

# Organisational structures and support services for incoming/outgoing Doctoral students at the University of Essex

### **Dr Leanne Andrews**

Faculty Dean (Postgraduate), Faculty of Science and Health

### **Andrew McCarthy**

Postgraduate Research Education Manager

### Laura Ruddick

Senior Postgraduate Research Education Manager

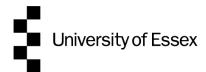






# An overview

- Postgraduate Research Education support structures at the University of Essex;
- Proficio postgraduate research skills and development for doctoral candidates at the University of Essex;
- Doctoral student cohort development;
- Support for incoming and outgoing visiting doctoral candidates;
- Close and questions.



# Teams supporting Doctoral Candidates at Essex

- No Doctoral School at the University of Essex;
  - Admissions;
  - Academic Departments;
  - Essex Abroad;
  - International Services Team;
  - Organisational Development;
  - Partnerships Team
  - Postgraduate Research Education Team;
  - Student Wellbeing and Inclusivity Service;
  - Student Development.
- Academic Leadership and Support
  - Dean for Postgraduate Research & Education;
  - Faculty Deans (Postgraduate)
  - Deputy Dean (Postgraduate Research Training)





### Postgraduate Research Team supporting Postgraduate Research Student

- Act as advocates and representatives for the Postgraduate Research (PGR) community.
- Assist our PGR students and their academic departments with a range of administration processes, in support of academic progression and success –for example:
  - PGR registration and student records
  - PGR student progression
  - Thesis title approval, submission and examination
  - PGR Regulations, Policies and Procedures: Codes of Practice & Principal Regulations for Research Degrees
  - Appeals
  - Complaints
- PGR Cohort building
- <u>Proficio management and administration</u> postgraduate research skills and development
- Managing <u>University Doctoral Training Partnership Studentships & Training</u>
- Working with Partnerships Team and academic departments to develop joint international doctorates.





# Proficio - skills and development for doctoral candidates

### What is Proficio?

Proficio is the University of Essex's Professional Development scheme for Research Students

### How does it work?

The University gives each research student funds to spend on training courses and conference attendance, thus enabling each student to have a bespoke development plan which caters to their individual needs:

- Doctoral students: £2500
- Masters of Philosophy: £1500
- Masters by Dissertation: £1000

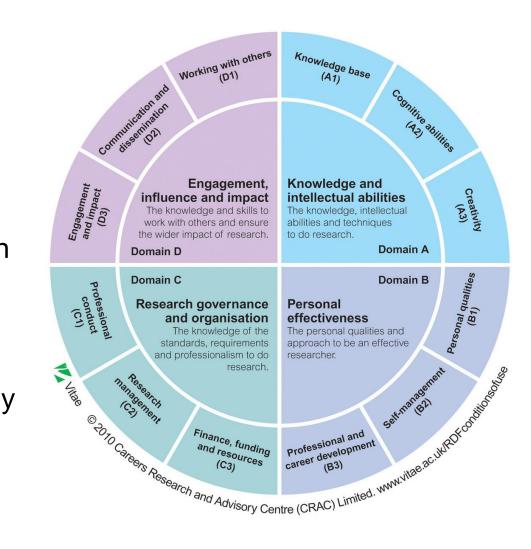
To access the funds and the training, students first need to complete a Training Needs Analysis (TNA)



# Proficio - skills and development for doctoral candidates

### **Courses Offered**

- To browse and book onto our courses, visit the University website and search Proficio
- All Proficio courses are mapped to Vitae's Research Development Framework (RDF)
- If Proficio isn't offering a course internally, students can use their funding to attend a course delivered by an external provider





# PGR community and cohort development

# Three Minute Thesis (3MT) Competition

- Developed by the University of Queensland, Australia. Its success has led to the establishment of local and national competitions in several countries.
- The competition challenges students to present a compelling oration on their thesis, and its significance, in just three minutes
- Students receive training on presentation skills
- Winner receives cash prize and is invited to present at the PGR Celebration Event, as well as being nominated for the national award



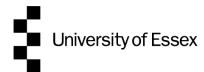


# PGR community and cohort development

### **PGR Celebration Event**

- Students, Supervisors, and the Senior leadership team recognise the achievements of the PGR community over the past year
- The winners of our student led Supervisor of the Year competition are announced
- We hear from the winners of 3MT and invite an inspirational PGR alumni to deliver a lecture





# PGR community and cohort development

# **University and Departmental Events**

- Cross University Research Event (CURE) 3 minute research pitches from staff and PGR students across the University
- PGR Cohort Development Fund enables students to seeking funding to develop their own events
- Departmental Research Conferences
- Departmental Research Seminars
- Quiz/games nights
- Departmental Research Groups





# Support for incoming doctoral students

- Incoming team for support at various stages of transition
  - Student facing advisor and officer
  - Pre-arrival zoom meeting
  - Communications on visas/CAS, support with accommodation, registration
  - During Welcome Week 4-5 sessions on academic support, student support, social events, what to do in Colchester, personal tutor role
  - Volunteering opportunities



# Support for outgoing doctoral students

- Outgoing team for support at various stages of transition
  - Student facing advisor and officer
  - Supporting connections with host institution
  - Pre-departure event with sessions on:
    - Wellbeing
    - Culture shock
    - Integration
    - Finances
    - Support with administrative processes (e.g. risk assessments, insurance, travel advice etc.)



# Thank you



Any questions?