

GRADUATE COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

The newsletter for the research student community



‘Foul is fair and fair is foul’

Research on European Witch Trials

'FOUL IS FAIR, AND FAIR IS FOUL'

Denise Shaw MPhil/PhD student in the Department of History, Philosophy and Liberal Arts addresses in her research what seems to be a gap in the study of witchcraft – noblewomen. While many people are familiar with the witch hunts of Salem (1692-1693) – Arthur Miller's *The Crucible* - and East Anglia (1645-1647) – Vincent Price as Witchfinder General, Matthew Hopkins – which targeted middle and lower-class women, there are a significant number of late medieval and early modern cases that involved women from the highest echelons of European society.

For medieval and early modern societies, fears of maleficium and witchcraft were very real and those found guilty of them met the severest punishments, usually public burning or hanging. This research across England, France, Germany, Ireland and Scotland looks deeper into allegations against socially prominent women, queens, duchesses, countesses and a *maîtresse-en-titre*.

Witchcraft allegations were used as a powerful weapon against noblewomen in the vicious dynastic politics of the late medieval period to ruin their reputations and destroy them. Not all cases targeted women, but a very significant number did.



Conspiracy – Authority – Resistance Witchcraft Research revisited

International Conference, Trier University, 8.-11. October 2025

This research will explore early European witch trials using contemporary sources to ask what exactly they were accused of? Could they have done it? What sorts of magic were practised – it seems it was widespread at courts - that could have 'tipped over' into dangerous maleficium and charges of witchcraft. It is hoped this research will contribute to and expand the scholarly understanding of the roots of the European witch hunts and the development of the narrative of witchcraft as a feminine crime.

One of the joys of this research is its international range from London to Paris, Dublin to Trier in Germany. As much as digital sources are exceptional, there is nothing like handling contemporary documents in the places where events happened or standing in sites such as Smithfield Market in London, or the Place de Grève in Paris, where the very real human outcomes detailed in the documents become viscerally real.

In this international vein, Denise presented her research at Trier University (Germany) at the 40th anniversary conference of Arbeitskreis Interdisziplinäre Hexenforschung (AKIH, the Working Group for Interdisciplinary Witchcraft Research), organised by Professor Rita Voltmer and Professor Dillinger and attended by an internationally renowned body of academics from Argentina, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Norway, Switzerland, Spain and the United Kingdom.



RESEARCHER CAREERS PATHWAYS

At the 2026 Researcher Career Pathways event, research students, research-only staff and research-active technicians gained advice from speakers, whose post PhD careers had led them in varied and exciting directions.

The Beyond Academia panel brought experience from their roles at MIND, the Wildlife Trust, Wellcome Trust, the Natural History Museum, and as a stand-up comedy teacher and public speaking coach. Some of their key takeaways were that PhD skills are transferable and valued in industry, do something that is important to you and drives you forward, don't compare with others and take risks on something new, you can always change it!

The Professional Roles in Academia Panel offered insights on the transition from research to professional services. Key advice from the inspiring discussion included: you will continue using the skills you gained as a researcher to continue learning, work-life balance is important as making time for family and hobbies, finding meaning in what you do is motivating and rewarding. Professional roles offer the opportunity to make a difference and drive positive change for staff and students.



The academic panel advised researchers how to increase the change of coveted academic position: gain teaching experience and look at what is valued in the School you want to work in, research the institution where you would like to work, be a part of everything, help organise events, sit on committees, be known for something, have a unique selling point, be collegiate and contribute to the collective work of the institution even before you are a member of staff. Show you are reliable, credible and have good values. Network - have a sense of who the gatekeepers are to the next role. Finally, work-life balance is a challenge and there will be sacrifices, be strategic when to focus on research and on teaching, make rules for yourself and ring-fence time.



Delegates left with plenty to think about, with some researchers being inspired to next steps including: networking and researching potential opportunities, taking time to reflect on what they enjoy and do well, pursuing an internship during their PhD, and making an appointment with the Careers Centre.

FACULTY RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

The new Faculty of Health, Science and Technology held its first whole Faculty Research Student Symposium on 15 January at the Headington Campus. This annual event showcases and celebrates the high quality and diverse research being undertaken by our research degree students, and their contribution to the research culture of the Faculty.

Following three strands of student presentations and a lunchtime poster session, Professor Nigel Crook gave the keynote talk on '40 Years of Wandering through the AI Desert Without a Map'. The Vice - Chancellor, Professor Helen Laville, opened the afternoon's prize giving session.

