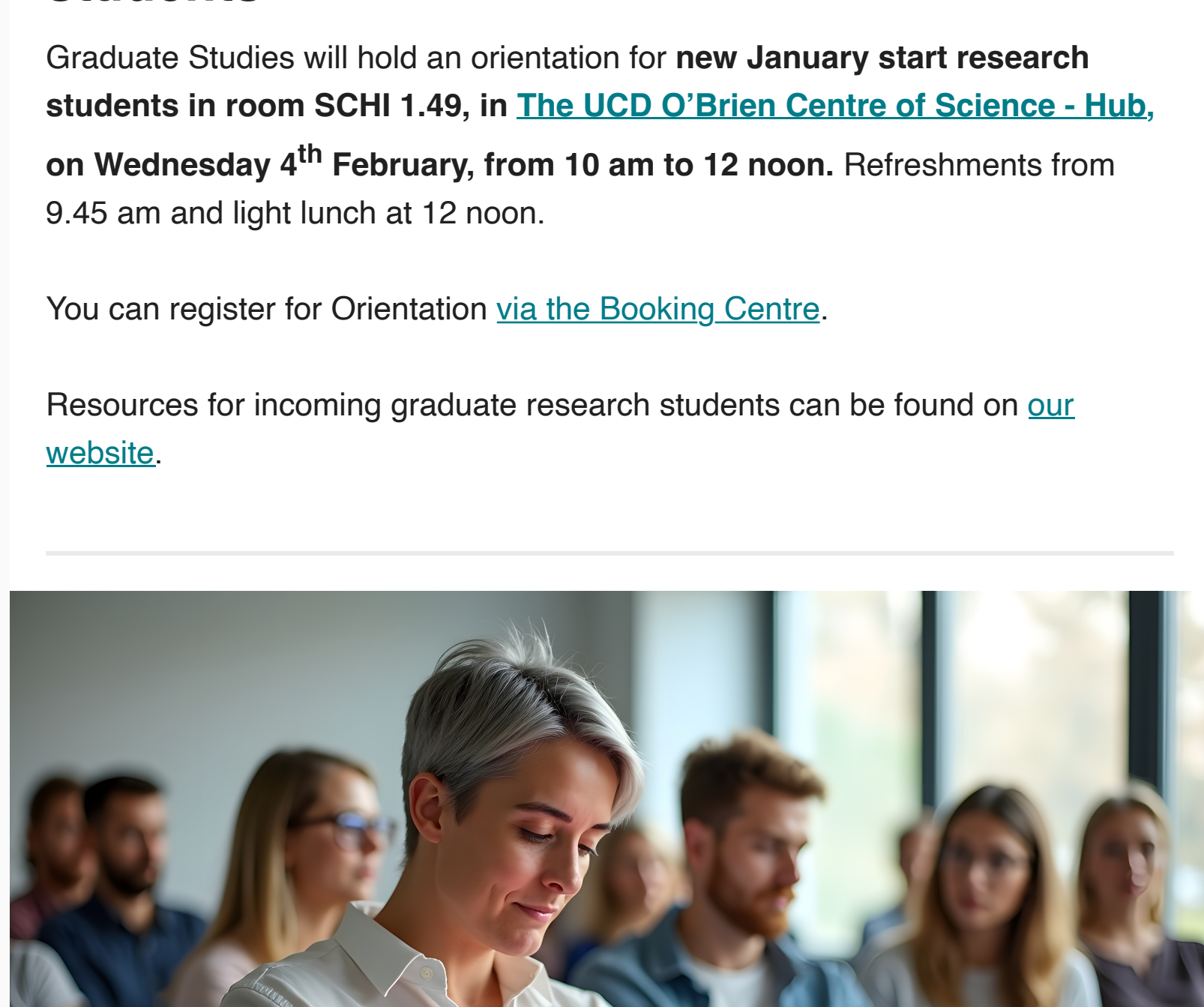


UCD Graduate Studies Newsletter

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 4th 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](#).

