

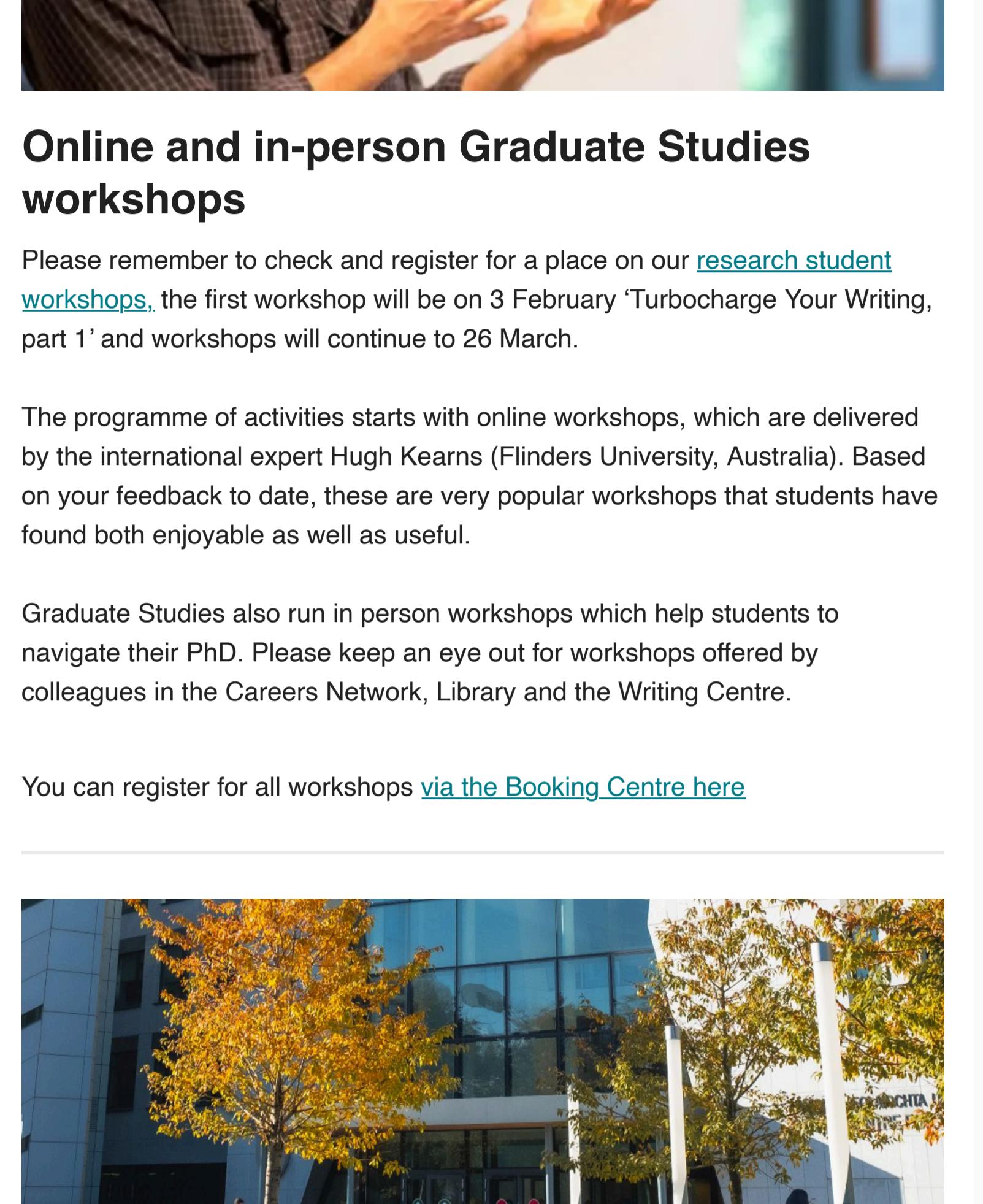


## UCD Graduate Studies Newsletter

January 2025

Wishing you a very happy and prosperous New Year from the Graduate Studies team. We are delighted to welcome a new cohort of graduate research students this trimester. Whatever stage you are at, if you are just starting, continuing or completing your studies, congratulations on pursuing your graduate research degree.