The student presentations during the day were of a really excellent standard. Prizes were awarded to the best oral presentations of the day, which went to Vinni Jain, Giada Guismin, and Tom Ebdon. Second place prizes were awarded to Aleyna Karoglu, Isobel Cooper and Aduen Diepa. The prize for best poster went to Olivia Carter, and second prize to Sofia Pellaschiar. Additional externally funded Microscopy prizes were awarded on the day for students in Biological and Medical Sciences. Congratulations to all the prize winners. Thanks to all who supported the event, both before and on the day, including the organisers and also external sponsors.



RESEARCH DEGREES PLACEMENT OPPORTUNITIES



- 1 months placements for Research Degrees Students.
 - Gain direct experience within industry and or other organisations - even outside of your discipline
 - Develop transferable skills
 - Expand your network and professional horizons
 - Develop interpersonal skills working as part of a team
 - Liaise with staff in different roles, including senior staff
 - Improve your organisational skills
 - Engage with different audiences and interact with external stakeholders

Eligibility criteria apply - for more information please contact rdt-placements@bookes.ac.uk

STUDENT'S NEWS

RESEARCH SPEED-DATING

At an event organised by Dr Omar Abou Hamdan and Nick Wilton, Zeena Hicks DCM student at Oxford Brookes Business School received the 'Inspiration Impact Award', voted for by the students who attended this event. This brilliant speed-dating-style event was designed to spark lively conversations across a wide range of research topics, with 11 presenters sharing a nugget of their work in just seven minutes.



Zeena's session, "Change Your Mind, Change Your World: Coaching for Positive Influence", invited participants to explore how shifting their inner world can transform how they experience and influence the outer one. With over 150 postgraduate students from the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences rotating between topic stations, the atmosphere buzzed with curiosity, energy, and meaningful dialogue.

AN EPIC ENDURANCE EVENT



Early in October, Roger Hiley, PhD student, spent two days as part of a team of serving, reserve and veteran forces personnel hauling (dragging) a 1-ton Field Gun and limber (the trailer) to help raise money for the Military vs Cancer charity. Covering around 22 miles a day, the gun was hauled down A & B roads, cycle lines and bridleways, uphill and down. When the gun is descending the hauling lines (or drags) are reversed as the 1-ton load doesn't have any breaks, only the personnel hanging on to it.

Roger served for nearly 10 years in the 1980's and early 1990's in the Household Cavalry and took part in the challenge as a few years ago another colleague was lost to cancer. He was a farrier CoH in the Life Guards and farriery instructor, part of the Household Cavalry veterinary team who received and tended the horses killed in the Hyde Park bombing of 1982 (where the IRA bomb killed 4 soldiers and seven horses). He went on to train hundreds of farriers after leaving the army by teaching at the Farrier School at Moreton Morrell College.

The charity supports serving personnel, veterans, and their families affected by cancer. The Field gun started from John O'Groats and over 9 weeks headed to Land's End (finishing on the 31 Oct). Roger joined them near Nantwich in Cheshire and helped haul it to near Telford.



NATIONAL WOMEN NETWORK LAUNCHED

Sarah Tudor Professional Doctorate student at the School of Education, Humanities and Languages, recently launched the Women in Apprenticeship Network on Thursday 20 November 2025, marking a significant step forward in championing the visibility, progression and leadership of women across the entire apprenticeships ecosystem. Sarah is now Co-Chair of the network.



**WIAN is more than a network—
it's a national movement to
inspire change, strengthen
representation, and champion
women at every stage of the
apprenticeship journey.**

This network brings together women who are undertaking apprenticeships and women who are designing, delivering, managing, and supporting them—including training providers, employers, mentors, assessors, quality leads, policymakers, researchers, and system leaders. All play a vital role in shaping the apprenticeship landscape, yet women still face barriers to entry, progression, representation, and influence.

[Visit the women apprenticeship network website](#)

WATCH YOUR PATH, AVOID THE CRASH



Chelsea Fullman MSc by Research has been studying for the past year, if there is a relationship between gaze behaviour and gait smoothness when navigating complex environments. The study looked at how gaze behaviour such as pupil dilation can reflect cognitive processing abilities like executive function while navigating a real-world environment. Trials were run in the Clerici building while participants wore eye tracking glasses to capture what they were looking in real time.

