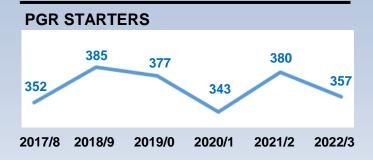


# **PGR STATISTICS**

1817 CURRENT POSTGRADUATE RESEARCHERS
(1 DEC 2022)



370

**RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS\* INVOLVING PGRs IN 2022/23** 

319

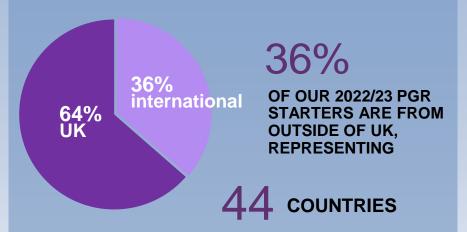
**GRADUATES** IN 2022/23, of which:

**260** PhDs

**40 PROFESSIONAL DOCTORATES** 

19 OTHER RESEARCH **DEGREES** 

## 2022/23 COMPOSITION OF **POSTGRADUATE RESEARCHERS BODY:**



#### **GENDER**

65% FEMALE

34% MALE

1 % NON-BINARY, GENDER FLUID or OTHER

**AVERAGE AGE AT ENTRY** 

**YEARS** 

<sup>\*</sup>Publications within AY22/23 by current PGRs or by recently graduated PGRs (up to 1 year before the publication).

## **FOREWORD**



PROFESSOR SAM FOUNTAIN ASSOCIATE PRO-VICE-CHANCELLOR, UEA DOCTORAL COLLEGE This year the University launches its 2030 strategy with postgraduate research representing a key part of our research attainment and research culture moving forwards. In preparing the strategy, we have reflected upon the important contribution of postgraduate research community made to our success in the recent Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2021 exercise. The Doctoral College will continue to play a key role in delivering the training, experience and culture our postgraduate researchers expect, fulfilling our strategy in training the next generation of highly skilled people. Important to this is a review of how external partners interact with our institution for provision of opportunity, training, and mentorship in postgraduate research. I am pleased to say that we collaborated with the Business Partnerships team to launch a new business engagement website for business and postgraduate research, and hope this becomes a useful route for growth in this area. This year also marks a change in UKRI funding of postgraduate research as we move to focal and landscape awards. The Doctoral College now takes a leading role in coordinating these bids, drawing upon expertise within our academic and postgraduate research service communities. It is critically important we remain successful in this area, as cohort training brings significant added value to the postgraduate researcher experience. Recent success in this area includes the award of the South and East Network for Social Sciences (SENSS) an ESRC-funded Doctoral Training Partnership which sees UEA in partnership with the University of Essex and others. These successes and others give me confidence in the leading role the Doctoral College in research training and research excellence.





## **PGR CAREERS HIGHLIGHTS**

In addition to providing professional advice, the PGR Careers Adviser team helps build community amongst our PGRs.



The <u>UEA Careers team</u> continues to help people individually to apply for PhD places, determine what they aspire to do afterwards and then find their next steps in academia or industry. Our group training sessions include "How to choose a career". For researchers interested in academia as their path, we help them explore academic careers in sessions such as "Getting your first lectureship" and those preparing for academic applications and interviews. Employers are invited to share insight and tips in other training sessions covering applications and interviews for roles in industry. For those exploring alternatives to academia we run "Careers Option" events with a wide range of invited speakers to share their post-PhD career experiences and the differences having a PhD has made to them. During the academic year 22-23 we held events on 'Doing a graduate scheme with a PhD', 'Working in publishing', 'Research outside of academia', and 'Disability in academia', as well as separate sessions on career paths adjacent '... to academia and '.. to research'.

Bespoke sessions were held for PhD researchers in Maths, Psychology and Education in response to specific requests from the schools. Individual CV sessions for each faculty were run ahead of CV review & health-check promotions. We have collaborated closely with other parts of the PGR Service and Doctoral College e.g. developing support for DTPs including ARIES, MMB and EDESIA. We support researchers (including UEA PGRs) at the Norwich Bioscience Institutes e.g. 'Industry applications' at Earlham Institute and 'Strengths based recruitment' at a researcher retreat.

