



# Break Time

THE SAPD EARLY CAREER RESEARCHER  
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

## Farwell and Welcome

We at the PGRA have been very fortunate to have a dedicated group of volunteers to coordinate all these awesome activities and information sessions with you all, but all good things come to an end. In this case, Annalyse Moskeland, the Vice-President, is moving on to the London School of Economics. Annalyse is the power behind all the icky paperwork that comes with this type of organization and we will be sad to see her go, although we wish her farewell and good luck.

Luckily our very own Juliette Schillings will be stepping into her shoes and taking over the position for the rest of the year. Juliette is probably most known as one of the voices of the PhD Seminar Series along with Niko and Auvviki and we are very excited that we managed to strong-arm, I mean, *convince*, her to join us in the PGRA. Juliette joins us from Sustainable Land Management where she focuses on PLF and animal welfare. She has a background in animal behaviour and welfare, as well as in food and environmental sciences.

Welcome Juliette!



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Welcome our newest  
PhDs!

- Connor Russell
- Ganimet Unsal

The PGRA is always  
looking for 2nd and 3rd  
years willing to become  
or become a mentor for  
a new PhD. Sign up by  
emailing the PGRA.

New ECRs!

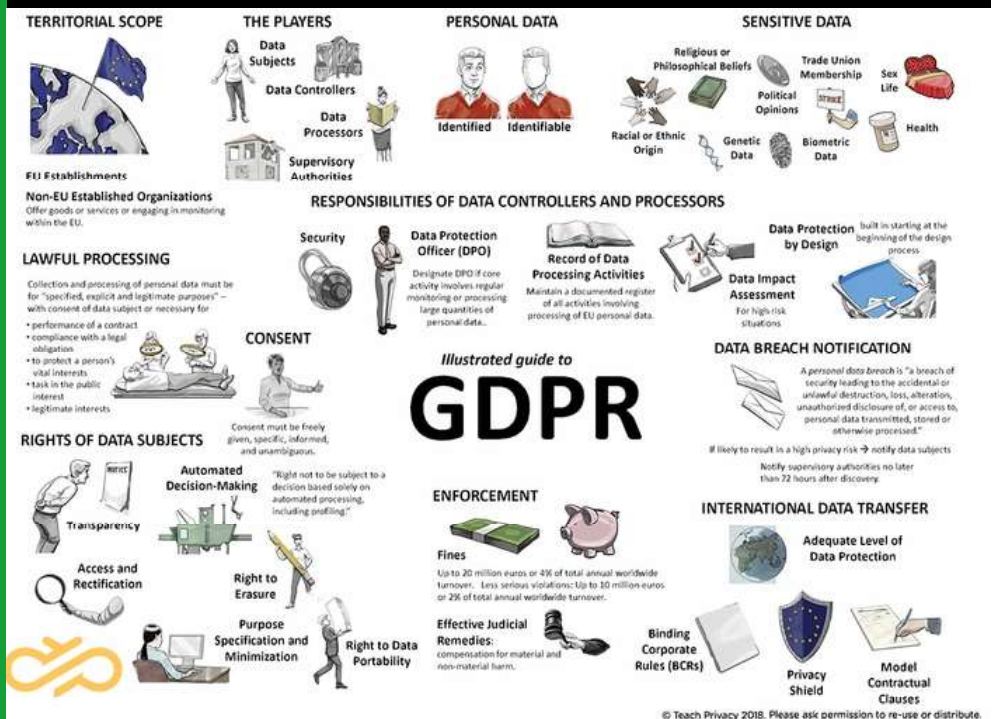
- Dr Jessica  
Bosseaux
- Dr Nina Roehrig
- Dr Lizzie Rowe
- Ms Lisa Arguile

PhD Seminar Series  
is looking for  
presenters! Email  
Juliette Shillings to  
get on the roster.

## UoR Learn Cheatsheet #1

When you first get on UoR Learn with your temporary email, you'll notice that there are a few courses you are pre-registered for. They include Data Protection, Freedom of Information, Information Security and Sustainability. The first one we want to share with you is the GDPR, or General Data Protection Regulation, which is about as fun as it sounds, but basically refers to how we use, store, transfer and dispose of personal or private information. A good resource can be found here: <https://gdpr-info.eu/>

These little cheatsheet's may be handy for people new to Academia or the UK rules and Regulations.