The results showed that while gait smoothness was unaffected in the young and healthy population, different obstacles require different levels of cognitive processing. For example, task related obstacles such as door handles and environments factors like changing apertures showed the highest pupil diameters when compared to other obstacles such as static pedestrians. An interesting piece of research which can be further implemented in clinical populations to assess which obstacles cause the biggest risk to trip and falls. Chelsea passed her Viva in November with some minor amendments.

PLAYING IN THE DIGITAL WORLD

Fi Joines a first year EdD student was invited to talk at the TACTYC conference held at Aston University in November 2025. The title for the day was 'Children and Adults: Playing Together in the Digital World'. Fi was the first one to start the day focusing on the ways we can enter the child's digital world which requires strong relationships built on care, trust, respect, openness, curiosity and uncertainty. The last three qualities link directly to the characteristics of effective learning.



'It's not the technology that matters; it's the connections we create that count'

Fi has been a practitioner in the early years sector which allowed her to use her skills in making her talk fully interactive. Making use of a QR code and a digital graffiti wall resulted in a noisy, focused and live practical demonstration of effective learning. Attendants paired up to solve challenges followed by a vivid discussion on online child safety using AI images to discuss physical, emotional and online safety.

TACTYC is a supportive community, students can join [visit their website](#)

COMMUNICATING YOUR RESEARCH WIDELY

Oxford Brookes Business School doctoral student, Mitaali Katoch, presented her research at three conferences this summer—at the end of her second year in June and July, and just before starting her third year in September 2025. Her June presentation at the International Critical Management Studies Conference hosted by the University of Manchester discussed her developing work on the concept of 'Nesting', an idea she is exploring with her colleague at IAE Paris-Sorbonne Business School about the 'peculiarities of studio space in fashion houses'.

At the Standing Conference on Organisational Symbolism (SCOS) hosted by the University of Cyprus in July, Mitaali shared her ongoing approach to entrepreneurial theorising. Transitioning from an academic life in the humanities to a social science focus at the Business School, she offered support to others who might be in similar positions. She notes that this is quite a conceptual leap!



In September, she presented her research at the British Academy of Management (BAM) Conference. Mitaali specialises in cultural entrepreneurship, studying entrepreneurs in the creative industry using historic management methods and collaborating with leaders of an Italian family-run fashion company, which she promises to reveal when the time is right. With the recent merging of faculties, her skills may be just what is needed. Additionally, this coming February, she has been invited to present at the Essex Business School's doctoral programme.

STUDENT'S NEWS

THE POWER OF QUESTIONING

Charlotte O'Neil, PhD student researching conservation education in BIAZA (British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquariums) institutions and primary schools in England, attended the 2025 BIAZA Conservation Education Conference, essential for establishing collaboration connections and knowledge on the sector. This year's conference was held at Hertfordshire Zoo, with the theme of "The Power of Questioning"



There is significant evidence that being outside and spending time in nature is hugely beneficial

This three-day conference hosted various 10-minute presentations from BIAZA institutions on their vital conservation education efforts; several hour-long workshops with differing focusses, from resources available to zoo educators to how zoo educators can support their young visitors during education sessions that contain distressing and upsetting topics.

Throughout the conference, the theme of evaluating and asking the right questions came up a lot, with some institutions focusing on the questions that they ask to visitors regarding what they want to learn while at the site, and others focusing on the questions that they ask themselves about their education sessions.

FUNDING YOUR RESEARCH

Bernardo de La Vega Vinolo, PhD student in Business and Management at Oxford Brookes Business School, has been awarded the Postgraduate Research Support Grant from the Society of Latin American Studies (SLAS), UK. This award supports doctoral students with crucial research costs.

From January to March 2026, Bernardo will conduct his second round of data collection in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, where he investigates how marginalised communities reshape local social dynamics across digital platforms through tourism and heritage practices.



Drawing on visual materials, interviews, and participant observation, the fieldwork aims to co-produce and document knowledge on living heritage as a dynamic, contested, and participatory practice. In close collaboration with local leaders, it will help advance understanding of how digital tools foster community resilience, heritage conservation, and knowledge sharing.

Ultimately, the project seeks to bridge academic knowledge and community benefit. It disseminates locally grounded data that can support collaborations between communities, external partners, and policymakers. Thereby strengthening capacity building, digital engagement, and social impact.

