

Faculty of Health Postgraduate Induction Course (PIC)

Learning Objectives

These learning objectives should help you decide which of the recommended sessions you wish to sign up for and allow you to cater the PIC to your specific needs.

Compulsory sessions

You **must** attend these sessions as an absolute minimum. If you are unable to attend any of these please inform your PGR administrator and a mop up session will be arranged for you at another time.

Faculty Inductions part 1 and 2:

- General introduction to the faculty and structure
- Networking with new peers
- Understand UoS processes, timelines and milestones
- Hear from current students about opportunities and support available

Plagiarism, Copyright and Unfair Means

Avoiding plagiarism (and other forms of unfair means)

- Define unfair means and understand how it may arise.
- Recognize the consequences of unfair means in academic and professional settings.
- Know where to get support in academic skills from the University of Sheffield.
- Understand what Turnitin is and how it is used.

Copyright Issues affecting Postgraduate Research

- Understand what copyright is and how it relates to postgraduate research students.
- Recognise the importance to be copyright compliant.
- Know where to get support on copyright from the University of Sheffield.
- Know how to get permission to use copyright figures and what to do if this is not possible.

School Inductions- *you are only expected to attend the induction for the school you are aligned to*

School of Medicine and Population Health Induction:

- Knowledge of your PGR programme and key milestones
- Overview of your timeline and responsibilities

- Understand where to find support within the School

Please contact your PGR Administrator for more information on the school inductions for Clinical Dentistry and Allied Health Professions, Nursing and Midwifery.

Confirmation Review

- How to pass the confirmation review
- Common misunderstandings and anxieties surrounding the confirmation review – how to be positive

Recommended sessions

English Language Teaching Centre Sessions – *These sessions are aimed at non-native English speakers where English is not their first language:*

ELTC 1 Academic Writing: Style:

- identify features of academic style: formal language, being concise & precise, hedging
- apply your knowledge by editing your own text
- identify other resources to help with your writing style

ELTC 2 Spoken Communication:

- identify features of academic style: formal language, being concise & precise, hedging
- apply your knowledge by editing your own text
- identify other resources to help with your writing style

ELTC 3 Cohesion, coherence and voice:

- identify features of academic style: formal language, being concise & precise, hedging
- apply your knowledge by editing your own text
- identify other resources to help with your writing style

Essential Lab Skills – *This session is aimed at lab based students:*

- Health and safety in the lab

- Best practice in the lab
- Understanding risk and training

Literature Searching:

- identify features of academic style: formal language, being concise & precise, hedging
- apply your knowledge by editing your own text
- identify other resources to help with your writing style

Data Handling:

- Data management best practices
- Available IT Services technology support
- Practical advice for digital research methods:
 - Organising data
 - Security
 - Version control
- Use of SigmaPlot NG

How to read a paper:

- Understand Types of research papers and publication process
- Learn strategies for reading research articles
- Overview of note taking for research papers.

Introduction to Qualitative Research:

- What is Qualitative Research?
- Why do Qualitative Research?
- Common approaches and process?
- What is Quality in Qualitative Research

Scientific Thinking:

- Understanding Scientific Thinking: Develop an understanding of scientific thinking versus scientific understanding and learn about how scientific thinking is foundational to the research process.
- Learning the Scientific Method: Familiarize yourself with the scientific method, emphasizing how empirical evidence and reproducibility play a role in scientific research.

- Formulating and Testing Hypotheses: Understand what constitutes a testable hypothesis, including criteria like specificity, measurability, and clarity, as well as the process of hypothesis testing through falsification rather than proof.
- Reasoning Methods in Science: Gain knowledge of reasoning strategies—inductive, deductive, and abductive reasoning—used to formulate and test scientific theories.
- Evaluating Scientific Evidence and Avoiding Bias: Learn about various types of biases (conscious and unconscious) and the importance of designing rigorous experiments to minimize bias and ensure valid, reproducible results.
- Correlation vs. Causation: Recognize the pitfalls of correlation in medical research, especially in studies linking risk factors with health outcomes, and the need for caution in drawing causal inferences from correlational data.

Introduction to Statistics:

- Appreciate the need for statistical testing in Biomedical Research
- Understand some of the core principles underlying statistical testing
- Explore some of the common pitfalls in analysing and presenting data

Please ensure you are able to attend the compulsory sessions and only sign up to the recommended sessions you will attend. If you are unable to attend any session you have registered for, you are expected to contact the Faculty PGR Admin team on fohgraduateschool@sheffield.ac.uk in order to release your position and allow for another student to attend the session.