# OPPORTUNITIES

International Summer School Survey Design and Experimental Methods in Applied and Agricultural Economics:  
<https://www.canr.msu.edu/afre/projects/Survey-Design-and-Experimental-Methods-in-Applied-and-Agricultural-Economics/>

Experimental Auctions:  
<https://experimentalauctions.jimdofree.com/>

Careers Information:  
<https://www.reading.ac.uk/essentials/Careers/Events/Upcoming-events>

Farmplanner online competition 2022 - OPEN FOR ENTRIES

IAgrM - The closing date for entries is 1st March 2022

If you would like to receive information regarding this competition, please email [enquiries@iagrm.com](mailto:enquiries@iagrm.com)

<https://www.iagrm.com/events/farmplanner/>



# CONFERENCES

- The UoR Lunchtime Seminar Series continue to take place during Autumn and Spring term time on Thursdays at 1 pm. Please contact Laurence Smith if you would like to present your research.
- The UoR student-led Agri Club conference is scheduled for 7 February 2022.
- The annual Edith Mary Gayton Lecture will take place on 22 February 2022.
- IAGRM 60 MINUTE CPD - BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN UPDATE 2pm - online session on 24 February 2022.



THE INSTITUTE FOR FOOD, NUTRITION AND  
HEALTH

# IFNH

## ANNUAL FORUM (ONLINE)

FEBRUARY 2, 2022  
1400-100 (GMT)

THE THEME OF THIS YEAR'S FORUM IS ABOUT THE POTENTIAL CONFLICT BETWEEN THE ENVIRONMENTAL COST OF FOOD AND ITS IMPORTANCE AS A SOURCE OF IMPORTANT NUTRIENTS, INCLUDING THE IMPORTANCE OF GOOD PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS AND THE CONSUMER ATTITUDES ON THIS TOPIC.

WE WILL HAVE A RANGE OF SPEAKERS FROM UNIVERSITY OF READING AS WELL AS KEY EXPERTS FROM CRANFIELD UNIVERSITY AND THE UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN.

THE EVENT IS FREE TO ATTEND AND FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER YOUR ATTENDANCE EMAIL ELENA CARP [E.CARP@READING.AC.UK](mailto:E.CARP@READING.AC.UK).





# BRIDGING WORLDS CONFERENCE



As part of the PGRA/ECRA agenda this year, we will be hosting the Bridging Worlds Conference sponsored by Corteva and the University of Reading SAPD on March 31st and April 1st, 2022.

As such we will be hosting two student driven presentation panels, 1) Sustainable Development and 2) Climate Change and Agriculture. These presentations will be virtual, so you can present from anywhere. PGRs will be given 10 mins and ECRs will be given 15 minutes to present their research topic.

If you are interested in this great opportunity to present to some of the movers and shakers in agriculture, including governmental and industry leaders, please email the PGRA for the submission form and select which presentation your topic fits into best, as well as a working title and a 250-word (max) abstract.

The deadline for submission is **February 10th, 2022 at 17:00 GMT**. We will let you know the status of your application by March 1st.

Please note this form is only for the student research presentations. If you have questions or would like more information, please email us.



 **BRIDGING  
WORLDS**  
SUSTAINABLE  
AGRICULTURE  
CONFERENCE  
SPONSORED BY CORTEVA AGRISCIENCE

31 MARCH - 1 APRIL, 2022  
UNIVERSITY OF READING, UK  
WHITEKNIGHTS CAMPUS  
SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE, POLICY AND DEVELOPMENT

**KEYNOTE SPEAKERS TO INCLUDE:**  
**DR. TAHANI SILEET**  
DEPUTY MP | HEAD OF EXTERNAL PARTNERSHIPS  
EGYPTIAN MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES AND  
IRRIGATION

 University of  
Reading  **CORTEVA**  
agriscience

# BREADMAKING WORKSHOP

The Chaplaincy offers bread-making workshops for staff and students. Workshops are held on Fridays at 10:30am and 11:30am - we charge £2 per person and you can collect your baked loaf later that day. You can come on your own, or with a friend; we usually book 2 people per session (we sometimes take groups of 3 - please ask).

We are now taking bookings for the following dates:

February 4th  
February 11th

Please contact the chaplaincy to make a booking (10:30 or 11:30).

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# READING HISTORY WALK

On Saturday 5th February, the Chaplaincy is organising a walk from campus to town, pointing out museums, quirky shops, the Abbey ruins and exploring some of Reading's history along the way. The walk will begin on the Whiteknights campus at 10am and end in Forbury Gardens.

See the pub Charles Dickens opened, Jane Austen's school, Oscar Wilde's prison, the Abbey ruins; learn about the Victorian war hero behind Sherlock Holmes' friend, Dr Watson, and view the new Banksy mural...

All welcome - the walk is free and takes about 2 - 3 hours.

