

*Aberystwyth
University*

*Researcher
Development
Programme*

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AU RESEARCHER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

CONTENTS

Page

1. What is Researcher Development?	3
2. Structure of the AU Researcher Development Programme	5
3. Centrally Provided Research Modules	6
4. Guidance on Attendance, Progression and Exemptions	7
5. Annual Graduate Workshops	8
6. AU Professional and Transferable Skills Training Workshops	8
Appendix One – The Modular Structure within the AU Researcher Development Programme	9

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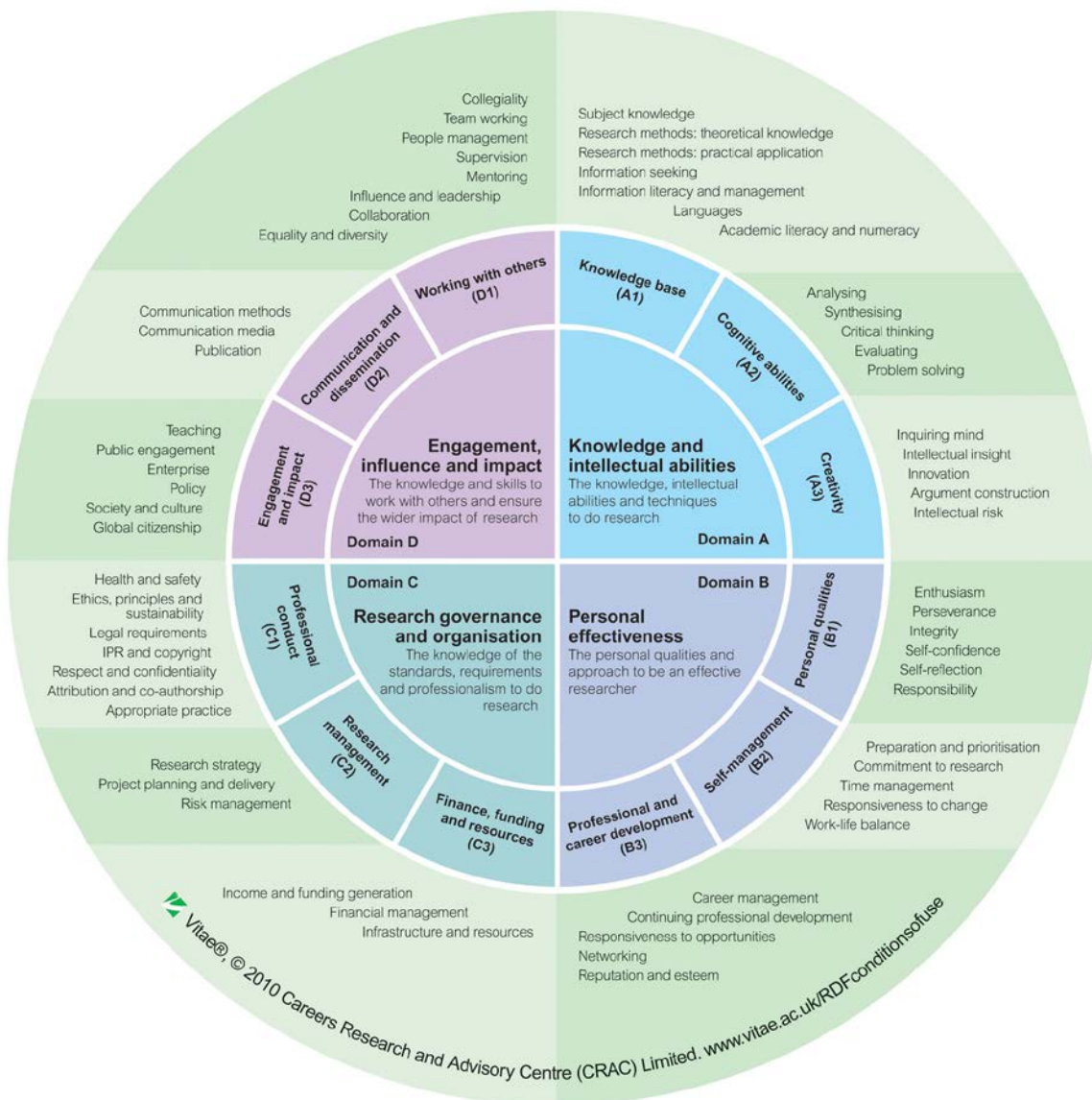
This document is available online at www.aber.ac.uk/en/grad-school/docs-handbooks/

RESEARCHER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

What is Researcher Development?