We help to build community amongst the postgraduate researchers by holding events such a "Cake & Careers", informal sessions where PhD researchers drop-in to join the conversation and have some homemade cake, providing an opportunity to meet other postgraduate researchers and talk about research and careers. An icebreaker for international postgraduate researchers was introduced in October 2022 to allow new PhD researchers from outside the UK to meet the careers team and other researchers new to the UK in some fun and thought-provoking activities. The ability of postgraduate researchers to networking confidently in-person and using LinkedIn is supported by monthly training.

i-Teams has been able to return to in-person, running from January until Easter. In 2023, two great groups of PhD researchers, post-docs and Norwich University of Arts postgraduates worked on projects on rapid seed germination and social supermarkets.





#### **ARIES DTP (NERC)**

ARIES now has 155 registered PGRs, of whom 92 are registered at UEA, all working in impactful research covering the whole remit of the Environmental Sciences. We celebrated our first thesis submissions from associated (i.e. non-funded) PGRs. Our PGRs continue to be involved in wide-ranging opportunities for engagement and science communication from media interviews to science festivals. A group of our PGRs were awarded ca. £50K from NERC for a bid they wrote to develop a series of locked-room mysteries, aimed at widening participation and awareness of Environmental Sciences across a diverse range of school-age children. Look out for these events in 2024! Our alumnus Dr Sophus zu Ermgassen was a winner of a NERC Impact Award 2023 for his work raising public awareness of England's biodiversity net gain policy (video here: https://youtu.be/I8kqAUpyniM).

We continue to innovate and improve our record with EDI in the Environmental Sciences: two interns, themselves UEA alumni have produced a series of recommendations for recruitment and our website which we are now enacting, this has also influenced our ongoing changes to admissions and adjustments with our training events.

In 2023 we repeated our very popular symposium with the Cambridge C-CLEAR DTP at the Natural History Museum London, and enjoyed Year 1 and Year 3 Summer Schools in Norwich. We are excited to take the Summer Schools to the Marine Station in Plymouth in 2024, and look forward to working closely with our partners at PML and MBA as well as University of Plymouth for these events.



### **EDESIA (WELLCOME TRUST)**

The fourth cohort of postgraduate researchers have just arrived into the Wellcome Trust-funded <a href="EDESIA">EDESIA</a>: Plants Food and Health PhD programme and have started their research rotations across our partner institutes. The previous three cohorts are working on a diverse range of applicable PhD projects across UEA, the John Innes Centre and the Quadram Institute. The EDESIA's are planning our second EDESIA Conference 'Plant-based diets for healthy humans and gut microbes' which will run in April 2024. We have excellent speakers, both national and international. The biennial conference complements our seminar series held throughout the year. The first cohort of EDESIA researchers will submit their theses in 2024 and then have access to our Transition Fund, which will enable them to explore potential career opportunities at the end of their PhD. The third round of Wellcome Trust Biomedical Vacation Scholarships, awarded in conjunction with the EDESIA programme and focused on widening participation have been completed successfully.









#### **NRP DTP (BBSRC)**

The Norwich Research Park Biosciences Doctoral Training Partnership (NRPDTP) is led by the John Innes Centre, in partnership with the Earlham Institute, Quadram Institute Bioscience, The Sainsbury Laboratory and UEA. Research projects address a broad spectrum of the biosciences including artificial intelligence and computational studies, through biology, chemistry and microbiology, to plant sciences, health and medicine. In 2022, 33 PhD researchers joined us to give a total of more than 150 on the programme of which a quarter work on joint projects with non-academic partners.

One of our researchers won first prize in the poster competition at the Annual meeting of the British Phycological Society and another won the Early Career Poster Prize at the Pharmacology Annual Meeting. One of our alumni has set up a charitable organisation, Get Genome, that provides equitable access to genomics technology for early career researchers all over the world. Another has been involved in establishing a new company, TraitSeq, during the final year of their PhD studies.



### **AgriFoRwArdS CDT (EPSRC, Agrifood robotics)**

It's been an extremely busy time for AgriFoRwArdS, marked by multiple international conferences, training events, visits, and celebrations. Two particular highlights recently have been the prestigious awards won by our CDT researchers.

- In Cohort 2, **Harry Rogers** won the International Joint Conference on Knowledge Discovery, Knowledge Engineering and Knowledge Management (KDIR) 2023 Best Paper Award. Harry's research on precision spraying systems has been conducted working with the industrial sponsor Sygenta.
- Cohort 3 researcher James Bennett also won the Robert W.G. Hunt Best Paper Award at the Society for Imaging Science and Technology (IS&T) 31st Colour and Imaging Conference in Paris. James's PhD focuses on measuring spectral light in order to classify ripeness and identify disease in plants, working with the company Antobot.

