

DCAHF Training and Development Programme 2024-25

DCAH's Research Training and Development Programme draws on the incredible interdisciplinary diversity of PhD and MA research in the Faculty of Arts and Humanities and seeks to forge a lively community of researchers working across a variety of methods, including the theoretical, critical, practice-based, artistic, qualitative and quantitative. The programme is designed to help you: make connections with other researchers in the faculty; get the best possible start to your research degree by helping you acquire key skills and knowledge; and enable you to reflect meaningfully on your development as a researcher so that you're equipped for what comes after the PhD. A key strand of the programme is focused on new PhD researchers, and we encourage attendance in your first year as much as your schedule will allow.

There is a full programme of sessions for first years in semesters one and two. We're here to support you and are happy to respond to training and development needs as they arise, so please feel free to be in touch. Semester three will provide more opportunities for PhD-led initiatives, writing retreats outside of the university, and ad-hoc sessions.

Sessions will be offered as hybrid, synchronous events wherever possible, but may occasionally be online or in-person only. The sessions usually take place in room GE 2.06 (Grosvenor East) and on Teams, but please check the programme for full details.

Sessions aimed primarily at first-year PhD researchers and new starters are highlighted in blue on the calendar and in the session headings. Researchers in their second years (or part time equivalent) are welcome to join these sessions if they would like a refresher.

January 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1st	2nd	3rd	4th
5th	6th	7th	8th PhD-LED SEMINAR, 13.00- 14.30	9th NVIVO TRAINING, 9.00-17.00	10th NVIVO TRAINING, 9.00-17.00	11th
12th	13th	14th WRITERS' RETREAT, 9.00- 17.00	15th HALF DAY ETHICS RETREAT, 12- 15.00	16th	17th	18th
19th	20th	21st	22nd GETTING THE MOST OUT OF CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE, 14.30-16.00	23rd PhD-LED SEMINAR, 13.00- 14.30	24th	25th
26th	27th	28th ACADEMIC CV AND COVER LETTER WORKSHOP, 14.30-16.30	29th MAYFIELD SESSION, 10.30- 12.30	30th	31st	

February 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1st
2nd	3rd	4th	5th ALUMNI CAREERS Q&A, 14-15.00	6th PhD-LED SEMINAR, 13- 14.30	7th	8th
9th	10th	11th WRITERS' RETREAT, 9.00- 17.00	12th FINDING YOUR ACADEMIC VOICE, 14.30-16.00	13th	14th	15th
16th	17th	18th	19th INTRODUCTION TO OPEN RESEARCH & OA PUBLISHING, 11.00-12.30	20th PhD-LED SEMINAR, 13- 14.30	21st	22nd
23rd	24th	25th	26th WHAT IS INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH, 14.00- 15.30	27th	28th	

March 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1st
2nd	3rd	4th WRITERS' RETREAT, 9.00- 17.00	5th LINKING YOUR RESEARCH TO IMPACT, 11.00- 12.30	6th PhD-LED SEMINAR, 13.00- 14.30	7th	8th
9th	10th	11th	12th RESEARCH FUNDING: POSTDOCS, 14.30- 16.00	13th	14th	15th
16th	17th	18th THINKING ETHICS, 14.30-16.00	19th	20th	21st	22nd
23rd	24th	25th COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH, 11.00- 12.30 EDITING CLINIC, 14.00-16.00	26th	27th	28th	29th
30th	31st					

April 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 st LOOKING AHEAD TO THE ANNUAL REVIEW, 11.00- 12.30	2 nd PITCHING TO THE MEDIA, 13-14.30	3 rd WRITERS' RETREAT, 9.00- 17.00	4th	5th
6th	7th	8 th	9 th INTERPRETATION, CURATON AND ENGAGEMENT, 11.00-12.30	10th	11th	12th
13th	14 th	15th	16 th	17th	18th	19th
20th	21 st	22nd	23rd	24th	25th	26th
27th	28 th	29th	30th			

May 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1st	2nd	3rd
4th	5th	6 th WRITERS' RETREAT, 9.00- 17.00	7th	8th	9th	10th
11th	12th	13th	14th	15th	16th	17th
18th	19th	20th	21st	22nd	23rd	24th
25th	26 th	27th	28th	29th	30th	31st

Semester Two Sessions and Blurbs

Dates for the Writers' Retreats and the PhD-led Seminar Series are grouped at the bottom of the Semester Two blurbs.