UPCOMING EVENTS WITH STUDENTS

THE BODY IS THE MUSIC IS THE WORD:Q&A WITH GRIME POET DEBRIS STEVENSON

Q&A with Debris Stevenson, a writer, Grime poet, actor, educator and PhD candidate at Brookes whose work explores the intersectional, unexpected and unjust. She has performed and taught in more than 30 countries, founded and directed the Mouthy Poets—raising over £300,000 to support emerging talent—and designed performance-poetry modules at the University of Nottingham.



Debris continues to create work that challenges audiences to think, move and question the world around them

Her acclaimed grime-musical *Poet in da Corner* premiered at the Royal Court and toured nationally. A self-described pro-raver and social activist, she continues to create work that challenges audiences to think, move and question the world around them.

This FREE event is on **Wednesday 25 February**, 5-6pm at Headington Campus and is part of the 6th International Creative Industries Festival organised by the [Creative Industries Research and Innovation Network](#) at Oxford Brookes University

HOSTILE SURVIVAL: A PANEL AND LONG TABLE

Panel and long table discussion with Brookes PhD students, Natasha Eves, Laura Jagger and John Manton, 4-5pm on **Thursday 26 February** at NHHB.

Governments give many things: the tools to survive such as big business, data centres, artificial intelligence, xenophobic nationalism, weapons manufacturing and so on.

But at the human scale of people's actual lives, the structures that we require to survive or even to make life enjoyable are being stripped away, criminalised and made hostile.



This panel and long table discussion intends to explore this from three angles: that of social space, disability justice and algorithmic sabotage.

This event is part of the 6th International Creative Industries Festival organised by the [Creative Industries Research and Innovation Network](#) at Oxford Brookes University, it is FREE and OPEN TO ALL!

UPCOMING SOCIAL & ACADEMIC NETWORKING EVENTS

TO BOOK YOUR PLACE CLICK ON THE EVENT'S TITLE

Oxford University Museum of Natural History

11 February 2026, 13:30-15:00

Join us for an exclusive and personalised tour behind doors, see the Dodo's remains, Darwin's insect collection and much more.



Bodleian Library Printing Press Workshop

18 March 2026, 14:00-15:30

Would you like to know how books were printed in the middle ages and try your own print? Only 12 places available. Book yours soon.



Graduate College Annual Research Student Exhibition

14 April 2026, 10:00-16:00, The Forum

Present your research as a poster, printed word or practice base and network with your peers.

Deadline to register Friday 6 March



Visit to the Oxford Botanic Garden

13 May 2026, 15:00-17:00

Join us for this free visit to the Botanic Gardens with the wonderful Dr Andrew Lack who will share his vast knowledge with us.





RESEARCH STUDENT PROFILE

Matthew Allbrighton
School of Social Sciences

Thesis title: Promoting Welfare Support for Armed Forces Reservists' Families and their Community.

This programme of research takes a public health 'needs assessment' approach to understanding Reservists' families' needs and experiences of engaging with the welfare provision. The data will be used to make recommendations to optimise this important health resource.

The current study is a cross-sectional survey to investigate family members' current awareness, knowledge, and experiences with the existing military welfare provision. For the purposes of this research, family includes anyone who might be eligible for and benefit from welfare support due to their Reservist's services, including parents, partners, spouses, children aged 17 and under, former partners or spouses with children, parents, and siblings. This research is needed because Reservists' families do not appear to fully utilise the day-to-day or deployment support that the Army, Royal Navy, Royal Air Force and aligned organisations offer to military families.

There is uncertainty about the extent to which UK Reservists' service impacts their families' wellbeing and quality of life. A review of global research that was conducted identified two important challenges to this: inadequate communication, and the burden on the family during deployment, but this was not UK-specific.

The aim of this study is to understand UK Reservists' families' welfare needs, their thoughts about and experiences with the existing welfare provision, and the extent to which this contributes to the families' quality of life. The objective is to develop evidence-based recommendations for UK policy makers, providers and families, with potential for wider reach to other countries.

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There is uncertainty about the extent to which UK Reservists' service impacts their families' wellbeing and quality of life.

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RESEARCH STUDENT PROFILE

Annelies Rowland

School of Psychology, Social Work and Public Health

Thesis title: Supporting bereaved children in adult intensive care unit: an experience-based co-design study exploring the perspectives of children, surviving primary carers, and ICU healthcare professionals

Bereavement in the adult intensive care unit (ICU) is often sudden and occurs in an unfamiliar, highly medicalised environment. For families - and especially children - this can be profoundly distressing. Evidence shows that honest, age-appropriate communication helps children process grief and reduces the risk of long-term psychological harm. Yet, in practice, children are often excluded from ICU bereavement processes, with adults avoiding difficult conversations or using unclear language to shield them from distress.