In September 2023, the annual AgriFoRwArdS conference in Cambridge was transformed into three conferences in one: it was also the Towards Autonomous Robotics Systems (TAROS) Conference as well as the Joint Robotics EPSRC CDT Annual Conference. This made for a spectacular opportunity for learning, networking and socialising for people from both the UK and beyond. UK Conferences attended also included the International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA) and the International Conference on Autonomous Agents and Multiagent Systems (AAMAS), both at the ExCeL Centre in London. Further afield, one CDT researcher also attended the International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems in Kyoto, Japan, in October 2022. We're now looking forward to hosting the annual AgriFoRwArdS conference in July 2024 at UEA.





#### **CHASE DTP (AHRC)**

A relevant activity for <a href="CHASE">CHASE</a> PGRs during this academic year has been their participation in several assistant editor placements for the Journal of the English Association. This is an internationally known journal of literary criticism, published on behalf of The English Association. Each issue contains essays on a wide range of authors and literary texts in English, a substantial reviews section, and original poetry. The journal's editorial team are situated in the school of Literature, Drama and Creative writing. Assistant editors provide support and strategic stewardship of the journal and work with the editors to guide the journal's editorial direction. The placement gives PGRs an insight into academic journal editing from initial submission, through peer-review, revisions, copy-editing, and proof-reading to the final published issue.

We also have introduced the PGR CHASE EDI Ambassador role to develop and strengthen networks to support progression to postgraduate study in the arts and humanities from under-represented groups. As part of this work, the current CHASE EDI Ambassador, in partnership with Media Studies and UEA colleagues have carried out several podcasts and are launching the inaugural Student Podcast Challenge, inviting postgraduate researchers from across the university to create a podcast, and helping with its development and promotion.

Thanks to the many colleagues from the Faculty of Humanities who have been part of this year's selection panels for the CHASE studentship competition. We look forward to welcoming the new UEA CHASE cohort for 2023/2024 and to helping them make the most of increased networking, training and research opportunities.







# THE CRITICAL DECADE FOR CLIMATE CHANGE (CDCC, LEVERHULME TRUST)

Recruitment for Cohort Three of the <u>CDCC</u> training programme began in July 2022 and seven candidates have been successfully recruited for cohort three (start: October 2023). Regarding training and cohort building activities, we have delivered a series of bespoke training and cohort development events over 2022-23:

- Talk by Sir James Bevan (16/1/2023), Chief Executive of the Environment Agency since 2015.
- Climate narratives workshop led by Prof. Jean McNeil and Dr. Elizabeth Williams (see here and here for more information), funded by a £33,000 NERC Discipline Hopping grant (22/2/2023). The workshop provided the impetus for a series of researcher-led monthly workshops focusing on different communication approaches (poetry, photography, prose etc).
- Poetry and Voice workshops led by Elizabeth Lewis-Williams and Roland Smith (27/4/2023)
- Photography workshop led by Sara Rawlinson (25/5/2023)
- IPCC workshop led by Dr. Mark Tebboth and Prof. Rachel Warren (see here for more information) funded by the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research and ClimateUEA (5/7/2023 6/7/2023).
- Climate UEA day (3/7/2023) event including a session created and delivered by CDCC researchers
- Cohort two induction and social event (11/10/2022)
- Ongoing programme of Norfolk Walks (researcher-organised) (first walk 17/9/2023)

In addition, all postgraduate researchers have benefited from an induction within their schools of study and are being followed by a PhD supervisory committee as per UEA's standard practices. Moreover, all Critical Decade scholars have an opportunity to access a mentor drawn mainly from non-academic sectors. With the completion of recruitment activities, attention will switch more concretely to cohort building and training activities. There are no plans to extend the duration of the programme at this point in time.



# MRC-funded Microbes, Microbiomes and Bioinformatics (MMB) DTP

The MMB doctoral training programme (DTP) builds on the success of the MRC DART iCASE programme, funded in 2017. The second cohort of seven researchers have joined us and they have now completed the distinctive six-week course bioinformatics that we offer in the first three months of the programme.

Students from the first cohort have participated in monthly master classes, a two-day training event at the UKHSA in London, an annual retreat in Southwold, where they learnt how to cope with adversity, and a week-long visit to the MRC Unit in the Gambia, where they gained insights into how microbial genomics and bioinformatics play out in a low-and-middle-income country.