Thursday 9th and Friday 10th January, Getting the Most out of NVivo

9.00-17.00 each day. In-person only, GE 2.06

With Christina Silver, Department of Sociology, the University of Surrey

The course provides a comprehensive overview of NVivo by focusing on its core components and analytic capabilities. Students are supported in using the software in guided hands-on sessions, and are encouraged to bring work-in-progress for individual support with analysis. We discuss common approaches and methods of analysis and how to operationalise these in the software. This provides a framework for planning, undertaking and documenting your analysis.

Spaces are strictly limited to 20. If you would like to join the workshops then please send an email to Fran Brooks (f.brooks@mmu.ac.uk) briefly outlining your experience with NVivo and how you use it in your research.

Wednesday 22nd January, Getting the most out of conference attendance

14.30-16.00, in person GE 2.06 / Online on Teams with Emma Liggins

This training session will offer advice not only on how to prepare good conference presentations and posters, but on making the most of your time at a conference. How many panels should you attend? Who should you talk to? And how can you transform your conference presentation or poster into an article, chapter, creative piece or blog post?

Tuesday 28th January, Academic CV & Cover Letter Workshop

14.30-16.30, in person / Online on Teams

What should an academic CV and cover letter look like? The materials required for an academic job application can be quite different to those you might be used to preparing for other roles. However, like any genre of writing it is possible to learn the conventions and to craft something that will give you the best chance of creating a good impression. This will be a practical, hands-on workshop: we'll look at examples of CVs and cover letters and discuss them together, reflecting on what makes a good letter. How should you respond to the job criteria? How can you write a compelling pitch for your future plans as a researcher? We'll also workshop ideas for second research projects, which often form an important component of the letter.

Wednesday 29th January, Multidisciplinary and Practice-based work in Mayfield

With Antony Rowland and Dan Dubowitz

10:30-12:30, in person in GE 2.06 and on site at Mayfield

In the first hour of this session, Antony Rowland and Dan Dubowitz will introduce their multidisciplinary work on the Mayfield site near Piccadilly Train station, which hosts the Warehouse Project for 10,000 people. In 2020-22, a major urban regeneration project transformed the district of Mayfield, a deprived area of central Manchester that forms a key yet forgotten site of the Industrial Revolution. In 2021, the client consortium leading this project appointed the architect Dan Dubowitz to assemble a group of practitioners to explore new methods for city making in the context of this revitalisation of Mayfield. This group included Rowland as well as the digital artist Dave Lynch, photographer Elisabeth de Bezenac, artist Charlie Curtis and local psychogeographer Morag Rose. The artistic outputs of the project included Antony Rowland and Dan Dubowitz's combination of archival images and a sound recording of Rowland's poem 'The Pork Raisers'. In the second hour of the session, we will take interested students on a one-hour walk and talk on the Mayfield site, to illustrate mobile research practices (including an informal Q&A), and how the history of a quintessential site of industrialisation and architectural heritage has been erased and then revitalised.

Wednesday 5th February, Alumni Careers Q&A

Careers in Engagement with Martin Kratz and Leda Channer

2-3pm, [online only on Teams](#)

This is the first in a series of alumni careers Q&As, which reflect on potential career routes for PhD researchers outside of the university lectureship. In the first event we'll hear from two MMU PhD alumni, Martin Kratz and Leda Channer, who now work at the university in roles related to public engagement. Martin Kratz is Programme Manager at the Poetry Library and Leda Channer is Impact and Engagement Officer. Martin and Leda will reflect on how they got from their PhDs to their current roles and there will be plenty of time for questions and discussion.