In 2001 the Research Councils issued a Joint Skills Statement (JSS) which described the skills that research students are expected to have or to develop. These include a range of research, professional and transferable skills. Development of such skills is considered as an integral part of the experience of being a postgraduate research student. The Researcher Development Statement and its associated Framework of 2010 (see below) is an evolution of the JSS and highlights the range of knowledge, skills, behaviours and personal qualities which the Research Councils expect researchers to develop over the course of their training.

Researcher Development Framework



The development of such research, professional and transferable skills is a significant part of a research degree. Researchers require a wide range of skills to successfully complete a degree, from strong research skills to effective communication, IT and career management skills. Developing these skills will not only help students to become more successful researchers, but will also help to develop the qualities and attributes required to be successful in achieving career aims.

All UK Universities and funding bodies now require postgraduate research students to develop a generic skill-set during their studies by attending structured training courses and other appropriate training and developmental activities. ***The Aberystwyth University (AU) Researcher Development Programme*** aims to give students generic methods and skills which address the needs of researchers in the modern academic environment and prepare them for their future careers. It plays an essential part in creating and sustaining an advanced research community.

Aberystwyth is committed to the provision of an appropriate level of training for all its postgraduate students. As part of this commitment the University has established a programme designed to help students develop the skills required to successfully complete their research degrees and also to improve their future employability. It begins with an induction event, followed by a set of centrally-provided research modules, complemented by annual graduate workshops, and supported by a wide range of workshops, short training courses and other activities offered through the Professional and Transferable Skills Training Workshops.

All students are required to follow specific elements of the programme, (as detailed later), but all postgraduates are also welcome to opt-in to any additional aspects of the programme, if they feel this will enhance their research skill set. ***The AU Researcher Development Programme***, run under the auspices of the Graduate School, is supplemented by subject-specific Researcher Development provision offered by individual departments, intended to equip students with specific research skills unique to their particular research discipline and to the individual needs of the student.

The AU Researcher Development Programme is taught by staff who are specialists in their discipline, who come together through a commitment to creating an advanced and multidisciplinary research environment. As a result of this programme students are better equipped with the necessary skills and knowledge to devise, conduct and write up their research within the specified time limits. Following the introduction of the programme, submission rates at AU have increased dramatically.

There is also a vocational reason to follow this programme. It will give you marketable skills and competencies, to enable you to move from a research degree into a variety of employment opportunities.

Structure of the AU Researcher Development Programme

1) Induction Programme

- All new full-time research students (PhD and MPhil), whether their research is undertaken in the medium of Welsh or English, are obliged to attend the Induction Programme.
- Part-time PhD and MPhil students are strongly encouraged to attend.

2) Centrally Provided Research Modules

- All full-time research postgraduates are required to attend specific elements of the programme. These requirements are determined according to the individual student's research area.

3) Annual Graduate Workshops

- Year One Graduate Workshops – Professional Conduct. (**compulsory requirement**)
- Year Two Graduate Workshops – Writing School.
- Year Three Graduate Workshops – Beyond the PhD.

4) Professional and Transferable Skills Training Workshops

All UK Universities and funding bodies now require postgraduate research students to develop a generic skill-set during their studies by attending structured training courses and other appropriate training and developmental activities. To help to meet these skills requirements, the *AU Researcher Development Programme* offers a wide range of workshops, short training courses and other activities designed to help students develop the skills required to successfully complete their research degrees and also to improve their future employability, whether within academia or outside it. Details can be found at <http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/grad-school/res-develop/pg-skills-training/>.

5) Research Monitoring

Institute Research Monitoring Committees are responsible for overseeing the following processes: identifying the research and transferable skills training needs, including advanced training needs, of individual students; ensuring that ethical and health and safety issues arising from the student's research are identified; monitoring the research and transferable skills training, including advanced training, and Continuing Professional Development process. Institute Research Monitoring Committees make reports and recommendations on progress to the University Research Monitoring Committee. For further information about monitoring, see the Departmental / Institute handbooks and the Code of Practice for Research Postgraduates.

Centrally Provided Research Modules

All full time PhD students are expected to complete a minimum of 40 credits of institutionally-provided research training within the first two years. It is expected that a minimum of 20 credits will be taken in the first year, and any remaining credits in the second year.

