

## **FAQs**

### **1. What is the Doctoral Academy?**

The Doctoral Academy is the new iteration of the University's previous Graduate School. It will provide a sharper focus on supporting postgraduate research degree candidates at Aberystwyth University, focused on equipping postgraduate researchers with practical skills and it will serve as a one-stop shop for supporting staff and students.

It will launch on 4 August 2025, with a phased implementation over the 2025/26 academic year.

### **2. Why is the Doctoral Academy being introduced?**

The Academy is being introduced to:

- Provide a sharper institutional focus on the needs of postgraduate research students;
- Build upon the University's existing strengths in postgraduate research teaching;
- Transform how we train postgraduate researchers, arming them with essential skills rather than an approach based on gaining credits and completing assignments;
- Make the postgraduate research journey more accessible for postgraduate staff and students;
- Bring together the support for postgraduate researchers that the University offers;
- Inform students about the networks and communities that are available;
- Serve as an access point for supervisors to take advantage of training opportunities.

### **3. I'm a postgraduate researcher. How does the introduction of the Doctoral Academy affect me?**

Your day-to-day postgraduate research studies will remain unchanged and you do not need to do anything. However, over the coming academic year, you will now have easier access to:

- Enhanced training and development programmes.
- More targeted support services.
- The wider community of PGRs.

### **4. I'm supervising a postgraduate researcher. How does the introduction of the Doctoral Academy affect me?**

It will not change the supervision process. The Doctoral Academy website will alert you to new training opportunities if you are a supervisor, as well as act as a source of information for postgraduate researchers.

If you have any further questions ahead of the Doctoral Academy's launch, please email [graduate.school@aber.ac.uk](mailto:graduate.school@aber.ac.uk).

**5. I'm a Professional Services member of staff who worked with the Graduate School. How does the opening of the Doctoral Academy affect me?**

The role of Professional Services will remain the same. If you have any questions ahead of the Doctoral Academy's launch please speak to your line manager or email [graduate.school@aber.ac.uk](mailto:graduate.school@aber.ac.uk).

**6. Who leads the Doctoral Academy?**

We are currently planning on appointing a Head of the Doctoral Academy and will update you in due course. In the meantime, the Academy will be led by Professor Reyer Zwiggelaar, current Head of the Graduate School, and Professor Matthew Jarvis.

**7. What happens to the Graduate School?**

The Graduate School will be formally closed, and its functions will be absorbed and expanded upon by the Doctoral Academy.

**8. Where can I find more information?**

Please email [graduate.school@aber.ac.uk](mailto:graduate.school@aber.ac.uk) until 4 August if you have any further questions.