Despite the growing recognition of the importance of child-inclusive bereavement support, ICU healthcare professionals report feeling unprepared and uncomfortable discussing death with children. Current guidelines offer little practical guidance, leading to widely inconsistent - and sometimes absent - support across ICUs.

The study aims to address this gap. Using an experience-based co-design (EBCD) methodology, I am working directly with bereaved children, their surviving primary carers, and ICU nurses to explore lived experiences and identify what best supports children during this critical time.

The findings will contribute to the development of evidence-based, co-produced recommendations that can be implemented in adult ICUs, helping ensure children are recognised, supported, and given an informed voice during one of life's most difficult moments.



ICU healthcare professionals report feeling unprepared and uncomfortable discussing death with children.

RESEARCH STUDENT PROFILE

Zeena Hicks

Oxford Brookes Business School

Thesis title: Examining the efficacy of a positive psychology-based self-coaching approach to support parents of children with ADHD

Children with Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) often face a constant stream of corrective feedback, with estimates suggesting up to 20,000 negative comments by the age of ten, just in school. But the weight of this doesn't fall on the child alone. Parents of neurodivergent children carry invisible pressures: navigating stigma, exhaustion, blame, and the daily toil of advocacy. And yet, they are often left out of wellbeing efforts, despite being central to a child's capacity to thrive.

This research followed a mixed-methods approach exploring a six-week self-coaching intervention for parents of children with ADHD. With positive psychology at its core, parents adopted flexible practices in mindfulness, self-kindness, values-based affirmations, and gratitude to strengthen parental efficacy, emotional resilience, and relatedness.

While positive psychology has many evidence-based interventions, self-coaching is a less studied but promising avenue for empowering parents to take ownership of their well-being, with or without peer group support.

This study aims to expand the knowledge of adaptive positive psychology applications for marginalised groups, including parents of neurodivergent children, potentially offering a flexible, low-cost support model, either preventively or alongside/awaiting clinical treatment.



Parents of neurodivergent children carry invisible pressures: navigating stigma, exhaustion, blame, and the daily toil of advocacy

RESEARCH STUDENT PROFILE

Charles Michie

School of Biological and Medical Sciences

Thesis title: The Role of Transposable Elements in Primate Genome Evolution

This research primarily focuses on identifying endogenous retroviruses in the genomes of Slow Lorises. Endogenous retroviruses are relics of previously existing active retroviruses, the class of retrovirus which contains HIV. When these retroviruses infect the host they will leave their DNA within the hosts genome and remain.

All animals have these in their genome and occupy as much as 10% of the genome in humans. Majority of these endogenous retroviruses are neutral and thought to be “junk DNA” but further research has shown the tremendous impact they have on the genome and organism. For example, syncytin a crucial gene in the development of placenta originates from a retrovirus gene which the genome co-opted for its own use. They have also been linked to numerous diseases.

Slow lorises are a very understudied primate. They are small and nocturnal native to southeast Asia in countries like Thailand, Vietnam, Malaysia and Indonesia. Very little research has been conducted on their genomes and essentially none in the space of endogenous retroviruses.

The study will involve thorough research of endogenous retroviruses within them to first get a comprehensive oversight of endogenous retroviruses within slow lorises, but also to compare to the larger primates as a large majority of endogenous retrovirus research has been conducted in chimps and humans but little in the smaller primates. Hopefully trends seen hold true in all primates.

Endogenous retroviruses are relics of previously existing active retroviruses, the class of retrovirus which contains HIV.



REMEMBERING DR FIONA MATLEY

Fiona will be deeply missed by all who knew her. She was widely known for her friendly smile, her willingness to help others, and her calm, reassuring nature. She was passionate about her work, and making a difference to the lives of others.

Fiona started her Oxford Brookes journey by completing her MSc Psychology in 2016, which she chose to pursue to support a career change after many years in marketing. Fiona's MSc work explored alcohol-related compensatory health beliefs and behaviours (such as the healthy things we do to try to counter our unhealthy habits). This sparked her interest in alcohol psychology and was published in the journal *Psychology, Health and Medicine*.