All full time MPhil students are expected to complete a minimum of 10 credits of institutionally-provided research training

Research postgraduates are initially required to discuss their research area with their supervisor / department, and decide which remit their research falls under. Students **must** then discuss which modules would be most suitable with their supervisors before registering for them.

Full-time Social Sciences remit (ESRC) PhD students are required to take two Core Modules (compulsory requirement), plus at least one further module, chosen from the full list below (ensuring the total credit count is at least 40):

Core Modules for Social Science remit PhD students (compulsory requirement)

- Quantitative Data Collection and Analysis (PGM1010)
- Qualitative Data Collection and Analysis (PGM1710 or PGM1120)

Full-time Arts and Humanities remit (AHRC), and Science remit (BBSRC, EPSRC, MRC, NERC, STFC) PhD students are expected to choose 40 credits from the list below.

The Graduate School currently manages twenty six central research modules.

- Research Skills and Personal Development (PGM0120) (10 credit version PGM2210)
- Sgiliau Ymchwil a Datblygiad Personol (MOR0120)
- Principles of Research Design (PGM0210)
- Ways of Reading (PGM0410)
- Dulliau Darllen (MOR0510)
- Advanced Quantitative Data Analysis Techniques (PGM0910)
- Quantitative Data Collection and Analysis (PGM1010)
- Qualitative Data Collection and Analysis (PGM1120) (10 credit version PGM1710)
- Manuscript Skills: Post Medieval Palaeography and Diplomatic (PGM1210)
- Using Manuscript Sources for Medieval Studies: Palaeography, Diplomatic and Context (PGM1420)
- Research Skills and Personal Development for Scientists (PGM1520) (10 credit version PGM2310)
- Public Engagement and Impact (PGM1610)
- Ways of Working (PGM1810)
- Leadership for Researchers (PGM1910)
- Political Research, Philosophy, Methods and Applications (IPM2120)
- Research Skills in Mathematics, Physics and Computer Science (PGM2010)
- Statistics for Experimental Scientists (PGM2110)
- Research Seminar Skills in the Life Sciences (PGM2410)
- Grants Development Workshops (PGM2510)
- Reading and Writing Development Group (PGM2610)
- Theoretical Foundations of Research In Law and Criminology (PGM2710)
- Skills in Bioinformatics for Biologists (PGM2810)
- Research Writing Programme (PGM 2910)
- Entrepreneurship for Research Students (PGM3310)

This basic provision may be supplemented by other elements of the *AU Researcher Development Programme* and by departmental research training and subject specific training tailored to individual student's needs. Details of this part of the Training Programme will be provided by the postgraduate co-ordinator in the student's department.

This training can be undertaken at any point in the PhD training programme, when it is considered most appropriate. Departments will be responsible for identifying the advanced Researcher Development needs of their research students and may **require** research students to take elements of advanced training.

Guidance on Attendance, Progression and Exemptions

Attendance

Students who are registered for central research modules are required to attend all the sessions for those modules. **Attendance monitoring points will be available in all timetabled rooms and students will need to swipe in all classes.** Attendance is monitored by the Graduate School. Absence without good reason (such as illness) will be pursued by the Head of the Graduate School and will be reported to the student's department. Repeated absence without good reason will be taken into account during research monitoring and may result in failure to progress to the next year of study, or in exclusion from the university.

Progression - Marks, Passing and Failing

Marks will be allocated to assessed work. In the central research modules, 50% constitutes a pass and 70% constitutes a distinction. All full-time PhD students (who have not already taken these modules as part of an AU RT Master's or been granted an exemption) must pass the required central research modules before progression to the next year of the PhD programme is permitted. Any specified and/or agreed additional or advanced modularized components of the Researcher Development Programme must be passed for progression to the next year of study.

If a module is failed, re-submission will be required, and a new deadline for submission set. **Further failure will result in a recommendation being made by the Researcher Development Board of Studies to the University Monitoring Committee and may result in failure to progress to the next year of study, or in exclusion from the university.**

Exemptions

Where social science research postgraduates are required to register for the compulsory core modules, but have already passed **the equivalent** Research modules at postgraduate level at another University or Institute of Higher Education, it is possible to request an exemption. **(Research Training Masters and Taught (including Research Preparation) Master's students cannot apply for exemptions.)**

Applications for exemption **must** be made in all cases to the Head of the Graduate School, who has responsibility for all decisions on exemption from Research modules. You **must** use the Exemption from Research module form (which is available on the Graduate School web pages at <http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/grad-school/forms/>) to explain why you consider that you should be exempt from certain modules. This form must be signed by your supervisor and the Institute Director of Postgraduate Studies, and then sent to the Graduate School for approval. Requests for exemption must be made as soon as possible after the start of the *AU Researcher Development Programme*, and not later than two weeks after the beginning of the module concerned.

