



WHAT'S ON

# Graduate Training Programme

## Course Selection 2024/25

Please click on the attachment below to view the courses available to access as a PGR student for the Academic Year 2024/25.

If after discussion with your supervisor you wish to attend any of these courses please complete the form at the link below. Once we have received your module choices (via the form), we will set you up on Learn Ultra (if applicable) to access the course materials.



Chemistry-  
PGR-Courses...



Module  
Selection For...

## Course Guidance

- *First year students should select three or more single units or equivalent*
- *Second year students should select two or more single units or equivalent*
- *Third year students are encouraged to select at least one single unit*

*Please record your course choices on your Graduate Training Portfolio but also complete the Course Selection form at the link above to ensure that you are registered on the modules requested.*

*The course coordinator of the non-timetabled courses (those with no code attached) will be asked to contact students directly to advise of course dates and timing when numbers are finalised.*

- *Note that some courses may not run if undersubscribed.*
- *Courses are generally open to postgraduate students in all years.*
- *Assessment methods are variable, and may comprise open book exams, essays or presentations.*
- *Do not be afraid to sign up to a challenging course for fear of failing. The outcome is not pass/fail but merely 'completion' or 'non-completion'.*

## The Graduate Skills Portfolio and Training Needs Analysis

Postgraduate Training in the Department of Chemistry is based on a *Graduate Skills Portfolio* of training courses and activities, which is designed on an individual basis by you in close consultation with your supervisory team.

The graduate skills portfolio starts from a **Government-required Needs Analysis** process carried out by the student and supervisory team that takes account of the student's transferable skills and subject-specific training needs.

This should be informed by the University's Development Needs Analysis (DNA) questionnaire on Inkpath. This is to be completed by all PGRs annually. [Instructions on how to access it can be found on this SharePoint page.](#) The DNA on Inkpath will, upon completion, provide PGRs personalised recommendations for activities that may address their development needs provided within the University. It is however for the student and supervisor to work jointly to address the identified needs.

This process of the questionnaire and discussion with supervisors is intended to identify courses that might be useful to you and that offered either by the Department or University, or more widely, perhaps by research organisations within your discipline. These courses can be specialist technical training or they can relate to personal and transferable skills. Your supervisor will help you identify these training opportunities, but if you feel there is a training need that you have to let your supervisor know straight away.

You should keep some sort of record of your Graduate Skills Portfolio as agreed by the student and supervisory team and signed off annually through the progression and continuation review process. It will eventually form a document that can be incorporated in CVs / shown to employers and represents 'added value' beyond the traditional PhD research education.

The Department of Chemistry Graduate Skills Portfolio comprises the following elements:

1. University Generic Skills Training
2. Departmental Induction Course
3. Departmental seminars
4. External subject-specific courses (e.g. BCA Crystallography School)
5. Departmental or Faculty focussed courses
6. Research group-specific activities

The Skills Portfolio programme is formative in nature and tailored to the individual needs of the student.

As a guide the Department expects students to complete approximately three modules in categories D and/or E in year 1; two in year 2, and one in year 3.

Training in category A is to be completed as appropriate to the student's needs (students generally attend around five courses in their first year), training in Categories B, C and F is compulsory.

*The Skills Portfolio is a major component of all students' postgraduate training and hence is regarded as a significant component of their Academic Commitment; failure to complete any course to the satisfaction of the course leader will be dealt with accordingly.*

Together, this Skills Portfolio provides a useful record of the skills you have acquired during your postgraduate studies and can form the basis or a component of an interview with future employers. An ideal time to review the skills record and to get essential feedback is in your regular progress meetings with your supervisor.

## A. Generic Skills

The University runs a **Doctoral Training Programme for all postgraduates**. This year's programme will be detailed in the Doctoral Training Programme Handbook

<https://www.dur.ac.uk/graduate.school/research.students/research.training/training.programme/>

## **B. Departmental Induction Course**

## **C. Departmental Seminars**

## **D. External Subject-Specific Courses**

In consultation with your supervisor you should identify and take advantage of national training opportunities. Common examples include the EPSRC Summer School in Catalysis (University of Liverpool), BCA/CCG Intensive School in X-ray Structure Analysis, Powder Diffraction and Rietveld Refinement Course, ISIS Neutron Training Course, Diamond Synchrotron Summer School, and the European Workshop on Phosphorus Chemistry.

## **E. Departmental Focussed Courses**

The means of delivering and formatively assessing each module will vary according to the material being taught. Modes of delivery include lectures, workshops, problem solving groups, hands on exercises, discussion groups and student-led presentations/discussions. Modes of assessment include student poster and lecture presentations, written exams/tests (open book or otherwise), oral discussions with the module leaders and facilitators and the completion of practical exercises. Each module leader will publicise the means of assessment for their course. It is required that the student completes the course assessment to the facilitator's satisfaction, that will then be recorded on the Graduate Skills Portfolio by the module leader. A record of attendance will be kept for all modules and courses.