Please fill in the MS form to book: <https://forms.office.com/r/rt8u7jEgPq>

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## Bookmark that link!

The Office of Graduate Research Flinders University has a great vlog resource for PhDs, Especially on ways to pass your VIVA and write your thesis. We highly recommend bookmarking the YouTube page and referring back to it often.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwdaNGhdSAwzdzgtgLTqyhgA>

## Training Poll

We've been asked to find out how useful a voluntary, unofficial 2nd year COR would be for our PGRs. You'll shortly be getting an email about this with the included link. Please let us know so we can create the best learning environment possible.

<https://forms.gle/WyYpUfJEpuZsn2Jq5>

## Gold Stars and Brownie Points:

Congrats to the following members for presenting, publishing or otherwise being awesome! If you have news to share, send us an email for inclusion in the next newsletter.

- **Costanza Conti passed the Confirmation of Registration in October 2021.**
- **Shamsudeen Abdulai successfully passed his viva in March 2021.**
- **Oana Tanasache successfully passed her viva in November 2021.**
- **The following for passing their VIVA In January 2022! Zainab Aliyu, Africa Bauza Garcia-Arcicollar, Sofia Bellamy, Anthony Isadeha, Saoirse Cummins, Fiona Gierer and Kelly Jowett!**

**Congrats to all the new Doctors and Candidates!**





# VIVA GUIDELINES

## PhDs by Thesis and Paper

By the time your second year rolls around, you've probably heard stories (both good and bad) about the VIVA, which is the PhD examination. There are currently two ways to submit your dissertation: by Thesis (Research) or by Paper (Published Works). The Graduate School has very specific formats and regulations for both and it is worth downloading and printing the appropriate document to refer back to for both you *and* your supervisor so everyone is on the same page. Additionally, having the guidelines available the day of the VIVA for your Examination Committee is a useful practice to minimize questions or concerns about differences between organizations.

## PhD by Thesis

VIVA by Thesis is the basic format and the one that looks the most like you've written a textbook. There are a few key people that should be identified before we get into the formatting aspect. For the FULL REQUIREMENTS please go here: [https://www.reading.ac.uk/web/files/graduateschool/pgr\\_guide\\_for\\_examiners\\_of\\_research\\_degrees\\_FINAL\\_Sept2019.pdf](https://www.reading.ac.uk/web/files/graduateschool/pgr_guide_for_examiners_of_research_degrees_FINAL_Sept2019.pdf)

### Examination Board

#### Independent Chair-

An Independent Chair for the viva is essential when the Examiners do not include an Internal Examiner. They should be a senior member of staff in the same department and not involved in the supervision of the candidate. They may make introductory comments but should only intervene if there are concerns about the nature of the questions or the state of the students. They should be able to explain UoR policies regarding regulations.

#### Internal Examiner-

The Internal Examiner is responsible for arranging the viva, and the examiners, should agree on a date in consultation with the candidate; the viva should normally be held within *four* calendar months of the submission of the thesis.

#### Supervisors MAY NOT:

- serve as internal examiners
- attend the VIVA unless approved by all parties





# VIVA GUIDELINES

## Examination Board (cont.)

### External Examiner(s)-

External Examiners are normally drawn from other universities or, in the case of programmes with a strong professional dimension, from among relevant, suitably qualified professionals. **STUDENTS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO CONTACT DIRECTLY.**

### NOTE:

The candidate has the right to speak to the Examiners alone at the end of the exam. For all students, the candidate's supervisor should be available for consultation by the Examiners at the time of the viva.

### Criteria for Assessment:

Examiners are required to address the following points-

(1) The form in which the thesis is presented. Candidates may include in the body of the thesis one or more written articles which may be published, in press, or in preparation (**SEE PhD by PAPER**). The thesis should nevertheless read as a coherent body of work, and should be examined on this basis. Further information on writing a thesis as a collection of papers, including some pointers for examiners, can be found at:

<http://www.reading.ac.uk/web/files/graduateschool/gradschwritingthesisascollectionofpapers.pdf>

(2) The work presented by the candidate is such as might reasonably be expected as the result of (minimum) three years' full-time postgraduate work for PhD.

(3) Whether the abstract of the thesis is acceptable as it stands, or needs modification.

(4) The candidate understands how his or her special theme is related to a wider field of knowledge.