Opting In

If you want to opt in to modules voluntarily, please use the Opting in to Research Training module form (which is available on the Graduate School web pages at <http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/grad-school/forms/>). Please send the form in as soon as possible, so that numbers for modules can be calculated well in advance of the modules starting. If, after opting in, you decide not to attend the module concerned, you should inform the Graduate School Administrator.

Annual Graduate Workshops

These are annual workshops for PhD students.

Year 1 Professional Conduct - compulsory for all full-time research postgraduates, (MPhil and PhD).

This workshop will run at the start of Year One, will bring together the full Postgraduate research cohort, and focus on **Research Ethics, Writing Issues and Teaching** skills. This will include ethics, issues of plagiarism, confidentiality, copyright, data protection, freedom of information in the research and writing process.

Year 2 Research Writing Programme

The research writing programme is designed to bring together PhD students from across the University to discuss aspects of writing and research. The programme includes discussion based workshops, presentations and tutorials. Participants have the opportunity to discuss the progress of their work with a team of writing specialists and to contribute to the discussion from their own experience. This experiential approach recognises the expertise of all participants and it is expected that all contributions will help in the creation of action plans for completion of research.

Year 3 Beyond the PhD

A number of optional Year 3 workshops are offered. In the past we have covered aspects like: Non-academic career directions, Ways into academia; Organising successful workshops /conferences; Preparing for your viva (before/during/after); CV, application form and interview technique; and Networking and building your personal brand. If you have suggestions for any additional workshops, please email the Graduate School.

AU Professional and Transferable Skills Training Workshops

All UK Universities and funding bodies now require postgraduate research students to develop a generic skill-set during their studies by attending structured training courses and other appropriate training and developmental activities. The Research Councils expect that funded PhD students undertake 10 days a year of transferable skills training. All PhD students at AU are encouraged to undertake 30 days of training over the course of their PhD.

To help to meet these skills requirements, Aberystwyth University offers Professional and Transferable Skills Training via a wide range of short training courses and other activities designed to help you develop the skills required to successfully complete your research degree and also to improve your future employability, whether within academia or outside it. The courses offered are grouped according to skills identified in the RDF Domains (see table on page 3).

- Knowledge and Intellectual Abilities
- Personal Effectiveness
- Research Governance and Organisation
- Engagement, Influence and Impact

Courses in Professional and Transferable Skills Training are free and available for all full and part-time research students, regardless of source of funding and Research Council remit. For further information, please see the website at <http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/grad-school/res-skills-training/pg-skills-training/>.

APPENDIX ONE

THE MODULAR STRUCTURE WITHIN THE RESEARCHER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

The modules which form part of the *AU Researcher Development Programme* are organised in such a way that they can, if required, be incorporated as elements of another programme of postgraduate study, e.g. Research Training Master's. Modules are credit-bearing and modules organised at a departmental level may also be assigned credits. The modular and credit structure is based upon:

(a) an allocation of 180 credits for one academic year of full-time study for a postgraduate student; and

(b) the AU standard pattern by which each 10-credit module represents 100 notional learning hours. This includes contact time, reading and preparation of submitted work.

The Graduate School currently manages twenty-six central research modules.

1. Research Skills and Personal Development (PGM0120, PGM2210)

This module aims to give research students in the Arts and Humanities and Social Sciences, a broad knowledge of a range of transferable skills that they can apply in a variety of research contexts. The module will cover personal development, including skills in negotiating and networking, academic writing, research management, teamworking and writing and presenting a conference paper. The module also covers IT skills, both general and in an applied research context.

2. Sgiliau Ymchwil a Datblygiad Personol (MOR0120)

Nod y modiwl hwn yw darparu myfyrwyr ymchwil ag ystod eang o sgiliau trosglwyddadwy a fydd o ddefnydd iddynt mewn amryw o gyd-destunau ymchwil. Bydd yn ymdrin â datblygiad personol, gan gynnwys sgiliau negodi a rhwydweithio, rheoli ymchwil, gweithio mewn tîm ac ysgrifennu a chyflwyno papur cynhadledd. Bydd hefyd yn ymdrin â sgiliau TG, yn bennaf mewn cyd-destun ymchwil, a materion penodol sy'n codi wrth ymgymryd ag ymchwil yn y Gymraeg, yn ddwyieithog neu'n amlieithog.

