

College of Humanities



Humanities PGR Newsletter

October 2013

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Deputy Director Graduate School

Dr Will Higbee has been appointed as Deputy Director of the Graduate School in the College of Humanities for the academic year 2013-14. His responsibilities will include overseeing PGR activities.

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PGR College Handbook

The College handbook has been updated to reflect all new procedures and allowances. A

copy of the handbook can be found on the [Humanities Intranet](#).

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Research Allowance

Full and part-time research students (not continuation status or interrupted students) have access to a personal research allowance each academic year of £200 per annum for full-time students and £100 for part-time students.

You are permitted to use your research allowance for expenses such as attending conferences, travel to libraries and other archives, conference registration fees, library fees or other archive access, photocopying, accommodation and subsistence (within standard limits).

To access your personal research allowance you must first incur the expense and then submit a claim for reimbursement. Expense claims should be fully supported by itemised receipts; failure to provide full receipts will result in the claim being reduced accordingly. Credit or debit card receipts alone are not acceptable, nor are scans or photocopies of receipts.

Expense claim forms can be obtained from the Humanities Graduate School Office and should be submitted to the Graduate School Office promptly – if possible within one month of incurring the expense – in signed hardcopy and with all original receipts. Claims can be made as soon as expenditure has been incurred. Claims must be received and processed within 3 months of the activity taking place.

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Print Credit

If you would like to take advantage of the print credit allowance and have not already contacted the Humanities Graduate School to confirm this, please could you email us as soon as possible. The credit can be used for printing, copying and scanning – many machines around campus now do all three, accessed by swiping your UniCard. The allowance is: £50 for full-time students and £25 for part-time.

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Conference at Fudan University

Earlier in the month, PhD students Sarah Daw (English) and Natalia Font (Modern Languages) were funded by the University of Exeter and Fudan to present a paper at the Doctoral Forum, Fudan University, Shanghai.

Both Sarah and Natalia found the trip to be a great experience, from which they have learnt a lot. The academic culture in Shanghai was very different to that experienced at Exeter and, thus, it was enriching to be submerged in a totally different educational system.

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PGR Activities

Details of reading groups and other student led activities are being posted on the [Humanities Intranet](#). If you would like details of any activities that you organise published on the intranet, please email the Humanities Graduate School.

The College of Humanities [Events page](#) advertise events being held across the College.

We have recently been allocated several Humanities PGR noticeboards, if you would like anything posted on the boards, please drop it off at the Humanities Graduate School.

We are currently making plans for PGR training, presently we have secured a visit from a commissioning editor at a academic publishing house and are making plans for a careers fair. If you have any suggestions for future training, please email the [Humanities Graduate School](#).

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Researcher-led Initiative Awards

Researcher-led Initiative Awards:

£11,500 funding for Postgraduate Researchers and Early Career Research Only Staff

Would you like to be involved in professional development at the University of Exeter?

Researcher Development has a fund to support the development and cascading of personal, professional and career management skills by and for postgraduate research students and research only staff on grades E and F across the University of Exeter.

The Researcher Led Initiative awards are intended to enable postgraduate research students and early career research staff to be creative, proactive, and empowered, through the process of initiating, designing, managing, and delivering new professional development activities for their peers that will develop the skills and experience needed to progress their careers.

The awards will support short-term, well-defined initiatives that develop and deliver transferable skills training experiences and/or resources to the applicants' peers across departments. Collaborative applications are encouraged. Applications will be reviewed on a case by case basis and all applicants will receive feedback after the awards have been allocated.