After working as a research assistant on projects covering alcohol education and e-cigarette use, Fiona embarked on her PhD in Psychology.

Fiona's PhD research focused on understanding how to help people to drink less alcohol, breaking down barriers including stigma and challenging social norms. During this time, Fiona was active within the Brookes community, serving on the Healthy Living and Care Network Committee and helping to organise the Brookes Alcohol Mixer Network conferences in 2017 and 2022.

Fiona passed her PhD viva just before Christmas 2024 and attended her PhD graduation in September 2025. Most recently, she was working as a postdoctoral research assistant on the Storytelling Promoting Alcohol Choice, Empowerment and Sharing (SPACES) project to develop and test new alcohol reduction support tools for mid-life women. Fiona's incredible enthusiasm and organisation skills were integral to the project.

Dr Emma Davies, Fiona's MSc and PhD supervisor and project lead for SPACES, said: "Fiona will be hugely missed by me and everyone else she worked with at Brookes, as well as all the friends she made along the way. Fiona cared deeply about the work we were doing, and her compassionate approach was appreciated by the research participants and project public advisors."

Dr Georgia Cook said: "Fiona had a remarkable ability to make everyone she crossed paths with feel seen and valued. Always generous with her time, she was the first to offer empathy, compassion and understanding to those around her."

Dr Samuel Bond said: "I was so lucky to begin my PhD at the same time as Fiona and work closely with her ever since. She was such an amazing and supportive friend to me and many others. She was always incredibly kind, funny and generous with her time. I know she will be greatly missed by so many colleagues and friends."

Colleagues in the School of Psychology, Social Work and Public Health are raising money for the charity [Alcohol Change UK](#) in Fiona's name, as a tribute to her work to tackle alcohol harms.



2026 GRADUATE COLLEGE TRAINING

To book your place, please visit the [graduate college training pages](#)

Event title	Date	Time
Growing Funding Income: Consultancy	9 Feb 2026	12:00-13:00
Keeping up to date with your research	10 Feb 2026	12:00-13:00
Growing Funding Income: Contract Research	13 Feb 2026	12:00-13:00
Research ethics process for PhD students	18 Feb 2026	11:00-12:30
Growing Funding Income: Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTPs)	25 Feb 2026	11:00-12:00
How to do research posters (that people actually want to look at)	3 Mar 2026	12:00-13:00
The research degree playbook - webinar	4 Mar 2026	16:00-17:00
Growing Funding Income: Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and Continuing Education (CE)	5 Mar 2026	14:00-15:00
Imposter syndrome or How to Feel Better About Feeling Worse	11 Mar 2026	11:00-12:30
Tools for Impact Evidence Collection	16 Mar 2026	11:30-13:00
Tools for Evaluating Public Engagement activities	23 Mar 2026	11:00-13:00
How to get the most out of conferences	31 Mar 2026	14:00-15:30
What can Open Research do for you?	21 Apr 2026	11:30-12:30
Managing your supervisor and building a good working relationship with your supervisory team	22 Apr 2026	13:00-14:30
Engagement Tools: Optimising Engagement through Social Media	27 Apr 2026	11:30-13:00
Endnote training - Managing information overload	28 Apr 2026	12:00-13:00
Effectively Managing the Stresses and Challenges of a Doctoral Student	13 May 2026	11:00-12:30
Strategies for successful networking	20 May 2026	11:00-12:30
Engagement Tools: Infographics, Podcasts and Working with the Media	21 May 2026	11:30-13:00
Research degrees – strategies for successful part-time study	1 July 2026	11:00-12:30

STUDENTS AND ALUMNI PUBLICATIONS

Shahzad, M., Tah, J. , Younas, M., and Almkhtar, A. (2025). Technologies and techniques in digital twins for real-time data visualisation in building maintenance: A state-of-the-art review. *Journal of Infrastructure Intelligence and Resilience*, Volume 4, Issue 4. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.iintel.2025.100185>.

Thurlow, L. , Manalani, T and Seto, L. (2025). Chapter 12, Team Coaches. Seto, L and Lucas, M. eds. *The Practice of Coaching Supervision Groups*. Taylor & Francis.

Danely, J., & **Taylor, K.** (2025). Artwork as deathwork. *Mortality*, 1–16. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13576275.2025.2594058>

Muchecheti, A. (2025) The lived experiences of a non-academic woman of colour working in UK higher education. *Lived places publishing*. Christopher Mcauley editor.

