



Break Time

THE SAPD EARLY CAREER RESEARCHER
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Grant Writing Retreat

A Grant Writing Retreat will be held on Monday 28th March 2022 between 10am and 3pm at Greenlands for academic researchers at all career stages within Prosperity and Resilience. The retreat will provide an opportunity to spend dedicated time to work on a grant application that you would like to develop further. A variety of Professional Services will be on hand to help, including Research Development, Impact, KTC and Research Data Management as well as the Research Dean and other experienced grant writers. The aim is to create a supportive cohort within a space that encourages both creativity and productivity. Lunch and refreshments will be provided.

If you would like to attend please send the following information for the project you are developing and will be working on at the Retreat to Katie Powell (k.e.powell@reading.ac.uk) by Friday 7th January 2022. Places are limited to 15 and participants will be selected by the Research Dean.

See next page for required information.

WHAT'S INSIDE:

Grant Writing Retreat
Training Poll
Opportunities
Conferences:
IFNH
Bridging Worlds
IDEAFEST 2022
Funding Opportunities for
SeNSS
What is PICSA?
Guidelines:
CQSD and TEL training
Gold Stars
In the Know:
Seminars and PGRA blog

Want to share your experience? Sign up to become a mentor for a new PhD by emailing the PGRA.

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

Grant Writing Retreat

Required information-

Abstract

Provide 100 word abstract of your proposal

Proposal Summary

Outline the proposed research project including the aims and objectives, research questions and methodology (max. 500 words. Bullet points are fine if project is very early stages)

Research Team

Describe who will be involved and what their role will be

Outputs

Summarise the outputs of the research

Beneficiaries

Describe who will benefit from the research and how it will be disseminated

Funding Scheme

Identify the funding scheme you wish to apply to

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>



OPPORTUNITIES

PostDoc 0.5FTE position 14 month contract Robot Highways project (email Martin Lukac or see Campus Jobs posting)

Leverhulme Early Career Fellowships -

<https://www.leverhulme.ac.uk/early-career-fellowships>.

RETF funding -

<https://www.reading.ac.uk/internal/staffportal/news/articles/spsn-860366.aspx>

Small and PhD Research Grants-

<https://steg.cepr.org/node/139>

IIASA Summer School

https://iiasa.ac.at/web/home/education/yssp/Young_Scientists_Summer_Program.html

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5-7 January

Oxford Farming Conference — British Livestock Genetics

10 January

Ecological and Regenerative Agriculture

20 January

IAgrM 60 Minute CPD - Policy & ELMS update

20 January

International Conference on Agriculture, Forestry and Environment

25 January

British Cattle Conference

CONFERENCES



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. PLEASE REGISTER BY **MONDAY 31ST JANUARY 2022**.

ADDITIONAL LUNCHTIME SEMINAR SERIES

MS TEAMS DECEMBER 3 1300-1400

MS. SUDHA VASUDEVAN, "UPDATE ON DIET & DIABETES - EVIDENCE FROM INDIA".

EMAIL ELENA FOR THE LINK.

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 1st, 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.



AN INTERDISCIPLINARY CONFERENCE
ADDRESSING INNOVATION, CLIMATE, TRADE,
AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE AGRICULTURAL
SPHERE

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:

EGYPTIAN MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES AND
IRRIGATION, DR. TAHANI SILEET

 

Bridging Worlds

IDEAFEST 2022

We often forget that there are other departments beyond SAPD, but one we shouldn't forget about is the Henley Business School. Not all of us will be farm owners or managers, or go into policy or development; some of us will go on to work at companies and may even own our own at some point, so keeping up to date and getting a bit of practice in on business skills is just sound...well, business. So here's an idea for those for the more entrepreneurship oriented of us.

IDEAFEST Student Business Idea Competition 2022, a competition to find the best business idea capable of being commercialised. Students can enter IDEAFEST either on their own or as part of a team and prior to submitting it is recommended that students arrange an appointment at the Business Idea and Start-Up Clinic, held on Wednesday afternoons, to help develop their idea. Appointments are booked through Alex Baker on a.j.baker@henley.ac.uk.

The winner of IDEAFEST receives a cash prize of £1,000 to spend on developing their business idea, with mentoring from HCfE. There are also cash prizes for second and third places and an additional cash prize of another £1,000 for the best innovative idea. On top of this, there is a special China bursary for the best idea capable of being commercialised in China. This bursary is sponsored by Savio Kwan, the former President and Chief Operating Officer of Alibaba.

The important dates for IDEAFEST 2022 are outlined below:

Introduction to IDEAFEST Workshop

- 21 January 2022

IDEAFEST Opens for entries

- 24 January 2022

Entries close

- 25 March 2022

IDEAFEST Final

- 27 April 2022



Full details about the Competition including registration for the 'Introduction to IDEAFEST' workshop on 21 January can be found at <https://www.henley.ac.uk/events/introduction-to-ideafest-2022-workshop>.



Funding Opportunities for SeNSS

Reminder that we want to get a scholarship from the SeNSS scheme this year...they will fund PhDs from the UK and overseas – for the Development Studies pathway. They will fund 3 year or 3+ a bit more for training if necessary. They will also fund a current first year PhD who is looking for money if they are still eligible to apply. The link for info is <http://www.reading.ac.uk/graduateschool/funding-and-fees/gs-senss-info.aspx> . Please speak to your supervisor if you think you might be applicable.