Wednesday 12th February, Finding your Academic Voice

14.30-16.00, in person in GE 2.06/[Online on Teams](#)

With Aurelie Cauchard from Academic Study Skills

In this workshop, we will start by examining the expectations of the academic reader. Considering the conventions of academic writing—both generally and discipline-specific—you will reflect on which features contribute to the crafting of an academic voice, how to enhance your own academic voice, and why it matters. We will then explore various strategies to help you

build confidence in expressing your stance in your discipline to help elevate your critical writing skills.

Wednesday 19th February, Introduction to Open Research and Open Access Publishing

11.00-12.30, in person GE 2.06/ [Online on Teams](#) with Georgina Alsop

Understanding how to publish your research open access (OA), so that it can be used freely and without restriction by a global audience, is increasingly important. Funders, government and institutions are placing an increased emphasis on good open research practices. This session is aimed at doctoral students and will focus on:

- Benefits to you of open access
- Routes to open access
- How to comply with publisher and funder requirements
- How the Library can help you

We will also discuss the wider landscape of open research and how opening access to results, data, protocols and other aspects of the research process can improve trust in research, and its visibility and impact.

Wednesday February 26th, What is Interdisciplinary Research?

14.00-15.30, in person GE 2.06/ [Online on Teams](#)

What is interdisciplinarity and what does it look like in the day to day of your research? What are some of the challenges and opportunities of working across disciplines? What role does collaboration and co-creation play in successful interdisciplinary research? In this panel discussion MMU researchers from across the Faculty will reflect on their own interdisciplinary research projects and open up the conversation to PhD researchers.

Wednesday 5th March, Linking your Research to Impact

11.00-12.30, in person in GE 2.06/ [Online on Teams](#)

This session engages with the links between academic research and impact, with a case study involving Antony Rowland's work on poetry, museums and digital apps. As in this instance, a key question will be: How can research create impact when there seems to be little correlation between the two?

Wednesday 12th March, Research Funding: Postdocs

14.30-16.00, in person in GE 2.06/ [Online on Teams](#)

This workshop is dedicated to postdoctoral research funding opportunities and the practicalities of applying for them. One way of continuing your research after you've finished your PhD is by securing a postdoctoral fellowship. There are a number of schemes open to researchers in the Arts and Humanities, including those run by the British Academy, the Leverhulme Trust, as well

as European researchers. What are the differences between each of these schemes, and how do you go about finding them and writing a proposal? We'll cover this in the workshop, as well as learning about postdocs that are advertised as part of larger projects.

Tuesday 18th March: Thinking Ethics

14.30-16.00, in person in GE 2.06/[Online on Teams](#)

This session dedicated to ethics is designed to be responsive to your needs, as identified in the ethics survey conducted earlier in the year. It will be an opportunity to think critically about the role that ethics plays in Arts and Humanities research, from a philosophical as well as a methodological perspective. The workshop will be run by Adi Kunstman and Anna Bergqvist.

Tuesday 25th March, “In it together”: Collaborative research and writing

11.00-12.30, in-person only in GE 2.06 with Ben Bowman

Collaborative research is “[unruly, rich and messy](#)”, and collaborative research, writing and publishing offers unique opportunities and challenges to postgraduate and early career researchers. In this hands-on workshop we will explore the struggles and strategies of collaborative work for ECRs, and try out a collaborative, playful simulation of academic co-authorship.

Tuesday 25th March, ‘Getting It Write’: Editing Clinic for Arts and Humanities PGRs

14.00-16.00, in-person only in GE 2.06

Struggling to edit your writing? Get help from your peers! In our editing clinic, you'll discuss a draft of your work and get feedback to improve your writing skills. Before attending the clinic, you'll be asked to complete a short task and to identify the work you want to share with your peers. The task will be sent to you a week before the clinic.

Tuesday 1st April, Looking Ahead to the Annual Review

11.00-12.30, In person in GE 2.06/[Online on Teams](#) with Anna Bergqvist

Annual Progress Reviews (APRs) give you the opportunity to demonstrate your research progress and receive formal feedback from academic reviewers. These take place annually and doctoral students must complete each review satisfactorily in order to progress to the next year of their research programme. In this informal session we'll talk about what to expect from the Annual Progress Review, how to prepare for it, and the different ways of using it to help your development as a researcher. Come with your questions and queries.

