

Monthly supervisor update – June 2023

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1. New Associate Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Postgraduate Research)

Many congratulations to Professor Dawn Watling, who has just been appointed Associate Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Postgraduate Research).

[Find out more](#)

2. Reviews or vivas impacted by the Marking and Assessment Boycott

A reminder to those of you who have a student whose review or viva is being impacted by the Marking Assessment Boycott to please let the Doctoral School (doctoralschool@rhul.ac.uk) know as soon as possible of the delay.

[Details of the PGR MAB mitigation currently in place](#)

3. Exam entry form reminder

If you are supervising a student due to submit within the next few months, remember that we recommend that the entry form is submitted two months prior to the submission of the thesis to enable sufficient time for your examiners and independent chair to be appointed. If your student is due to submit in September, then we'd strongly advise the entry form is submitted to us at some point in July.

[Guidance on the appointment of MPhil/PhD examiners](#)

[Guidance on the completion of the exam entry form](#)

[Overview of exam entry form approval process](#)

The form can only be processed once received from your Director of PGR Education so please do not send it directly to the Doctoral School without the necessary approvals as we are unable to do anything with it.

[MPhil / PhD exam entry form](#)

[Masters by Research entry form](#)

Any questions about this process, please contact doctoralschool@rhul.ac.uk.

4. Extension request process reminder

Where a student has experienced extenuating circumstances, they can request a **maximum 6-month** extension to their upgrade or submission deadline via a Suspension of Regulations request, which must be submitted by their supervisor, along with supporting documentary evidence.

- If the request is as a result of Covid, please use the [fast-track process](#)
- If the request is not as a result of Covid, please use the [Online PGR request form](#), uploading the [Extension to deadline request form and the supporting evidence](#)

Requests for extensions should be made **at least 1 month** prior to the deadline to avoid additional stress to a student as a deadline approaches. If an application for an extension is still being considered at the point of a deadline, the Doctoral School cannot confirm that the request will be approved, which puts students in a difficult position about whether to submit sometimes incomplete work by their original deadline whilst their extension is being considered.

Any questions about this process, please contact doctoralschool@rhul.ac.uk.

5. 'Life Beyond the PhD' conference

The Doctoral School annually funds a number of PhD students in the latter part of their studies to attend the '[Life Beyond the PhD' conference](#)', which takes place at Cumberland Lodge each August. The conference focuses on communication, public engagement, and interdisciplinary working, through a series of skills sessions, a group project, and with the help of guest speakers. Many congratulations to Bethany Chadburn (PhD English), Rachel Tyler (PhD Geography) and Alexandra Neacsu (PhD Computer Science), who have been awarded funded places this year.

If you think one of your students would benefit from this opportunity and would be able to self-fund, please forward them [this link](#) so that they can sign up to attend.

6. PRES (Postgraduate Research Experience Survey) 2023 – thank you

This year's PRES completion rate at Royal Holloway was 49%, 1% more than last year's rate and significantly higher than the sector-wide completion rate of 28%. A huge thank you for encouraging your students to complete it. The responses gathered from PRES are extremely helpful for us when reviewing the support we offer our PGR students. The analysis of the responses will be completed late summer and the key outcomes, and subsequent actions required, will be shared with you and the PGR community in the autumn term.

7. Quick links

- [Quick link to PGR forms and guides](#)
- [A to Z of the Doctoral School microsite](#)
- [Turnaround times for Doctoral School processes](#)