The deadline is 14 Jan for RISIS submission and 25 Jan for the SeNSS form submission.

Additional funding opportunities can be found here:

<http://www.reading.ac.uk/graduateschool/funding-and-fees/gs-studentships.aspx>.

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.

Heather Maggs for passing her VIVA. Congrats Dr. Maggs!

Tamisan Latherow has published a blog with the MERL on the history of Christmas food <https://merl.reading.ac.uk/news-and-views/2021/12/history-british-christmas-food/>

Patricia Ortega Ramos spoke to BBC Radio Berkshire about her research on beetles and crop protection <https://tinyurl.com/2kux8a9s>

GIIDAE 2021 winners: Christine Sano and Maiwand Abrihamzai for International Development, Erica Bower for Agriculture, and Victoria Pelter for Applied Economics

What is PICSA?

You might have heard the term PICSA banded about the school as several of our ECRs and Staff are involved in various projects, but what does it mean?

Participatory Integrated Climate Services for Agriculture (PICSA) is a participatory approach for climate services and agricultural extension, developed by researchers at the University of Reading. PICSA combines historical climate data and forecasts with farmers' knowledge of what works in their own context, and then uses participatory planning methods to help them make informed decisions about their agricultural practices.

Smallholder farming is vital for the food security and livelihoods of millions of people across the developing world. However, critical farming decisions depend on highly variable climatic factors such as the amount of rain that falls, extreme temperature, the timing of seasonal changes, as well as the occurrence of extreme conditions like dry spells and floods. Farmers thus face substantial risks and difficult decisions when planning their activities.

PICSA places farmers at the centre of its approach, and helps them to address the above challenges through integrating:

1. Communication of historical climate information, as well as seasonal and short term forecasts, in a way that is relevant and useful for farmers.
2. Exploring crop, livestock and livelihood options available to farmers that may help them deal with climate and weather-related challenges.
3. Using participatory decision-making tools that assist farmers to make informed decisions when planning their activities.

The PICSA team have secured a new contract with World Food Programme (WFP), to implement PICSA training in Tajikistan over the next four years. Peter Dorward, Professor in International Development, Dr Graham Clarkson, Research fellow in International Development and Dr Sam Poskitt, Research Associate, have been working with WFP staff to conduct scoping research on local farming contexts and the climate-related challenges farmers face. This will enable them to identify how climate information and decision-making tools can be most useful when PICSA is used with farmers later this year.

Visit PICSA for more information: <https://research.reading.ac.uk/picsa/>





RRDP AND CQSD/TEL TRAINING

RRDP on RISIS

Most PGRs should know that they are required to take a certain number of researcher training courses each year of their PhD. For full-time PhDs that means 5 their first year and 3 during year two and three. We're working on increasing the options of the RRDPs and the internal Skills Sharing courses, but we've also just found out some of us might not be seeing all the relevant options.

All doctoral researchers in APD are enrolled onto the Science/Life Science (Sci/LS) stream of the RRDP. If you would also like access to courses in the Arts & Humanities/Social Sciences/Business (AH/SS/B) stream, please let Karen Garrod know.

Teaching and Learning via CQSD/TEL

We've also been working with the Teaching and Learning team to help out with training for those PGRs that are teaching or preparing materials for staff. PGR Students involved in teaching/marking (without a staff account-ECRs, use yours to access) can apply for an 'associate account' on UoRLearn, enabling us to make bookings for appropriate CQSD/TEL sessions. The UoRLearn and HR Systems team have previously provided the following information on the steps involved in requesting an associate account:

The associate account will need to be requested by the individuals manager or supervisor. They can do this from the IT Self-service portal, select Place a request then Account services and they will see a link called SailPoint IIQ – MyID on the right hand side.

Once logged in they open the burger menu in the top left and select UoR Quicklinks. Then they select Create External which opens the form.

Once completed it goes through authorisation and once authorised comes onto UoRLearn in the nightly feed.



RRDP AND CQSD/TEL TRAINING

Once access to the system has been granted, you can let CQSD know which CQSD/TEL session(s) you would like to attend and we can book the place on your behalf as appropriate (via cqsd-tandl@reading.ac.uk). Joining information (including webinar link) would be sent to the email address linked to the associate account.

In the meantime, CQSD are still very happy to accept bookings for appropriate CQSD/TEL sessions via email – please send booking requests to cqsd-tandl@reading.ac.uk. Without a UoRLearn account this won't be formally logged on the system but we can share the Teams webinar links with you to enable attendance in the meantime.

You may also be aware that PGR students with teaching responsibilities also have access to the Preparing to Teach Programme – you can find full details here <http://www.reading.ac.uk/graduateschool/training-and-development/gs-preparing-to-teach.aspx>. Bookings for the Preparing to Teach programme are handled via the Graduate School booking page on the RISIS web portal (instead of UoRLearn).

The PGRA and T&L recommend the following CQSD courses to get you started.

- TEL: Inclusive design in online teaching and learning
- TEL: Marking Turnitin Assignments
- TEL: Running an interactive online session
- T&L Essentials; Student Support
- TEL: Showcase: Flipped Learning 2020/21

We also suggest bookmarking the following link for those working as markers on Blackboard.

Blackboard help for staff <https://sites.reading.ac.uk/tel-support/>

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

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/>

Happy New Year!



JANUARY

1



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**