Please see below some updates and upcoming events you might like to attend.

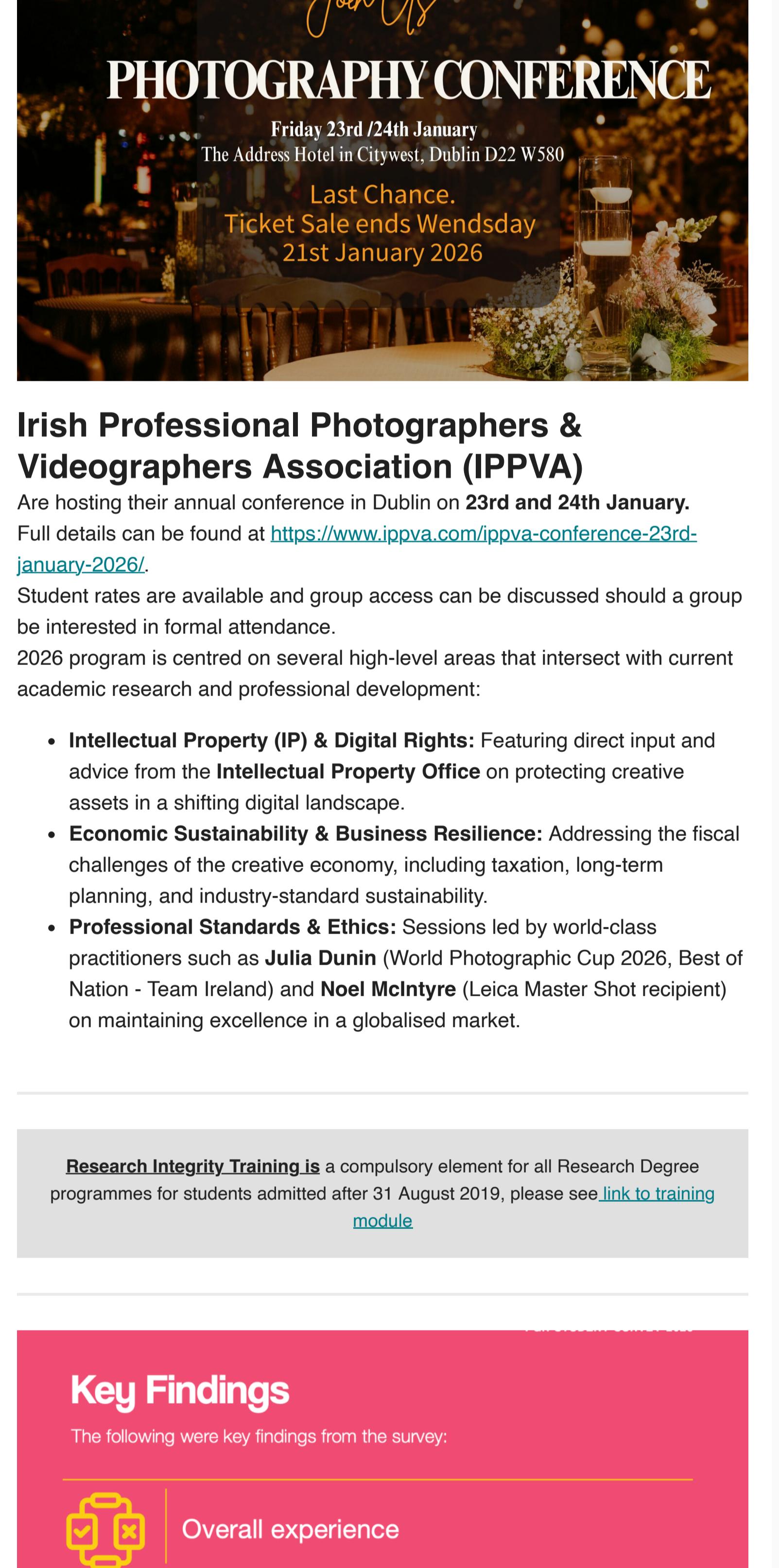


### Orientation for new graduate research students

Graduate Studies will hold an orientation for new January start research students in room SCHI 1.49, in [The UCD O'Brien Centre of Science - Hub](#), on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February, from 10 am to 12 noon. Refreshments from 9.45 am and light lunch at 12 noon.

You can register for Orientation [via the Booking Centre](#).

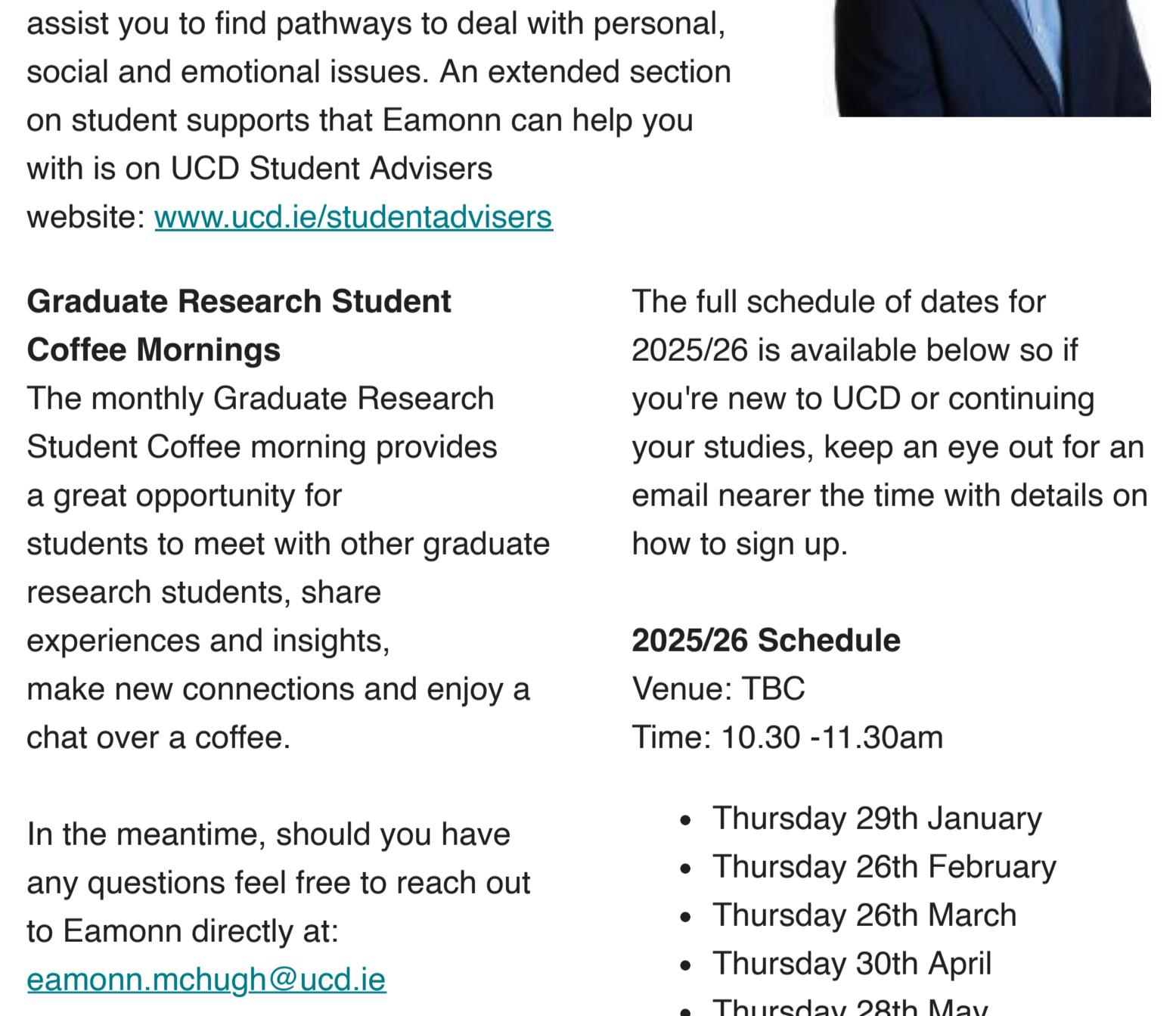
Resources for incoming graduate research students can be found on [our website](#).