There are 17 awards available:

- 9 x £500 awards for Postgraduate Research Students in their 2nd year or above and registered at one of the Exeter Campuses
- 2 x £500 awards for Postgraduate Research Students in their 2nd year or above and registered at one of the Cornwall Campuses
- 6 X £1000 awards for staff on Research Only contracts on grade E or F

Award Categories:

There are four award categories and applicants must state clearly which award category

they are applying to on the application form. The categories are:

- Non-academic career development
- Academic career development
- Professional development of researchers in the Humanities and/or Social Sciences
- Promoting the development of women in the sciences

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS - 5pm GMT, Friday 3rd January 2014

For entry criteria and information about how to apply see:

<http://as.exeter.ac.uk/rdp/funding/awards/>

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New Classics & Ancient History Discussion Group

A new fortnightly Classics discussion group for postgraduates and staff (and interested undergraduates), focusing on the texts and material culture of the ancient world. The group is separate from the existing Greek and Latin reading group and is designed to cater to a more inter-disciplinary audience through the discussion of content, context and wider significance rather than the specifics of translation. Topics are decided or suggested by attendees, and the discussion is led by a different member of the group each week

The meetings take place at 1pm on alternate Tuesdays, in the Leventis Room (Amory). The remaining sessions for this semester are scheduled for November 12th, 26th, and December 10th. Materials for discussion are usually emailed to the interested members at the end of the week before. If people are interested, they can email [Maria Kneafey](#) for more details and materials for discussion.

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Awarded PhD's

August - September

Harriet Griffiths - PhD French

Neil Kennedy - PhD Cornish Studies

Isaure Triby - PhD Modern Languages

Adam Brummitt - MPhil Drama

David Morgan-Owen - PhD Maritime History

Robert Leigh - PhD Classics

Juan Garcia Precado - PhD Hispanic Studies

Ciprian Ardelean - PhD Archaeology

Tony Chamberlain - PhD History

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Higher Education news round up

Postgraduate numbers down 12 per cent, says report. The 1994 Group has urged the government to introduce a postgraduate loan system to combat a 12 per cent drop in student numbers over three years. (Times Higher Education - 24 Oct 2013).

Londoners 'take the most university places'. Young people in London are 43% more likely to go to university than their counterparts in the north-east of England, says a report from the Higher Education Funding Council for England. (BBC News Education & Family - 24 Oct 2013).

Universities face Office of Fair Trading review. The Office of Fair Trading has turned its attention to the university sector with plans to review students' consumer rights and university competition. (BBC News Education & Family - 22 Oct 2013)

Fears over 40% fall in part-time students. A "perfect storm" of causes is leading to a rapid and worrying decline in part-time student numbers in England, university leaders have warned. (BBC News Education & Family - 16 Oct 2013)

Use universities to drive economic growth, report urges. Universities should be brought into the heart of the economy and funded to stimulate growth, a report is urging. (BBC News Education & Family - 15 Oct 2013)

Euro rivals adopt English in fight for overseas students. Thousands of international students may be shunning the UK in favour of continental Europe, where a growing number of courses are being offered in English, a study suggests. (Times Higher Education - 10 Oct 2013)

Cambridge still top university in table of tables. The University of Cambridge has held on to its position at the top of the sixth annual Times Higher Education "Table of Tables"... the University of Oxford, the London School of Economics, the University of St Andrews and Durham University completing the quintet. (Times Higher Education - 10 Oct 2013)

Russell Group backs Oxford v-c on fee cap. The Russell Group has backed the University of Oxford vice-chancellor after he urged the government to allow a rise in tuition fees. (Times Higher Education - 9 Oct 2013)

Oxford vice-chancellor: student tuition fees should be 'closer to £16,000'. Oxford should be able to charge close to £16,000 in annual student tuition fees to reflect the full cost of an undergraduate education, according to the university's vice-chancellor. (The Telegraph - 8 Oct 2013)

A-level reforms 'to lead to more university entrance tests'. Rising numbers of universities will be forced to introduce their own admissions tests as a direct result of Coalition reforms to A-levels, according to headmasters. (The Telegraph - 1 Oct 2013)

Russell Group quizzed on 'facilitating subjects' list. The Russell Group has been asked to produce research on what subjects teenagers need to get in to their universities, after a study cast doubt on so-called "preferred subjects". (BBC News Education and Family - 26 Sept 2013)

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