best efforts to 'work on your thesis' or get your research output going it just doesn't seem to be happening? Does there always seem to be something more urgent, interesting or important to do? Perhaps you are self-sabotaging. If you think you procrastinate, are a perfectionist, don't say no often enough, are disorganised or are always 'busy', this seminar will help you to understand why your thesis or research isn't getting done and what you can do about it.

This workshop will help you understand some of the key self-sabotaging behaviours and what you can do about them:

- procrastination, perfectionism, overcommitting, getting distracted
- how to recognise if you are self-sabotaging
- when is it just life getting in the way?
- identifying what specifically is stopping you from getting your thesis finished
- what you can do about it
- what if you know you're doing it, but that still doesn't help

https://defeatssfeb15.eventbrite.co.uk

Delivering research impact: how to ensure your research makes a difference

Stage: All   **RDF: D3, C2**

Dr Miggie Pickton and Nick Dimmock

- Thursday 21 May 2015 from 11:00 to 13:00
- T-Pod, Rockingham Library, Park Campus,

Research funders increasingly expect to see value for the money they invest in research. One way of demonstrating this is through the impact of the

research on scientific progress, economy and society.

This workshop will examine the ways in which researchers can reach and influence both academic and non-academic audiences. From designing impact into your project plan, to realising it through dissemination activity, attendees will be encouraged to share their own experiences of delivering impact and devise new ways to demonstrate the value of their own research.

At the end of this workshop attendees will have the knowledge and skills to:.

- Define what is meant by 'impact'
- Appreciate the different types of research impact and the benefits that accrue from these
- Understand how to maximise the impact of their own research

https://resimpactmay15.eventbrite.co.uk

Doing interpretive qualitative research (2-day workshop)

Stage: RT / TS   **RDF: A1 , A2**

Dr Jane Callaghan

- Monday 3 November 2014 & Tuesday 4 November 2014 from 09:45 to 16:00
- Room to be confirmed @ Park Campus

This 2 day workshop will explore different forms of interpretation in qualitative research. Students will draw on phenomenological approaches, and Interpretive Interactionism, to work with a range of textual, visual and spatial materials. We will also consider the use of creative approaches as analytic method.

https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/doing-interpretive-qualitative-research-a-2-day-workshop-registration-12384543503

Editing and Finishing your thesis

Stage: TS   **RDF: A1, A2, A3**

Prof Ian Livingstone, Prof Jeff Ollerton

- Wednesday 22 April from 14:30-16:30
- F31, Fawsley, Park Campus

This workshop will focus on the later stages of completing your thesis, including managing the editing process, redrafting and final completion.

https://finishthesisapr15.eventbrite.co.uk

Experiencing the doctorate – Exploring strategies and emotions
(in Personal Effectiveness Development Day)

Stage: All   **RDF: B1, B2**

Dr Matthew Callender, Dr Richard Hazenberg

- Tuesday, 3 March 2015 (pm)
- MY120, Avenue Research Centre, Avenue Campus

The doctoral experience can be described as an emotional roller-coaster which has extreme highs but also some lows. In this workshop, two recent Northampton graduates (Dr Matthew Callender – Human Geography, Dr Richard Hazenberg – Business) share their PhD experiences in order to identify coping strategies in key moments and events. This interactive workshop offers an opportunity to discuss some of the different emotions they experienced during their research and the strategies they used to successfully complete their journey and take their next steps into the academic community. The workshop is aimed at students at any stage of their PhD or Research Degree and will offer the chance to reflect on your own approach and management to your own experience.

Outcomes:

- Richer understanding of emotional dimensions of doctoral experience
- Strategies to manage emotions within research degree experiences
- Tips and advice concerning positive outcomes and success

https://personaleffectmar15.eventbrite.co.uk

Finding resources on the Web

Stage: All   **RDF: A1, A2**

Nick Dimmock, Dr Miggie Pickton

- Thursday, 30 October 2014 from 11:00 to 13:00
- T-Pod, Rockingham Library, Park Campus

It's very easy to find information on the web - in fact it's practically impossible not to. This workshop focuses on ways to ensure the information you find is useful and usable.

We'll look at effective ways of searching for various types of information of interest to researchers, from research papers and images to government information and datasets, using a variety of online tools and services.