### Taught module registration

Registration is currently open for taught modules for graduate research students and will remain open until **Friday 6 February**. As part of a UCD PhD, students must complete 30 credits of modules relevant to their area of research over the course of their programme.

Details of recommended modules and the registration procedure can be found here [Taught Modules for Research Students | UCD Graduate Studies](#).



### Online and in-person Graduate Studies workshops

Please remember to check and register for a place on our [research student workshops](#), the first workshop will be on 3 February 'Turbocharge Your Writing, part 1' and workshops will continue to 26 March.

The programme of activities starts with online workshops, which are delivered by the international expert Hugh Kearns (Flinders University, Australia). Based on your feedback to date, these are very popular workshops that students have found both enjoyable as well as useful.

Graduate Studies also run in person workshops which help students to navigate their PhD. Please keep an eye out for workshops offered by colleagues in the Careers Network, Library and the Writing Centre.

You can register for all workshops [via the Booking Centre here](#).



### Academic Writing for Science Graduate Research students

Are you a Science Graduate student interested in improving your writing skills?

[Academic Writing for Science Postgraduates module \(SC150030\)](#) uses practice-based learning methods to introduce analytical frameworks that show how writing and reading are interrelated and core to critical thinking. It focuses on the elements of article and thesis construction needed to produce an effective academic work based on sound scientific research practices.

A weekly practice-based workshop is supported by a thematic lecture on a core writing skill. The module helps you to develop writing abilities in ways that adequately reflect and support your unique critical insights and capability as a researcher. The module runs in person for 10 weeks and there are four different time slots available in the Spring trimester.

Please email the module coordinator, Dr Audrey McNamara ([audrey.mcnamara@ucd.ie](mailto:audrey.mcnamara@ucd.ie)) for more details.



### Post Graduate Research Student Survey 2025 follow up

UCD recently received the results of the 2025 PGR Student Survey, which took place in Feb/Mar 2025, thank you to everyone who participated. The results were analysed to create tailored reports for each College and School. These reports identify key successes and growth within four main themes: Supervision, Research Culture, Progress & Assessment, and Personal Development.

To act on these insights, Heads of Schools were asked to develop their 2026 Survey Data to establish Quality Enhancements for the coming year. These will be used to support the 2027 survey cycle.

While UCD achieved a 33% direct response rate in 2025, we aim to sustain and build on this engagement. Your direct feedback is vital to help it actively shape both current and future students.

### UCD Student Adviser – Graduate Research Students

Eamonn McHugh your UCD student adviser can assist you to find pathways to deal with personal, social and emotional issues. He can extend your support to student groups and help you make new connections and enjoy a chat over a coffee.

In the meantime, should you have any questions, feel free to reach out to Eamonn directly at: [eamonn.mchugh@ucd.ie](mailto:eamonn.mchugh@ucd.ie)

Full details can be found at <https://www.pgrsurvey.ie>. For more information on the survey, please see [link to training module](#).



### Key Findings

The following were key findings from the survey:



Overall experience

Overall, 75% of respondents are happy with their research programme and confident of finishing the expected timescale.

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