Muchecheti, A. (2025). Refusing the silence: A black disabled woman’s activism against bureaucratic violence in UK institutions. *Critical Social Policy*, 0(0). <https://doi.org/10.1177/02610183251390268>

Rowland, A., Boulanger, C. & Dalton, L. Supporting the bereaved child in the adult ICU: a narrative review. (2025) *Intensive Care Med* 51, 570–581. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00134-025-07813-4>



Oxford Brookes Science Bazaar

**21 February 2026
10:30-16:00**

All postgraduate researchers are invited to volunteer at this year’s Oxford Brookes Science Bazaar - one of the University’s largest public engagement events, attracting over 8,000 visitors.

- Share your research with a broad public audience
- Gain experience in science communication and public engagement
- Develop skills in explaining research to non-specialists
- Network with colleagues across the University and inspire the next generation

No previous experience is required - just enthusiasm!

If you’d like to find out more, please contact p0097760@brookes.ac.uk

.....AND MORE



SMART SNACKS

Bitesize research sessions
from Brookes Library

After a successful run last semester, the Library's Open Research team will be offering a brand new range of Smart Snacks sessions for researchers this semester, covering new topics to develop and enhance specific research skills.

You can browse and sign up for these sessions

Each session will feature a focused presentation and an open Q&A to explore ideas further, share perspectives, and engage with colleagues across disciplines. Most sessions run twice (online), on a Monday evening and a Wednesday lunchtime, and last just 30 minutes.

Learn something new in Semester 2! [Sign up today](#) and we'll send you a calendar invitation.

The Chatty Bus is hitting the road once again to foster community connections in February, April and October.

This initiative from the Oxford Bus company aims at connecting, sharing stories, and building relationships within a supportive environment. Made possible by a team of friendly Chatty Bus Champions, easily recognisable by their blue tops, who will help to spark conversations and create a welcoming atmosphere.

In the past, Chatty Buses have featured live poetry, a variety of games, and additional volunteers from partner organisations like Age UK.

Each Chatty Bus Experience is different. For more information visit the [chatty bus webpage](#).

HOW TO CONTACT US

Research Degrees Team email us on rdt-researchdegrees@brookes.ac.uk

We are always looking for contributions to future editions of the newsletter. They are welcome from all sections of the University. If you have something to share please email asa-gcnewsletter@brookes.ac.uk

FOLLOW US ON



Brookes Enterprise Support Events

Book by clicking on the event's title

Digital Vision Board 2026

Wednesday 4 February, 12:00-14:00. For everyone.

Think Space, JHBB G.02, Headington Campus

Transform your dreams into tangible goals by creating a digital vision board at this interactive workshop.

Spark programme Spring 2026

For Brookes students, staff and alumni

Tuesdays from 10 February to 24 March, from 16:00-17:30

Enterprise Centre, Headington Campus.

S{ARK is a step-by-step programme aimed at Brookes students and alumni who are new to world of enterprise and would like help to develop a business idea or enhance their enterprise skills. Attendees can pitch to win £500.

Pulse events Spring 2026

For anyone with an interest in enterprise and entrepreneurship.

Wednesday 11 February, 4 and 25 March, 16:30-18:30

Enterprise Centre, Headington Campus

Pulse connects you with the entrepreneurial ecosystem and provides valuable insights and networking opportunities through a series of expert panel talks.

Ignite programme 2026

For student and alumni with well-developed business ideas (online workshops)

Starts 19 February

Ignite is for students and alumni with bold, innovative business ideas that are ready for rapid growth. It consists of five online workshops and a live Demo Day, where participants can pitch to win up to £5K.

Venture Crawl 2026

For: students with an interest in local businesses (in person)

Wednesday 11 March, 9.30 to 5.00pm

Starts at Enterprise Centre, Headington Campus, takes place around Oxford

This is a day-long event where students get the chance to visit a range of innovative spaces and organisations across Oxford.

Building Your Future in the UK as an International Student

For: international students and graduates wishing to stay in the UK after studies (online)

Monday 6 February, 12:00 to 2.00pm

Organised in collaboration with Brookes Careers, this is for international students and graduates who want to understand their options for working, staying, or starting a business in the UK

Freelance 101 programme 2026

For: students and alumni who want to become freelancers (in person)

18-22 May, 9.30 to 4.30pm

Clerici Building, CLC 1.02, Headington Campus

This is a week long bootcamp aiming at getting participants to launch their freelance career by the end of the week.