Wednesday 2nd April, Pitching to the Media

With Professor Andrew McMillan and Lucy Zhou (Head of Publicity at Canongate)

13-14.30pm, In person in GE 2.06 and [online on Teams](#)

From both a writers and publicists point of view, find out about getting your work out there beyond the academy, how pitching to the media works and how to frame wider narratives around the narrow focus of your work.

Please email Fran Brooks to book a place: f.brooks@mmu.ac.uk

Wednesday 9th April: Interpretation, Curation and Engagement Workshop

11.00-12.30, [Online on Teams](#) or in-person in the Poetry Library with Martin Kratz

At Manchester Poetry Library, our exhibitions have taken an increasingly formative role in research development. Rather than simply serving as a research output or an isolated engagement activity, our exhibitions have intersected with staff and PGR's research journeys at different stages. This session will begin with a preview of Manchester Poetry Library's new summer exhibition curated by the Manchester Writing School's Dr Malika Booker. We will consider practical curation skills as well as some theoretical underpinnings of a co-creative approach.

Semester Two Writers' Retreats

Dates for Writers' Retreats in Semester Two are as follows:

- Tuesday 14 January
- Tuesday 11 February
- Tuesday 4 March
- Thursday 3 April

The Writers' Retreats take place in Grosvenor East 2.06 and run all day (the room is booked from 8.45am-5pm).

Semester Two PhD-Led Seminars

Fortnightly seminar schedule, all seminars to run from 1-2.30pm

Seminar 5: Thurs 9th Jan 2025

Seminar 6: Thurs 23rd Jan 2025

Seminar 7: Thurs 6th Feb 2025

Seminar 8: Thurs 20th Feb 2025

Seminar 9: Thurs 6th Mar 2025

Summer Events

Summer Writers' Retreats with Chad McDonald

Dates for Writers' Retreats in the summer are as follows:

- Tuesday 6 May
- Monday 2 June
- Wednesday 16 July
- Thursday 21 August

The Writers' Retreats take place in Grosvenor East 2.06 and run all day (the room is booked from 8.45am-5pm).

Bios

Ben Bowman is a political sociologist and he specialises in youth studies. He works with young people to learn about their lives, their everyday politics and how young people take action to change the world around them.

Dr Aurélie Cauchard obtained her Bachelor's degree at La Sorbonne Nouvelle - Paris 4 (France) and completed her PhD in Linguistics as an international student at the University of Manchester (United Kingdom) in 2014. After seven years teaching Linguistics in a university in the UK and abroad, she joined the Academic and Study Skills team at MMU in 2022. Since then, she has worked particularly with the lecturers and students in the Arts & Humanities Faculty.

Dr Emma Liggins is Reader in English and Co-Director of the Manchester Centre for Gothic Studies. She has published on Victorian Gothic and nineteenth-century women's writing, including her recent book *The Haunted House in Women's Ghost Stories: Gender, Space and Modernity, 1850-1945* (Palgrave, 2020). She loves attending conferences and hopes to inspire you to enjoy them too.

Dr Chad McDonald completed his PhD in History in 2020 through a joint supervision arrangement between the universities of Bristol and Southampton. He was awarded the Faculty Prize for the high quality of his research. Chad is now a Senior Academic and Study Skills Tutor at Manchester Metropolitan University and, through this work, runs regular Writers' Retreats for the Postgraduate Arts and Humanities Research Centre. Chad is the Social Media Editor for *Patterns of Prejudice* and a Section Editor for the *Journal of Learning Development in Higher Education*.

Professor Antony Rowland's research is in the areas of modern and contemporary poetry, and Holocaust and trauma studies. He is the author of seven books, including *Poetry as Testimony* (2014) and *Holocaust Poetry* (2005). He received an Eric Gregory award in 2000 from the Society of Authors, and the Manchester Poetry Prize in 2012. He is a member of the HE Committee for the English Association.