3. Principles of Research Design (PGM0210)

This module aims to give research students an understanding of the basic principles of research design and strategy. It will enable them to demonstrate their capacity to: identify and formulate their research questions clearly and succinctly, analyse them or break them down into relevant sets of sub-questions, and, where appropriate, formulate testable hypotheses; explain why their research questions are significant in the context of their discipline/research subfields, what kinds of question theirs epistemologically are, and what kinds of data/materials, or grounds of argumentation, are necessary to address their questions; and to produce a realistic plan of action, paying attention to any legal and ethical issues that they may encounter in their research processes.

4. Ways of Reading (PGM0410)

This module, consisting of a two day programme, provides an introduction to different approaches to the interpretation and analysis of texts and types of discourse, including historical and contemporary documents, print and broadcast media, literary material, legal and educational texts. Since contemporary forms of communication are becoming increasingly multi-modal, the module covers both the verbal and visual dimensions of texts and examines some of the ways in which verbal and visual signs are inter-linked in different kinds of texts and in different channels of communication. The aim of the module is to enable students to engage with different methods of text and discourse analysis and to develop an understanding of the ways in which these methods are embedded in particular traditions of theory-building.

5. Dulliau Darllen (MOR0510)

Modiwl deuddydd dwys yw hwn sy'n rhoi cyflwyniad i wahanol ddulliau o ddehongli a dadansoddi testunau a gwahanol fathau o ddisgwrs, gan gynnwys dogfennau hanesyddol a chyfoes, y cyfryngau a'r gair llafar, deunydd llenyddol a thestunau cyfreithiol. Gan fod cyfathrebu cyfoes yn gynyddol amlfodd o ran ffurf, rhoddir sylw i'r dimensiynau gweledol a llafar mewn testun a'r cydgyssylltiadau rhwng y gweledol a'r llafar mewn gwahanol fathau o destun a ffurfiau o gyfathrebu. Nod y modiwl yw galluogi myfyrwyr i weithio gyda gwahanol ddulliau o ddatblygu testunau a disgyrsiau. Byddant hefyd yn deall sut mae'r dulliau hyn yn perthyn i wahanol draddodiadau damcaniaethol.

6. Advanced Quantitative Data Analysis Techniques (PGM0910)

This module aims to provide students with a broad knowledge of a range of methodological and analytical skills, which they can apply in a variety of research contexts. The module is aimed at students who have previously studied basic quantitative techniques. This module covers advanced statistical methodologies which can be applied in the context of PhD study in the sciences. This can include advanced time series analysis, event study methodology and performance measurement. Practical sessions will provide insights to the application of the techniques, including the use of relevant software.

7. Quantitative Data Collection and Analysis (PGM1010)

This module aims to give students a broad knowledge of a range of methodological and analytical skills, which they can apply in a variety of research contexts. As well as giving students a grounding in the basic principles of quantitative research methodology, the module will (i) look at how data can be described, (ii) introduce a range of statistical tests commonly used, and (iii) explore what the results mean in terms of the research question posed. The module comprises lectures, and the delivery will involve hands-on lab work using an appropriate statistical package.

8. Qualitative Data Collection and Analysis (PGM1120)

This module aims to give students a broad knowledge of a range of qualitative methodological and analytical skills, which they can apply in a variety of research contexts. The course is designed to give students a grounding in the basic principles of qualitative research methodology. It will (i) provide students with an introduction to the major methods of qualitative data collection and analysis, (ii) show how qualitative data are actively constructed and interpreted by the researcher, and (iii) foster an appreciation of the practical and epistemological concerns raised by qualitative data collection. Topics include, questionnaire design, interviewing techniques, survey design, qualitative data analysis methods and mixed methods.

9. Manuscript Skills: Post Medieval Palaeography and Diplomatic (PGM1210)

This module considers the historical development of handwriting (palaeography) in Britain between c1450 and c1800, the characteristics of specific types of script, the principles of transcription and other editorial methods, and the development of common form in formal documents (diplomatic). Practical and technical skills in reading and transcription are developed through applying theory to practice in a wide range of manuscript material under careful guidance.