We'll also cover finding and using Creative Commons content - information and materials you can freely build on or integrate into your own research.

At the end of this workshop attendees will be able to:

- Identify and use effective sources for various data types
- Find content licensed for reuse within their own work
- Understand and apply the principles of Creative Commons licensing.

https://findresourcesoct14.eventbrite.co.uk

Getting Published (in Publishing Development Day)

Stage: TS   **RDF: D2, C1, A1**

Prof. Ian Livingstone and Dr Matthew McCormack

- Wednesday, 29 April 2015 from 14:35 to 16:45
- T-Pod, Rockingham Library, Park Campus

This session will cover the procedures used by peer-review journals. By the end of the session you should understand how to choose which journal to submit your work to and what will happen once your paper has been submitted. This session is open to all research students but is particularly relevant to those who are considering publishing their work in journals.

http://pubdevdayapr15.eventbrite.co.uk

How to Argue

Stage: All   **RDF: A3, A2**

Dr Graham Smith

- June 2015, to be confirmed

Argument mapping (AM) is an innovative technique for visualizing arguments. AM helps individuals and groups to reach better decisions. AM can also be used in educational settings to promote the deeper understanding of complex arguments and to develop critical thinking skills.

It is particularly useful in helping groups to fully explore and reach agreement on contentious issues. The method involves the production of an argument map consisting of a network of boxes with connecting arrows. Each box contains a brief description of a claim; e.g., "All cars should be banned from the city centre", "The theory of evolution by natural selection is true" and "Shakespeare is the greatest English dramatist".

The links between boxes indicate whether claims support or refute each other. A completed argument map serves as a summary of a debate, including all the views and opinions expressed perhaps by many different contributors.

Argument maps are easily and quickly interpreted permitting sound judgments and as such they make excellent executive summaries. After an introduction to AM, activities will provide hands-on experience of producing an argument map and drawing conclusions from it. There will also be an opportunity to discuss the various uses of AM within decision making and educational settings.

Booking not yet open.

Making the most of NECTAR

Stage: All   **RDF: A1, B3, D2**

Nick Dimmock, Dr Miggie Pickton

- Wednesday, 15 October 2014 from 11:00 to 13:00
- T-Pod, Rockingham Library, Park Campus

NECTAR, the Northampton Electronic Collection of Theses and Research, is the university's Open Access repository and showcase of research output.

As well as serving as a record of output and archive of published works, NECTAR connects to many external services (such as Google Scholar) and is a useful tool in propagating and promoting university, school and researcher output.

NECTAR also offers researchers a way to satisfy HEFCE open access requirements for the post-2014 REF.

This workshop will explain the principles behind NECTAR and demonstrate the services and advantages it offers researchers at the university, with practical demonstrations of how to make the most of this service.

By the end of this session attendees will:-

- Understand the purpose and scope of NECTAR
- Find university output on NECTAR and other academic repositories
- Manage their research output with repository deposit in mind
- Add their own university research output to NECTAR, including full text where possible
- Understand the wider role of NECTAR in propagating research

https://nectaroct14.eventbrite.co.uk

MS Word: Working with long documents (in Getting Started Part 1 Development Day)

Stage: All   **RDF: A1, C2**

Simone Apel

- Thursday 13 November 2014 from 14:00 to 16:00
- Park Library IT Suite, Rockingham Library, Park Campus

This hands-on workshop focuses on Microsoft Word and looks at the challenges of handling your thesis using Word. The workshop offers practical tips to address various issues, such as templates, styles, headers and footers, master documents and much more. We start by looking at the physical formatting rules to which you should adhere for your thesis, then move onto a practical session in which we cover the essentials of working with long documents. You are encouraged to bring some text on a memory stick to use in the practical session.

- After the workshop you will:-

- Know the formatting rules to which you have to adhere for your thesis
- Be able to use features in Word such as templates and styles
- Be able to create master documents
- Understand essential safeguards to prevent loss of data
- Learn about further resources to help you as you progress

This workshop is recommended especially for those students who have not yet started to produce their thesis and who are not confident using Word.

https://start1devdaynov14.eventbrite.co.uk (it is recommended that you attend the whole day)

Negotiation in work and study (In Personal Effectiveness Development Day)

Stage: All   **RDF: D1, B1, B3**

Karin Blak: Relationship Therapist and Trainer

- Tuesday, 3 March 2015 (am)
- Venue to be confirmed

Everywhere we go we are required to do some sort of negotiation, whether it is getting our point across, making sure something is done to the standard we require, or managing relationships. Good negotiation skills are vital for managing situations with your supervisor, for other collaborative relationships with work and study colleagues, even in your personal life.