Feedback via social media (<a href="https://twitter.com/MMBDTP">https://twitter.com/MMBDTP</a>) suggests researchers and supervisors remained thrilled with the programme. Three projects for the third intake have been advertised and offers have been accepted.



## PROFESSIONAL DOCTORATES



### DOCTORATE IN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY (ClinPsyD)

The academic year 2022-23 has been another busy and highly successful year for the ClinPsyD programme. Commissioned trainee numbers on the ClinPsyD have continued to expand, in line with national expansion plans for the psychological professions. Following the outcome of the national tendering exercise for ClinPsyD training in 2022, UEA was successfully awarded the new training contract, commencing October 2023. We welcomed 49 funded trainees and 2 international Trainees in October 2022. This has enabled a continued increase in the coverage of clinical research topics within the programme. We also continue to work with our regional Clinical Psychology colleagues in NHS services to offer joint thesis research and service-related projects and our offer of a bespoke UEA Clinical Psychology Research Supervisor training. We are also privileged to continue to work alongside our Service User and Carer colleagues in our research endeavours.

We celebrated the end of the academic year and the completion of our 2020 cohort with another highly successful research conference, with 135 in person and 60 online registrations. Attendees included senior colleagues from regional services, international collaborators, clinical and research supervisors and service users and carers, representing the breadth of collaboration and impact of trainee research. The conference showcased the highly impressive research conducted by our Trainees. In the context of the developing research culture within CPPT (with increases in research staff and PhD researchers) we are also pleased to see continued improvements to publication of trainee research during the period since the thesis portfolio was introduced, with 30 publications in the year 2022-23.

This year we also had the largest number of final year researchers to date on the International Training Opportunity (ITO), since its introduction in 2015. Two researchers were hosted at our partner Thrivewell in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and a new research placement was piloted with colleagues at The Turner Brain and Mental Health Institute at Monash and La Trobe universities in Melbourne. Trainees undertaking the ITO were able to benefit from allocations of Turing funding and a departmental travel bursary. Plans are in place to develop a new placement in Sri Lanka for 2023-24 and discussions with new placement providers in Singapore and Dubai are ongoing. A short film produced by the trainees on the 2023 ITO was shown at the annual Research Conference and now appears on our externally facing webpages.

As we look ahead to next year, we are excited about the continued growth, wider research impact and future potential of research on the ClinPsyD programme.

## PROFESSIONAL DOCTORATES



### **DOCTOR OF EDUCATION (EdD)**

EdD is a 5-year part-time programme which recruits every two years both home and, since 2022, overseas candidates. We are currently recruiting for a start in October 2024 and have actioned a comprehensive promotion campaign both at home and internationally. The deadline for applications is on 31st May 2024 and we aim to have processed all applications by the end of July 2024 for a start in October 2024. Our last cohort EdD14 welcomed 12 researchers who started in 2022. They are now in their second year and close to finalising their fourth and final taught component and probationary phase. We are delighted that six EdD researchers successfully completed their EdD degree in the period 1st August 2022 to 31 July 2023; and that the recent PRES survey results indicate that 91% of the EDU PGR respondents rated supervision experience as positive. Currently, the EdD has 32 researchers overall, and we look forward to the forthcoming 2024 EdD15 cohort.

## DOCTORATE IN HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE (ProfD HaSC)

Our October 19 and 21 cohorts are progressing well in their research projects and we enjoyed seeing some of these researchers support the new cohort's welcome and induction programme with the sharing of insightful 'top tips' sessions. We have had some researchers require a break in studies, due to the challenges of doing their doctoral studies alongside their job. However, we are continuously striving to implement strategies to support researcher success and progression such as strengthening the role of the practice mentor in practice.

We were delighted to hold our second research conference to showcase the fantastic work our researchers are engaging with across their fields of health and social care. The quality of the presentations and posters were very high, and it was stimulating to see such a 'buzz' generated on the day with previous cohorts, supervisors, staff, practice partners, managers and practice mentors present. Whilst this was an opportunity to showcase the researcher's work, they were also encouraged to participate in the FMH PGR conference and CPD, to connect with the wider FMH PGR community.

This year we have seen an increase in the number of researchers who submit work with the support of their supervisors for publication and been successful. We are excited to see this growth and the wider impact to research and practice.