10. Using Manuscript Sources for Medieval Studies: Palaeography, Diplomatic and Context (PGM1420)

In order to read, interpret and transcribe the handwritten sources that survive from medieval and early modern times, students and researchers must gain a good understanding of the specific styles of handwriting in use at those times and appreciate that formal documents contain significant elements of 'common form' that control their overall structure and phraseology and reflect their function within the administrative context in which they were produced. Three areas of knowledge are necessary for dealing with these issues: palaeography (the study of old handwriting), diplomatic (the study of the form and structure of official documents), and administrative history (which provides the context within which documents and other writings were created). The module also provides support in reading and understanding Latin and archaic language. **NB: Students with no previous knowledge**

of Latin, will be required to register and attend module HYM2120 Latin for Postgraduates (see module database for further information).

11. Research Skills and Personal Development for Scientists (PGM1520, PGM2310)

This module aims to give research students in the Sciences, a broad knowledge of a range of transferable skills that they can apply in a variety of research contexts. The module will cover personal development, including skills in negotiating and networking, academic writing, research management, teamworking and writing and presenting a conference paper. The module also covers IT skills, both general and in an applied research context.

12. Public Engagement and Impact (PGM1610)

In recent years RCUK has placed additional emphasis on the importance of public engagement and impact and this module will allow PhD students to explore key aspects. The module will be held in two parts. The first part will be an intensive single day workshop. This will start with a number of "taught" sessions to introduce public engagement and impact aspects. These "taught" sessions are followed with a hands-on session with the aim to generate public engagement material (both text and visual aspects). In the final session of the first day workshop the results of the previous session are presented and discussed. The second part of the module will be a contribution to a public engagement event. The default for this will be an exhibition for the general public (e.g. in the Art Centre or in Old College), with the expectation that each PhD student will contribute a visual/text display and that they will present at the opening reception.

13. Qualitative Data Collection and Analysis (PGM1710)

This module delivers a 10 credit version of PGM1120. It aims to give students a knowledge of a range of qualitative methodological and analytical skills, with sessions chosen from a selection of topics, driven by the needs of the student. The course is designed to give students a grounding in the basic principles of qualitative research methodology. It will (i) provide students with an introduction to some methods of qualitative data collection and analysis, (ii) show how qualitative data are actively constructed and interpreted by the researcher, and (iii) foster an appreciation of the practical and epistemological concerns raised by qualitative data collection. Topics can include, questionnaire design, interviewing techniques, survey design and qualitative data analysis methods.

14. Ways of Working (PGM1810)

The module aims to introduce students to a range of research areas, methodologies and outcomes relevant to individual Postgraduate study within the wider framework of the scholarly enquiry active within ILLCA. The module will provide students with insight into distinct ways of working at Postgraduate level but also an awareness and understanding of the interactivity and inter-relations between different but cognate subject areas. These areas might include the politics of translation and also more practical applications of translation, practice-based acts of translation between modes (text/image/object etc.) and media (film/print/performance etc.) and also between and across historical periods. Study of the Creative Industries and Creative production forms another important strand of scholarly enquiry at ILLCA, including the study of digital and technological developments in their impact upon established processes of creative production in theatre, film, television and literary and language studies. Likewise ILLCA engages with Cultural heritage and cultural production, and with questions around the reception and transmission of cultural and linguistic heritage, the role of cultural co-production in that creative cultural exchange and issues of memory, tradition, representation, revival and renewal. Landscape and Environment forms another strand of research enquiry as articulated in various modes of literary and performative practices, but also reaching out towards philosophical engagement with ideas of visualising, imagining and experiencing geographical, cultural, emotional and spiritual ideas of place and space, ideas of belonging to and shaping human environments. A series of third year or post-doctoral students (in cases where we have Creative Fellows or similar who have recently completed PhD study) will be profiled in order to identify the breadth and wealth of research skills and methodologies in practice across the Institute at PhD level. The projects will focus on practice as research and compositional and creative practice of various

kinds in order to provide a different kind of learning experience to that offered by Ways of Reading (PGM0410/MOR0510) but will not exclude more traditional, literary approaches completely.

15. Leadership for Researchers (PGM1910)

The module aims to introduce postgraduate researchers to the subject of leadership and to apply ideas about leadership traits, styles and behaviours in the context of the research process. This module is designed to provide elective content within the programme offered as RT for PGR students. The purpose of this module is to introduce postgraduate researchers to the range and models of leadership, to apply these models in the context of managing and leading research teams, and to provide students with the opportunity to explore through experiential learning leadership styles and behaviours.