This workshop will explore models which will help you prepare and approach negotiation positively and constructively, enabling a considered outcome and the best chance of a win/win result. Who should attend this workshop? For anyone who wishes to gain skills in managing situations, where there is potential for conflicting ideas.

- By the end of the workshop you will
- know basic negotiation skills.
- have explored relationship dynamics
- have basic conflict management skills
- know how to develop a 'partnership' approach
- have great skills applicable to working as part of a team

https://personaleffectmar15.eventbrite.co.uk

Open access: The implications for your research

Stage: All   **RDF: D2, A1**

Dr Miggie Pickton and Nick Dimmock

- Thursday 12 March 2015 from 15:00 to 17:00
- T-Pod, Rockingham Library, Park Campus,

With the publication of the Finch Report in 2012 and subsequent changes to funder policies, open access to the products of research has moved from a specialist to mainstream interest.

This workshop will describe the growth of the open access movement; the various routes to achieving open access (green, gold etc.); consider issues of cost (including article processing charges (APCs)), quality and copyright; and demonstrate the benefits of open access in terms of potential citation advantage and impact.

In the practical element of the session, attendees will have the chance to search for open access resources and find a journal that offers an open access publishing option.

By the end of this workshop attendees will have the knowledge and skills to:

- Understand funders' requirements for open access
- Find open access resources appropriate to their research interest
- Identify a journal for a potential open access publication and any cost associated with doing so.

https://openaccessmar15.eventbrite.co.uk

Part Time Researcher Finishing Workshop

Stage: TS, Part time students only

- Spring 2015
- Venue to be confirmed

The Part-Time Researcher Finishing Workshop is a day-long event which gives part-time research students particular attention and focus.

During the day there will be a number of development sessions, including Editing & Finishing your Thesis, Preparing for the Viva, Getting Published and an Academic/Non-Academic Careers session. Additionally, the workshop offers a valuable opportunity for students to meet and chat with fellow part-timers to share experiences and solutions to problems.

Poster design and presenting

Stage: All   **RDF: D2, D3, B3**

Simone Apel

- Thursday, 16 April 2015 from 15:00 to 17:00
- MY120, Maidwell, Avenue Campus

Academic poster presentations are excellent visual and verbal communication tools for students to describe their research to others. In this session we will consider what a poster should convey, we will look at visual design and written content and, using tips from poster competition judges, the session will also feature best practice in the verbal presentation of your poster at a competition. We will also look at performance issues and how to tackle nervousness.

After the workshop you will:-

- Understand the aim and purpose of poster presentations
- Describe what makes a great poster from a judge's perspective
- Understand best practice in design to ensure your poster is attractive and balanced
- Be able to write and organise your poster text
- Identify the verbal presentation skills needed
- Describe some methods for handling nervousness

Please note that this is not a computer-based Powerpoint workshop. However a handout will be given on producing your poster in Powerpoint, even though different packages exist for Poster design.

https://posterapr15.eventbrite.co.uk

Preparing for the viva

Stage: TS   RDF: A1, D2, A3, B1, B2, C2

Prof. Chris Roe

In this workshop we'll discuss the purpose(s) of the viva from the different perspectives of the student, examiner and university and use these insights to help us plan the best way to prepare for your own viva. There'll be lots of opportunity to ask questions, discuss concerns and share experiences.

This workshop will run twice:

Tuesday 18 November 2014 from 17:00 to 19:00. T-Pod, Rockingham Library, Park Campus. https://prepvivanov14.eventbrite.co.uk

Wednesday 22nd April 2015 from 17:00-19:00 F31, Fawsley, Park Campus https://prepvivaapr15.eventbrite.co.uk

Preparing for transfer

Stage: RT   **RDF: B2, C2, C1**

David Watson

This session will generate a discussion about the purpose of the transfer of registration and what is required of students and their supervisors. You will find out what Research Degrees Boards and Research Degrees Committee regard as good practice. The session will benefit students who are currently at APG stage but it is hoped that post-transfer students will attend and be prepared to share their experiences.