## PROFESSIONAL DOCTORATES



### DOCTORATE IN EDUCATIONAL PSYCOLOGY (EdPsy)

We welcomed 15 trainees into our 5<sup>th</sup> cohort in September 2022. As the course has expanded year-on-year, the course team has also grown with representation on the academic and professional tutor team from across Eastern Region Educational Psychology Services. We continue to further our relationships with our eleven partner Local Authorities (Bedford Borough, Cambridgeshire, Central Bedfordshire Essex, Hertfordshire, Luton, Norfolk, Peterborough, Southend, Suffolk and Thurrock) who support the course by providing and supervising placements for our trainees, commissioning small scale research projects for our year one trainees and contributing to processes such as recruitment of future trainees. Our service user/experts by experience group continues to input into the course with parents/carers and young people contributing to teaching sessions and enriching the knowledge base of our trainees.

Previous UEA EdPsyD trainees presented their PhD thesis research in several conferences during 2022-23. We have been delighted to see several of our trainees submitting and achieving publication of their work in profession-specific journals. In May 2023, the programme team hosted the Initial Training of Educational Psychologists' national tutor conference with the overall theme of 'Global Approaches to Educational Psychology: Interconnected Opportunities.' The course team welcomed colleagues from across the national training community with attendees commenting on the "thought provoking and inspiring" content.



We continue to work alongside our consortium partner universities (Birmingham, Bristol, Exeter, Manchester, Newcastle, Nottingham and Sheffield) and have worked to secure funding during 2022/23 from the DfE via a competitive tendering process for a new training contract for 2024-2026 entry expanding to 20 UEA trainees per cohort and practice.

## OUR GRADUATE SCHOOLS: 2022-23 HIGHLIGHTS



#### **HUMANITIES**

Associate Dean: Dr Karina Aveyard (LDC)

- This academic year has underlined the strength and integrity of our HUM PGR community and the vibrant and rich research culture it supports. In 2022/23 we provided a record amount of funding HUM PGR's to attend conferences and to support research training and engagement work. This funding has been vital to enable researchers to network and present their excellent research work to audiences both within and beyond the UK. The work presented this year points to a continuing strong post-COVID recovery in our research culture.
- The vibrancy of research activity in HUM is further underlined by a record number of entries in all categories for our annual HUM PGR Prizes, which recognise PGR excellence across publishing, teaching, engagement and community.
- In 2022/23 support for the development of our research community was expanded with the appointment of a CHASE-funded EDI Ambassador.
- The Graduate School Student Forum (GSSF) plays a central role in the life of our community and helps to guide the decisions and priorities of the HUM Graduate School. This year's postgraduate researchers representatives are to be warmly congratulated for their diligence and dedication and their outstanding work on behalf of their peers.

#### **SOCIAL SCIENCES**

Associate Dean: Prof Kirsten McConnachie (LAW)

- PGR activities were ongoing across all constituent schools in SSF.
- Registration for SSF PPD activities continued to be in high demand, with a total of 993 bookings in 2022-23. The 'UEA Online Training Series for PGRs', which makes elements of our PGR skills training provision available to other universities, was delivered to 7686 attendees from 48 UK HEIs.
- We continued to participate in the South-east Network for Social Sciences (<u>SeNSS</u>), and received 5 studentship awards for researchers starting in 2022-23.
- The highlight from 2022-23 was the announcement that our bid for ESRC DTP recommissioning was successful. Our new DTP is the South and East Network for Social Sciences (SENSS) and involves 8 participating HEIs (Essex, UEA, Goldsmiths, Roehampton, City University, Middlesex, Lincoln and Cranfield). The DTP launched in November 2023 and will fund its first cohort of researchers for Oct 2024 entry.

#### MEDICINE AND HEALTH SCIENCES

Associate Dean: Dr Penny Powell (MED)

- Our PGR programme continues to increase with 120 external, Faculty or self-funded researchers, including 30 international.
- Postgraduate researchers' successes include 23 PhDs, 2 PhDPs and 2 MSc by Research degrees awarded this year, and 17 researchers passed their first-year probation review. There has been recognition of their work both nationally & internationally with travel awards to attend conferences, as well as awards for outreach activities. Throughout their studies, many PPD courses for transferable skills and more specific PGR training are available from FMH academics. Interactive FMH supervisor training continues face-to-face, with a mix of ECRs new to PhD supervision exchange ideas with experienced supervisors.
- Most importantly, regarding social networking, our postgraduate researchers have been baking cakes for Cake Day, which take place one afternoon a month, with one event led by our Turkish researchers as a fundraiser for the earthquake in Turkey.