# VIVA GUIDELINES

**(5) For the PhD the candidate must demonstrate each of the following:**

- the creation and interpretation of new knowledge, through original research or other advanced scholarship, of a quality to satisfy peer review, to extend the forefront of the discipline, and to merit publication in an appropriate form.
- a systematic acquisition and understanding of a substantial body of knowledge which is at the forefront of an academic discipline or area of professional practice.
- the general ability to conceptualise, design and implement a project for the generation of new knowledge, applications or understanding at the forefront of the discipline, and the ability to adjust the project design in the light of unforeseen problems?
- a comprehensive understanding of techniques applicable to their own research or advanced scholarship.

**(7) On the final part of the form, Examiners are asked to write a joint written report of at least 100 words which should cover the following points:**

- The quality of the content of the thesis and the extent to which it meets the specified criteria.
- Where appropriate, the presentation / format of the thesis.
- The candidate's performance during the viva.
- Any recommendations relating to work that is particularly suitable for publication.
- The nature of any corrections to be made (detailed comments about these can be provided subsequently).

## PhD by Paper- Differences

[https://www.reading.ac.uk/web/files/graduateschool/pgr\\_guide\\_for\\_examiners\\_of\\_PhDbyPublishedWorks\\_degrees\\_Sept2019.pdf](https://www.reading.ac.uk/web/files/graduateschool/pgr_guide_for_examiners_of_PhDbyPublishedWorks_degrees_Sept2019.pdf)

**The only difference between the two is the physical format of the presented materials given below.**

# VIVA TIMELINE

There is always a bit of maths to figure out the best time to "Submit" your intent. We recommend the following when planning your VIVA.

## Notice of Intention to Submit

Candidates should notify the Doctoral Examinations Officer at least **FOUR MONTHS**, prior to their intended submission date, that they intend to submit their thesis.

## Early Submission

The earliest that candidates are entitled to submit their thesis, without exceptional permission, is **EIGHT WEEKS** prior to the end of their minimum registration period. If students want to submit their thesis in advance of this date, a case needs to be made to the Dean of Postgraduate Research Studies, setting out the case for early submission and providing assurance that such early submission would not have any detrimental effect on the quality of the thesis.

## Minimum Registration Period

This is the **EARLIEST** date you can Graduate. You can find this on RISIS and is *typically* either September 21st, January 10th or April 19th.

**BE AWARE!!** A lot of Academics take off during the summer, so it's hard to pin them down. So, just because you submit in July doesn't mean your VIVA is in July. It just means they have **FOUR MONTHS** from July to schedule your VIVA.

## The Maths:

### For January

Intent = July 9th

Early Submission = November 9th

From November until the VIVA date, you **CANNOT** edit!

VIVA scheduled between November and February.

### For April

Intent = October 18th

Early Submission = February 22nd

From February until the VIVA date, you **CANNOT** edit!

VIVA scheduled between February and June.

### For September

Intent = March 27th

Early Submission = July 27th

From July until the VIVA date, you **CANNOT** edit!

VIVA scheduled between July and October.





# THESIS FORMAT

The length of a thesis should not normally be greater than 90,000 words for PhD. A thesis may be no more than five percent over the limit. The word count excludes the appendices, the bibliography and any bibliographical material contained within the footnotes.

The thesis must be written in English.

- The thesis should be printed on A4 paper (30 cm x 21 cm), preferably double-sided.
- The font size should be no less than 11 point and no more than 12 point. The font style can be of your choosing, but candidates are advised to avoid complicated fonts that examiners might find difficult to read.
- There must be sufficient space between each line of type to ensure legibility (i.e. normally one and-a-half or double spacing) with a margin of 35 mm on the left-hand side of the page (or right-hand side of a page of offprint or tables etc. where appropriate) before binding. Other margins should not be less than 15 mm. Page numbers may be sited in the margins, but must be clearly separated from other text. The pages containing any offprint, tables etc. must be numbered in sequence with the rest of the thesis. Good quality reproductions of typescript or printing such as photocopies will be accepted.
- Each copy of the thesis must contain a title page headed "UNIVERSITY OF READING" which gives the following information:
  - Title of thesis
  - Degree for which thesis is submitted
  - School(s) or Department(s) in which work has been carried out
  - Candidate's name
  - Date of submission, i.e. month and year
- In each copy of their thesis, candidates are required to include an abstract and a declaration of original authorship.
- Materials such as maps and surveys which are essential to the thesis but which cannot be reduced to the proper thesis size may be submitted separately in a form acceptable to the candidate's School Director of Postgraduate Research Studies.
- A PDF of the thesis is the only version you need to submit, NOT a hardbound copy.