This workshop will run twice:

Tuesday 23 September 2014 from 11:00 to 13:00, MY120, Maidwell, Avenue campus.
https://preptranssept14.eventbrite.co.uk

At Pre-Transfer Development Day
Thursday 15 January 2015 from 09:30 to 10:45, T-Pod, Rockingham Library, Park Campus.
https://pretransdevdayjan15.eventbrite.co.uk (it is recommended that you attend the whole day)

Project and time planning tips and resources (in Getting Started Part 2 Development Day)

Stage: All   **RDF: B2, C2**

Simone Apel

- Wednesday 17 December 2014 from 15:30-16:30
- MY120, Maidwell, Avenue Campus, University of Northampton

This workshop addresses some of the challenges in managing a research degree around life's other commitments. A variety of tips for project management, prioritisation, increasing productivity and reducing workload stress will be discussed.

https://start2devdaydec14.eventbrite.co.uk

Q Methodology: An introduction

Stage: All   **RDF: A1, A2**

Roshni Khatri

- Monday 2nd March 2015 from 10:00-12:00
- Venue to be confirmed

A general introductory talk will provide coverage of all aspects of Q methodological research 'in brief', including study design, data gathering, data analysis, including factor extraction, factor rotation, the preparation of factor arrays for interpretation, and the process of factor interpretation itself. Participants will have the opportunity to do a hands on data collection sort. Q methodology will also be considered in light of other research methods. A demonstration will then be provided of the data analytic PQMethod. There will also be an opportunity to discuss the output file of PQ Method.

https://qmethodmar15.eventbrite.co.uk

Qualitative Data Analysis Using NVivo: An Introduction & Intermediate

Stage: All   **RDF: A1, A2**

Brenda Padilla Rodriguez

- April 2015 - date to be confirmed

NVivo is software for qualitative data analysis. This workshop offers an introduction and hands-on experience with creating a project and coding. It is suitable for PhD students and academics interested in qualitative research.
Topics covered - Introduction:
What is NVivo, Adding sources, Creating a node

tree, Practising different ways of coding, Types of qualitative data coding, Deductive, Inductive.

Participants will have a chance to explore the basic functions of NVivo, create a project for coding, practice deductive and inductive qualitative data coding using NVivo.

Topics covered - Intermediate workshop:
Search folders, classification sets, data visualization, queries.

Participants will have a chance to explore the classification functions of NVivo, visualize data in different ways, run various data queries.

Booking not yet open

Qualitative Methods: Grounded Theory

Stage: RT / TS   **RDF: A1, A2**

Alasdair Gordon-Finlayson

- Thursday 5 February 2015 from 11:00 to 13:00
- T-Pod, Rockingham Library, Park campus.

Grounded theory is a qualitative method that enables researchers to build emergent theory from data (rather than using data to 'test' theory). In this session we will explore key principles, practical concerns, and philosophical underpinnings of this influential qualitative method. We will engage in some basic qualitative analysis, using the methods of grounded theory.

https://groundtheoryfeb2015.eventbrite.co.uk

NB: The Grounded Theory Forum meets every few months. If you are interested in joining this please contact Sarah Neill.

Qualitative methods: Interviews and Focus Groups

Stage: RT / TS   **RDF: A1, A2**

Dr Jane Callaghan

- Thursday, 4 December 2014 from 9:30 to 13:00
- Venue to be confirmed

Jane will look in depth at both interviewing participants and using focus groups.

Interviewing is often described as the primary way of generating material for qualitative research. In this workshop we will explore the methods used in good qualitative interviewing, and will consider some of the theoretical issues that researchers need to take into account when conducting qualitative interviews.

