

Cardiff University.

Structure and organisation

Cardiff has a decentralised management structure. All staff and students are located firmly within one of 28 academic Schools, which are the primary focus for learning and teaching, and research. In addition, major inter-disciplinary research centres and institutes bring together researchers from different academic Schools for the advancement of research.

Whilst the Head of School is responsible for the management of postgraduate researchers in his/her School and for ensuring that they receive training appropriate to their needs and objectives, the University has a Training Strategy and Implementation Plan for delivery.

The Graduate Centre and the four Graduate Schools provide opportunities, additional to those within academic Schools, skills training and development and for postgraduate and other researchers to come together to share and develop research interests.

Approximate numbers

- 1500 postgraduate researchers in fee-paying residence (plus c.800 'writing up')
- 76% are 'home/EU'; 24% are 'overseas'
- 73% are full-time; 17% are part-time; 10% are staff candidates
- 85% are PhD; 8% are professional doctorates; 2% are MD; 4% are MPhil; 1% are MRes

Around 300 of our postgraduate researchers are Research Council-funded. In 2006/7, Cardiff received £197K for PGR (and £185K for research staff) from Roberts money.

Skills training and development – Strategy and Framework for delivery

The University's organising framework (approved by the University in 2001) is one in which training and development opportunities are made available within three contexts:

- (i) those considered to be generic across subject areas: delivered at the University level and primarily co-ordinated by the Graduate Centre;
- (ii) those considered to be generic within subject areas: delivered at the discipline level and primarily co-ordinated by Graduate Schools;
- (iii) those that are specific to a subject or School (or research group): co-ordinated and delivered within that School or group.

Key features of the PGR Training Strategy are:

- Student-centred and needs-based: skills development should be appropriate to the needs of the PG researcher and to the needs of the research project (the University has not designated any training or development opportunity as mandatory)
- Three-context approach: development opportunities are offered in the broadest applicable context to encourage interaction between PGRs from different disciplines
- Integration: the Graduate Schools and Graduate Centre work closely together to provide a comprehensive and cohesive programme (Research Student Skills Development Programme (RSSDP)) that meets generic and transferable skills training requirements; the opportunities which make up the RSSDP are presented as a single framework (brochure, web, advertising, booking system, etc.) to which all PGRs and supervisors have easy access.

The Graduate Centre

Established in 1999, it provides social and study facilities, and is a major contributor to the RSSDP and the Training Strategy. Other key features: South West and Wales Hub of UK GRAD; regional partner in the RCUK Researchers in Residence scheme; institutional contact for Epigeum (online research skills delivery).

The Graduate Schools

Research and Graduate School in Social Science, established September 1998
Researcher and Graduate School in Humanities, established January 2005
Graduate School in Biomedical and Life Sciences, established January 2005
Graduate School on Physical Sciences and Engineering, established January 2005

The Graduate Schools also contribute significantly to the RSSDP. Other features: training for teaching and assessment; PGR-led conferences/seminars; co-ordination of Research Council recognition/studentship submissions and visits.