#### NORWICH BIOSCIENCE INSTITUTES

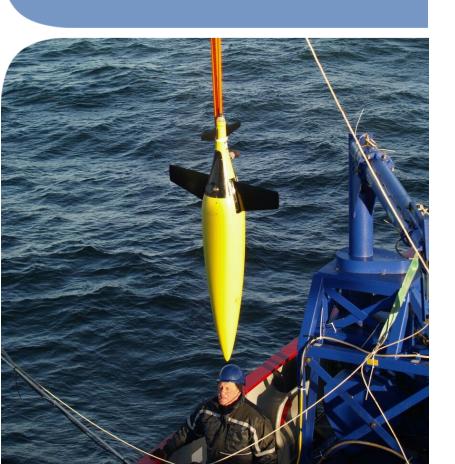
Chair: Prof David Evans (JIC)

- We continued to recruit and welcome graduates to funded PhD programmes (the UKRI-BBSRC Norwich Research Park Doctoral Training Partnership, the UKRI-MRC Microbes, Microbiomes and Bioinformatics Doctoral Training Programme, the John Innes Foundation Rotation PhD programme and the Wellcome Trust EDESIA – Plants, Food and Health PhD programme) as well as charity and other funded studentships.
- An NBI postgraduate researcher, based at the John Innes Centre, was one of five leading young scientists worldwide to receive a Jeanie Borlaug Laube Women in Triticum (WIT) award.
- An NBI postgraduate researcher, based at the Earlham Institute, has helped develop an exotic wheat DNA that could help in the breeding of 'climate-proof' crops. The work was undertaken in collaboration with the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre (CIMMYT).
- An NBI postgraduate researcher, based at the Quadram institute, was shortlisted as a Sustainability Champion finalist at the Anglia Ruskin Vice-Chancellor's Outstanding Alumni Awards. This category recognises those whose innovative work, projects or actions have made a significant impact on addressing sustainability challenges.

## OUR GRADUATE SCHOOLS: 2022-23 HIGHLIGHTS



## OUR GRADUATE SCHOOLS: 2022-23 HIGHLIGHTS



#### **SCIENCE**

Associate Dean: Prof Andy Cammidge, CHE

- The Faculty of Science welcomed 119 new postgraduate researchers during the 2022/23 academic year, a record number over recent years. We welcomed new researchers from all over the world, and the increased numbers represents a combination of increased grant funding success from our research faculty and sustained institutional investment in postgraduate research.
- With Covid-related travel restrictions now lifted, academic conferences and collaborative visits have now returned to nearnormal levels and our postgraduate researchers have attended, and presented, their latest research nationally and internationally.
- Following the impressive results from REF21, analysis and planning are underway to further build our research environment and culture. Postgraduate research lies at the heart of this thinking and with work now proceeding at pace on the new science research building we have started the more detailed planning process for maximising the opportunities this will present.





## **REGULATORY UPDATES**



Noting that <u>UKRI terms and conditions</u> were revised on 4 November 2022, the following changes were introduced in our PGR studentship terms and conditions:

#### Changes to limits on hours worked by postgraduate researchers

The Doctoral College Executive agreed at its meeting on 5 October 2022 that the guidance around full-time PGRs undertaking paid work during their period of study should be updated in light of cost-of-living pressures so that it was not as restrictive. The following amendments to the Code of Practice for Research Degrees were approved in January 2023 (and mirrored in the Terms and Conditions for UEA PGR Studentships and Research Degree Policy Document 14: Policy on PGR Student Employment in Teaching at UEA):

"Postgraduate researchers in their period of study are normally expected to spend at least 37.5 hours per week on research or research-related activities if registered on a full-time basis (pro rata for those registered on a part-time basis).

This may include teaching, demonstrating or research assistantship activities including preparation and marking, approved by the supervisory team, up to a level that does not normally exceed six hours per week, and must not exceed 180 hours in total per year.

Postgraduate researchers **may** undertake other work outside of the expected research hours, or at any time during a period of registration-only after the end of period of study, provided that the work does not delay submission of the thesis or other assessed work beyond the expected deadline. Any additional funder, legal or immigration restrictions must also be complied with. The University strongly recommends that postgraduate researchers do not work more than 48 hours per week overall and may refer individuals to Student Services for advice if there are concerns about overworking."



### **FIND OUT MORE**

https://www.uea.ac.uk/research/research-with-us/postgraduate-research

### **CONTACT US**

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