Then we will consider the specific features of focus groups, looking at both practical and theoretical issues in conducting focus group research. We will consider how to set up focus groups, how to manage them, and how to analyse data from them.

https://interviewfocusdec14.eventbrite.co.uk

Qualitative methods: Working with children

Stage: All   **RDF: A1, A2, C1**

Dr Jane Callaghan

- Thursday, 4 December 2014 from 14:00 to 16:00
- Venue to be confirmed

In this session, we will consider ethical and practical issues in working with children. We will draw on both 'mainstream' and 'critical' insights to construct a sense of how best we might work as researchers with children and young people. Particular attention will be paid to models of consultation, involvement and participation.

https://workchilddec14.eventbrite.co.uk

Quantitative Data Analysis 1: Basic data analysis and variability

Stage: All   **RDF: A1, A2**

Dr Catherine Fritz, Graham Smith

- Wednesday, 4 March 2015 from 14:00 to 16:00
- F22, Fawsley, Park Campus

This workshop is for people with very little or no experience dealing with quantitative data sets. It addresses types of data and ways to summarize and describe data. It also addresses the relationship between data from a sample, and what they suggest about the population, including the distinction between random and opportunity samples.

There is a follow up workshop on March 4th 2015 [Quantitative Data Analysis 2: Analysing secondary data]

Quantitative Data Analysis 2: Analysing secondary data

Stage: All   **RDF: A1, A2**

Dr Catherine Fritz, Graham Smith

- Wednesday, 1 April 2015 from 14:00 to 16:00
- F22, Fawsley, Park Campus

This workshop follows on from Quantitative Data Analysis 1: Basic data analysis and variability.

In order to attend this workshop, you should already be familiar with central tendency - especially means variability in the dataset - especially standard deviation - and variability associated with sampling - especially standard errors. Understanding other basic statistics such as correlations, and statistical tests such as t tests might be helpful but is not required. If you have successfully completed the Quantitative Data Analysis 1 workshop, you should be sufficiently prepared to benefit from this one.

Working with a set of quantitative data is one thing (addressed in the earlier workshop), but when

reading a paper, the complete dataset is rarely available. This workshop introduces and develops specific techniques for working from published statistics toward a more complete understanding of the results and implications of published studies. These are techniques that are useful used in isolation but also form the basis for meta-analysis.

[See also Quantitative Methodology Skills section page 26.

Quantitative methods support: 1-1 clinics

Stage: RT / TS   **RDF: A1, A2**

Paul Rice, Prof Jackie Campbell, Dr Roz Collings, Prof Jorg Huber.

For all students who need help with quantitative data analysis on a 1-1 basis. Once you know the type of data you will be working with, you need sessions that will show you how to apply it to your own research. These clinics will provide 1-1 support for YOUR research data and will help you to move ahead with your quantitative statistical analysis. Contact Simone Apel in the first instance to arrange a 1-1 with an appropriate member of the team.

Risk assessing your research (part of Getting Started Part 1 Development Day)

Stage: All   **RDF: C2, C1**

Paul Bradley

- Thursday 13 November 2014 from 11:45 to 13:15
- T-Pod, Rockingham Library, Park Campus.

This workshop aims to explain the main requirements of current health and safety legislation with regards to the risk assessment process, how this translates into University policies and for

students to be able to apply this in a very practical way to their research. All students are required to risk assess their research for the registration process.

Objectives:

- To develop knowledge and understanding of current health and safety legislation requirements for risk assessment;
- To develop knowledge and understanding of how this is reflected in University Occupational Health and safety policies;
- To develop knowledge and understanding of the differences between risk and hazard;
- To understand the meaning of 'competence' in terms of risk assessments and when to obtain 'expert' input;
- To understand the various stages involved in the risk assessment process;
- To develop confidence in conducting risk assessments.
- To be able to apply your knowledge and understanding in a practical way to your research.

https://start1devdaynov14.eventbrite.co.uk (it is recommended that you attend the whole day)

SPSS part 1: Introduction to SPSS

Stage: ER / RT   **RDF: A1, A2**

Paul Rice

- Monday, 17 November 2014 from 10:00 to 12:00
- Park Library Computer Training Room (N201), Rockingham Library, Park Campus

In this session, we begin by briefly reviewing the basic elements of quantitative research and the issues that should be considered in data analysis. We will cover types of data, and how this data can be entered into SPSS. Finally we will end examining descriptive statistics. This is an application orientated session and the approach will be practical. No prior knowledge is required.

https://spsspart1intronov14.eventbrite.co.uk

Paul Rice is also available for 1-1 training via CfAP. There are a series of SPSS training videos on the SkillsHub.