16. Political Research, Philosophy, Methods and Applications (IPM2120)

The aim of this course is to familiarise students with the process of conducting advanced research in political science and international relations. The course picks up many of the themes covered in the generic research-training programme and addresses them from a political science perspective. It is intended to give students the necessary tools to competently understand empirical political research, as well providing a sophisticated set of research skills necessary in order to complete graduate-level research. It is designed to provide a thorough advanced education in the application, appreciation and understanding of a range of research methods relating to political phenomena. It covers both quantitative and qualitative perspectives and emphasises the necessity of both forms of analysis.

17. Research Skills in Mathematics, Physics and Computer Science (PGM2010)

This module aims to give PhD students a broad knowledge of a range of subject specific skills that they can apply in a variety of research interests. In particular, it will develop the ability of students to undertake independent research projects. Each of the constituent departments of IMPaCS will encourage, provide, and monitor discipline-specific training to research students in the Institute. Due to the diverse nature of the research being undertaken within the institute, for example experimental, numerical and theoretical, a range of activities are planned and students should choose those most relevant to their work.

18. Statistics for Experimental Scientists (PGM2110)

The module aims to provide an understanding of the principles of research design, the ability to statistically analyse data and the subsequent interpretation of such analyses are essential for the Sciences. This module builds on basic statistical principles that would have been covered at undergraduate level and develops procedures relevant to science subject areas. The module is comprised of a series of self-contained, e-learning based units delivered entirely through Blackboard but supported by optional workshops to provide help as required. A core of compulsory units will reinforce elements of basic statistics while a broader range of more advanced techniques will be available for students to select from according to study scheme and dissertation topic. The statistical techniques will be demonstrated using SPSS, a statistical package fully supported by the University.

19. Research Seminar Skills in the Life Sciences (PGM2410)

This module aims to give PhD students a broad knowledge of a range of subject specific skills that they can apply in a variety of research interests. In particular, it will develop the ability of students to appreciate the relevance of research beyond their immediate area of study. IBERS runs a series of weekly research seminars, involving speakers from AU (mostly IBERS but also DGES etc.) and external visiting speakers. Students participating in this module would be expected to attend a minimum of 12 of these seminars during semesters 1 and 2, and to submit 300 word abstracts for six of these.

20. Grants Development Workshops (PGM2510)

This module is aimed at the development of a research grant and will provide the students with an awareness of the full process involved, which will cover the writing process, an understanding of funding bodies, the documentation and financial requirements, and the panel assessment process.

21. Reading and Writing Development Group (PGM2610)

This module provides students with experience in reading, discussing and critically assess publications and research. It could also cover the writing of a critical literature review. The expectation is that students will be actively involved in the development process and contribute to the module and evaluation process.

22. Theoretical Foundations of Research in Law and Criminology (PGM2710)

This module provides an overview and discussion of the theoretical underpinning of Law and Criminology as disciplines for study and research. It explains how the subject areas of law and 'criminal science' have been theorised and developed in Western discourse and indicates the main trends in contemporary critical debate and argument. By providing an insight and understanding of the underlying theoretical basis and structure of these subject areas, it enables researchers to gain an appreciation of the distinctive role and methods of Law and Criminology as disciplines in the broader fields of humanities and social science.

23. Skills in Bioinformatics for Biologists (PGM2810)

Bioinformatics skills become increasingly important for postgraduate students and have been highlighted by IBERS PG students as an area for which more training should be provided. This module addresses this by providing PG students with a Bioinformatics module that allows the students to select the topic most relevant to their work from a range of existing modules.

24. Research Writing Programme (PGM2910)

The programme focuses on a process writing approach where candidates are encouraged to reflect on their own strategies and writing styles in relation to a series of seminars and workshops and talks from writing experts around the university. Through the programme candidates reinforce what is already working in their writing and consider new or adapted strategies for further writing development. They are encouraged to share working practices with other candidates and with staff towards a wider view of writing as a set of specific, but adaptive practices.

25. Entrepreneurship for Research Students (PGM3310)

This module will equip PGR students with knowledge about entrepreneurship, most likely related to their own research project. The module will develop a set of generic skills (e.g. proposal writing) and apply these to entrepreneurship developments. The module covers theory and practical aspects.