# THESIS FORMAT

## Thesis by Paper Formatting Guidelines–

- Candidates are permitted to include as an integral part of their thesis offprints of substantial articles or papers describing research performed in the course of the work for the degree which have been published in journals of recognised standing in their subject, provided that the candidate is either the sole author or one of the joint authors. Thus a series of articles or papers appropriately supplemented to form an integrated whole is an acceptable format in which a thesis may be presented. It is essential that the literary unity of the thesis be preserved.
- Shorter articles may not be included in this way but must be rewritten as part of the thesis. Material derived from published articles or papers of which the candidate is sole author or coauthor may be incorporated into the thesis.
- In cases where a candidate includes in the thesis an article or papers of which the candidate is a co-author or incorporates material from an article of which the candidate is a co-author, the candidate must include in the thesis a statement outlining his or her specific contribution to the paper(s), indicating what components of the work were carried out by the candidate and what components were carried out by other authors, and indicating the estimated percentage contribution made by the candidate. The statement should be approved by the candidate's supervisor before being included in the thesis.

For more information, follow the guidelines available here:

[https://www.reading.ac.uk/web/files/graduateschool/1\\_pgr\\_rules\\_for\\_submission\\_of\\_theses\\_Oct2020.pdf](https://www.reading.ac.uk/web/files/graduateschool/1_pgr_rules_for_submission_of_theses_Oct2020.pdf)

University of Reading

[Click here to insert thesis title]

[Click here to insert degree title]

[Click here to insert School or Department name]

[Click here to insert candidate name]

[Click here to insert submission date as 'Month YYYY']

# In the Know

## CONTACTS FOR GETTING ADDED TO THE SEMINARS

AEM: LAWRENCE (L.G.) SMITH  
ID: HENNY OSBAHR AND FERDOUSI  
RAHMAN  
CS: MARK TAYLOR AND DR. ALEXEY  
MIKABERIDZE  
AS: HOLLY HOLDSWORTH  
SLM: STUART EDWARDS AND LAURA  
REEVES  
PHD SEMINAR: JULIETTE SHILLINGS

## PHD SEMINAR SERIES

- **9TH FEBRUARY AT 3PM: JOINT  
PRESENTATION BY HEATHER  
MAGGS, AGNESE RONDONI AND  
LYDIAH NYAMBOK ON PHD VIVAS**
- 16TH FEBRUARY AT 3PM: PHD  
PRESENTATION FROM MIN-JU KIM

## CQSD/TEL TRAININGS OF INTEREST (ONLINE)

TEL: INCLUSIVE DESIGN IN ONLINE  
TEACHING & LEARNING  
• FRIDAY 25 FEBRUARY 2022, 09:30-  
11:00

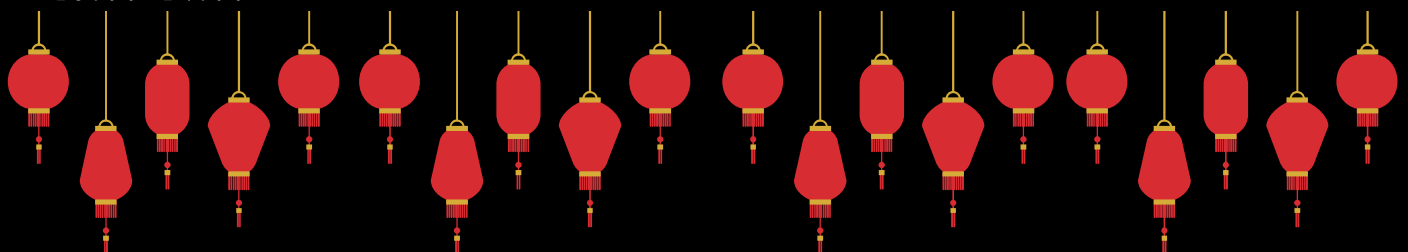
TEL SURGERY: BLACKBOARD TESTS  
• THURSDAY 10 FEBRUARY 2022,  
13:00-14:00

## TEL: MARKING TURNITIN ASSIGNMENTS

- TUESDAY 15 FEBRUARY 2022, 09:30-  
10:30

**PGRA Blog**  
Have some interesting  
research, but don't want to  
write a paper? Why not write a  
post for the new PGRA blog?

Any article on agriculture, the  
environment, or international  
development is acceptable.  
Articles should be between 800-  
1500 words and include  
references.  
<http://blogs.reading.ac.uk/pgra/>





*Contact us, we're here to help.*  
[http://www.reading.ac.uk/apd/PhD-programmes/apd-  
PostGraduateResearchAssociation.aspx](http://www.reading.ac.uk/apd/PhD-programmes/apd-PostGraduateResearchAssociation.aspx)

**SAPD PGR/POSTDOC  
ASSOCIATIONS**