SPSS part 2: Basic inferential statistics

Stage: ER / RT   **RDF: A1, A2**

Paul Rice

- Monday, 1 December 2014 from 10:00 to 12:00
- Park Library Computer Training Room (N201), Rockingham Library, Park Campus

This session is a follow on from **Introduction to SPSS** and assumes you have attended the introduction session or have a working knowledge of SPSS. We will examine the relationships between variables using chi-square tests, t-tests and correlation. The approach will be practical and we will discuss the situations in which you would use each technique, the assumptions made by the method, and interpretation of the results. We will not derive proofs, but rather focus on the practical matters of data analysis.

Paul Rice is also available for 1-1 training via **CfAP**. There are a series of SPSS training videos on the **SkillsHub**.

https://spsspart2inferdec14.eventbrite.co.uk

SPSS Intermediate

Stage: RT/TS   **RDF: A1, A2**

Dr Roz Collings in Grendon 152, Grendon IT Centre, Park Campus.

ANOVA: Monday 27 April 2015 from 11:00-13:00
https://interspssanovaapr15.eventbrite.co.uk

Factorial ANOVA: Tuesday 12 May from 14:00-16:00
https://interspssfactormay15.eventbrite.co.uk

Regression analysis: Weds 27th May from 13:00-15:00
http://interspssregresmay15.eventbrite.co.uk

Psychometrics: Weds 10th June from 11:00-13:00
http://interspsspsycjun15.eventbrite.co.uk

These SPSS workshops are all intermediate level and require certain background knowledge of SPSS. See the Eventbrite records linked to above for more details about each workshop.

Paul Rice is available for introductory 1-1 training on SPSS via CfAP. There are a series of SPSS training videos on the SkillsHub.

Successful research proposals and research ethics

Stage: ER   **RDF: A2, C1, C2**

David Watson, Prof Ian Livingstone, John Morris

This workshop covers the requirements for registration as an APG. We will discuss the completion of the formal paperwork but will also consider what the research degree boards are looking for in the student's research proposal. It will also cover the essential elements of research ethics. The workshop is essential for pre-registration research students but is also important for any supervisors who expect their students to be registering soon. Lunch provided.

This workshop will run twice:

In Getting Started Part 2 Development Day
Monday, 17 December 2014 (am)
MY120, Maidwell Building, Avenue Campus
https://start2devdaydec14.eventbrite.co.uk

Thursday, 7 May 2015 from (am)
MY120, Maidwell Building, Avenue Campus
https://succrespropsmay15.eventbrite.co.uk

Systematic Literature Searching (part of Getting Started Part 1 Development Day)

Stage: All   **RDF: A1**

Dr Miggie Pickton and Gillian Siddall

- Thursday 13 November 2014 from 09:30 to 11:30
- TPod, Rockingham Library, Park Campus

Being able to demonstrate a thorough approach to literature searching is a key requirement for a researcher. Borrowing ideas and methods from information and health sciences, this workshop will highlight some of the different strategies for searching the literature. Attendees will design their own search strategy and, in the practical element of the session, will explore various resources and the tools to make the most of them.

By the end of this session attendees will have the knowledge and skills to:

- Explore key resources using appropriate key words and other search tools.
- Plan, implement and record a search strategy appropriate to their own research.
- Evaluate and select appropriate references from search results

https://start1devdaynov14.eventbrite.co.uk (it is recommended that you attend the whole day)

What can bibliometrics do for you?

Stage: All   **RDF: D2, A1**

Dr Miggie Pickton and Nick Dimmock

- Thursday, 19 February 2015 from 11:00 to 13:00
- T-Pod, Rockingham Library, Park Campus,

Bibliometrics, or the statistical analysis of published literature, has come to the fore recently as a method for assessing research performance. Citation analysis in particular is now used to rank articles, journals, authors and even universities. So how can you make bibliometrics work for you? In this session we will show you how to use bibliometrics to evaluate the performance of other researchers and to increase the impact of your own work. The session includes a practical element. By the end of this session attendees will have the knowledge and skills to:

- Calculate and interpret a number of different bibliometric measures (including the journal impact factor, h-index and g-index)
- Find the most highly cited journals and authors in a specific subject area
- Develop a plan for increasing the impact of their own research

https://bibliometricsfeb15.eventbrite.co.uk

Writing and structuring your thesis (in Getting Started Part 2 Development Day)

Stage: All   **RDF: A1, C2, B2**

Prof. Ian Livingstone and Prof. Jeff Ollerton

- Wednesday 17 December 2014 from 13:15 to 15:15
- MY120, Maidwell Building, Avenue Campus

The aims of this session are to introduce research students to the typical formats used in writing and structuring MPhil and PhD research theses and to consider good practice in effective academic writing. It is never too early to start thinking about writing and structuring your thesis, therefore students at all stages are encouraged to attend.

By the end of this workshop you will:-

- Understand how research theses are structured within your own discipline and in other fields,

- Be aware of the University regulations relating to this (and why they are so few in number)
- Have learned some effective approaches to academic writing.

https://start2devdaydec14.eventbrite.co.uk (It is recommended that you attend the whole day)

For up to date information on workshops and events go to the Research Support Hub http://researchsupporthub.northampton.ac.uk/ and choose the Category 'Training'.
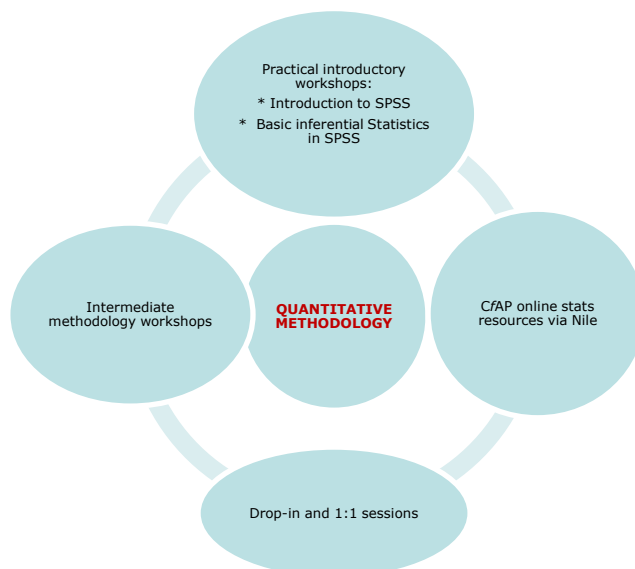
There is also an up to date list at the Hub short link here
http://wp.me/p2eVC1-1Ds

QUANTITATIVE METHODOLOGY SKILLS

As a postgraduate research student it is important that you fully comprehend statistics in order to read and understand academic papers, as well as recognize what type of data you need to collect and how to manage it for your own research. Our training provision has a combination of approaches. There will be opportunity for 1:1 sessions as well as workshops to attend. All these will help you to:

- *Catch up on basic statistical methods.*
- *Understand the methodology used in research papers.*
- *Help you interpret data correctly.*
- *Help you decide what type of data to collect for your own research.*
- *Help you decide which statistical method is right for your data.*
- *Help you to utilise advanced statistical methods.*

Basic introductory workshops will offer generic statistics training (as opposed to subject specific approaches) and the basics, via practical workshops.

These practical workshops will be run by Paul Rice, from C*f*AP. Paul is also available for drop-in sessions and 1-1 clinics. You can visit C*f*AP at either MG1, Avenue Library or the C*f*AP area in Park Library. The C*f*AP area on *NILE* also features many distance learning resources, as does Skillshub (http://skillshub.northampton.ac.uk/tag/spss/).

A pre-recorded workshop, Introduction to Quantitative Data Analysis, is available on *Nile* in RES001. It provides the training in introductory statistics that all research students need, prior to moving on to more advanced workshops.

- Go to NILE, choose module "RES001: Postgraduate Research Training". Choose "Training Materials", "Research Skills Workshop Materials", "Knowledge/Intellectual Abilities". Scroll down to "Quantitative and Qualitative Methodology Workshops"; Jackie Campbell's podcast is in here.

INTERMEDIATE STATISTICAL METHODS

Once you know the type of data you will work with, you need sessions that will show you how to apply it to your own research. 1-1 sessions can be arranged with a statistician within the University, plus workshops on various methodologies are offered throughout the academic year (eg. SPSS Intermediate). For more information please see the workshop schedule in this brochure. For 1-1 bookings in intermediate/advanced methods please contact Research Training Coordinator, Simone Apel, email simone.apel@northampton.ac.uk.

User groups: We encourage the setting up of methodology user groups, contact Simone if you have an idea. We already have an R- Users Group, see
https://www.northampton.ac.uk/info/200271/natural-environment-research-group-nerg/1004/data-analysis-and-modelling
Note: Training related to your discipline should be provided directly by your School.

ONLINE TRAINING

Our online course site on NILE is "RES001: Postgraduate Research Training". After logging in, choose "Training Materials" from the left-hand menu. This resource currently contains a wide range of Powerpoint slides from our workshops, recordings and podcasts, and other materials.

Also available on NILE are Epigeum workshops in "Research Methods" and "Ethics". Go to the course site and choose "Online Research Training" from the left-hand menu.

DISCIPLINE-BASED TRAINING

Throughout the year the Schools provide training workshops on the use of specialised equipment, School-specific research methods and activities, analytical and statistical techniques. Seminars by guest speakers and members of staff take place during term time and we strongly encourage postgraduate students to attend. All workshops and events are advertised in advance through your School. Schools are encouraged to notify the Graduate School so that events can be advertised on the Research Hub and through Graduate School emails.

EVENTS AND COMPETITIONS

THE ANNUAL POSTGRADUATE RESEARCHER CONFERENCE

Every year the Graduate School runs a number of events in which research students can participate to develop their skills and experience. The day-long Annual PGR & ECR Conference, where at least 15 students and early career researchers will present their research to a University-wide audience, will be held on June 17th 2015. This event gives research students a chance to practice their conference presentation skills in a friendly environment.

GRADUATE SCHOOL ACADEMIC POSTER COMPETITION

Our academic poster competition is open to all of our research degree students from all years of study, from all disciplines. It is an excellent opportunity for researchers to illustrate and present their research. The University offers a first prize of £100, and two second prizes of £75, the winners selected by judges from academic and non-academic staff and often an external guest judge. This year the Poster Competition will be held on May 13th 2015.

GRADUATE SCHOOL IMAGES OF RESEARCH EVENT & COMPETITION

Our second Images of Research is being held 2014/15. Open to all researchers within the University (students and staff) the event is intended to inspire researchers to capture the essence of their research in a visual, artistic or photographic way. The closing date for entries is November 6th 2014. For more information see the Research Support Hub post http://wp.me/p2eVC1-1EQ and how to vote for your favourite at http://wp.me/p2eVC1-1Rk.

GRADUATE SCHOOL UPDATE DAY

GS Update Day gives research students and supervisors a chance to discuss research support related issues, such as skills development, training, administration and the provision of services offered by the Graduate School during the year, enabling both parties to provide feedback and suggestions for the following academic year. This year GS Update Day will be held on the morning of Monday 22nd June. Always includes a free lunch and all research students and supervisors are invited.

THE GRADUATE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION AND DEVELOPMENT TEAM, AVENUE CAMPUS

MY121, Avenue Research Centre	Graduate School Administration
Mr David Watson: 01604 892812	Postgraduate Research Manager
Ms Laura Pereira 01604 893710	Postgraduate Research Coordinator
Mrs Twiggy Spagnuolo: 01604 892824	Research Student Administrator
MY118, Avenue Research Centre	**Development and Training**
Professor Ian Livingstone: 01604 893362	Head of Graduate School and Supervisor Development Co-ordinator
Ms Simone Apel: 01604 893418	Training Co-ordinator - Research Programmes

LIBRARY AND LEARNING SERVICES (LLS) RESEARCH SUPPORT TEAM, PARK CAMPUS

Dr Miggie Pickton: 01604 892245	Research Support Librarian
Mr Nick Dimmock: 01604 893514	Research Information Specialist

The LLS Research Support Team is based in room R2.20 in Rockingham Library, Park Campus.

Website: http://www.northampton.ac.uk/graduateschool
Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/UnGradSchool
Twitter: @UNGradSchool
Research Support Hub: http://researchsupporthub.northampton.ac.uk/
For an up-to-date list of workshops and events go to http://wp.me/p2eVC1-1Ds

Updated February 2015