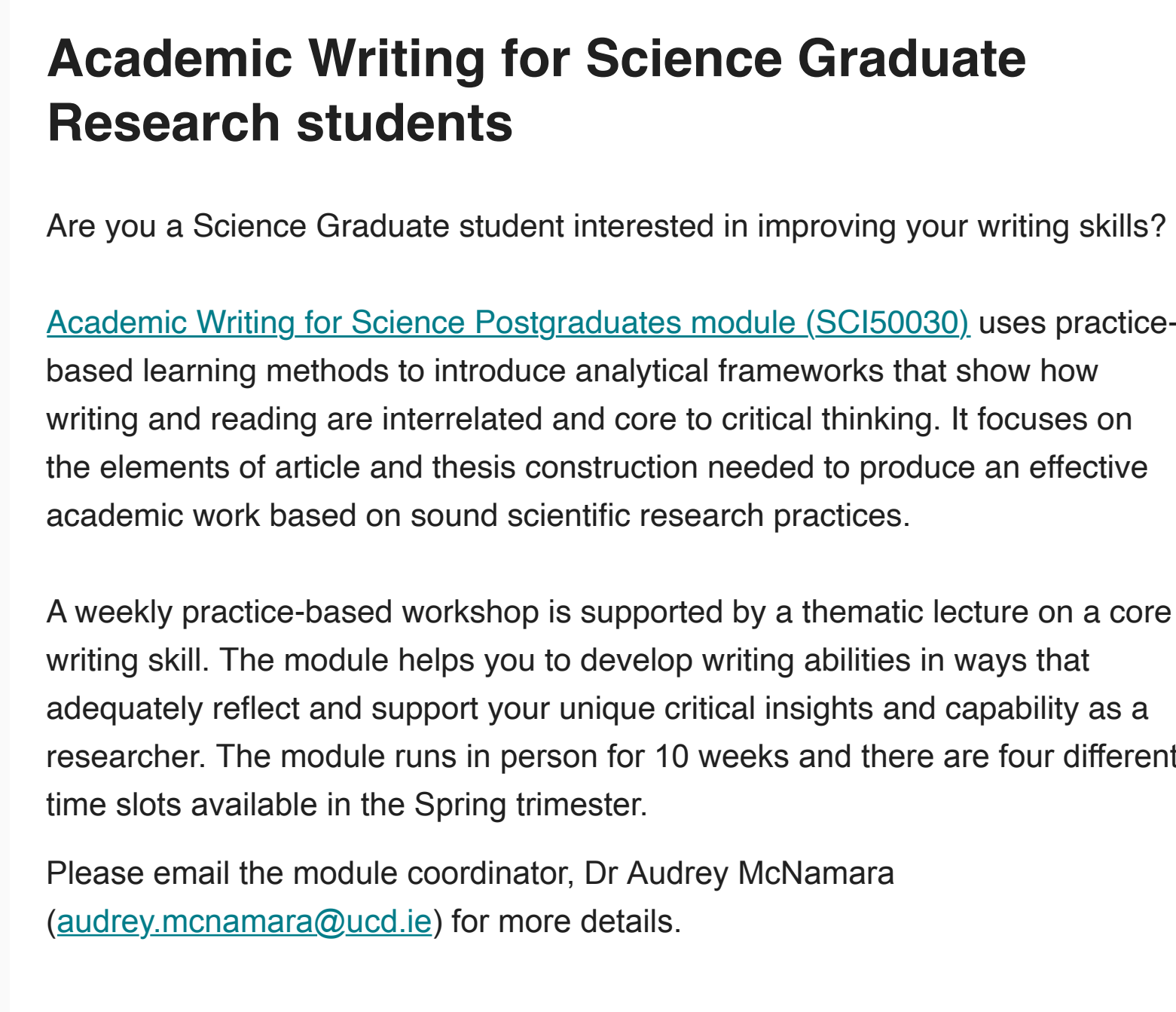
Resources for incoming graduate research students can be found on [our website](#).



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 \(SCI50030\)](#) 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) for more details.



UCD Thesis Write-A-Thon

Brought to you by the UCD Writing Centre and Graduate Studies

We would particularly like to draw your attention to this new initiative by the Writing Centre and Graduate Studies.

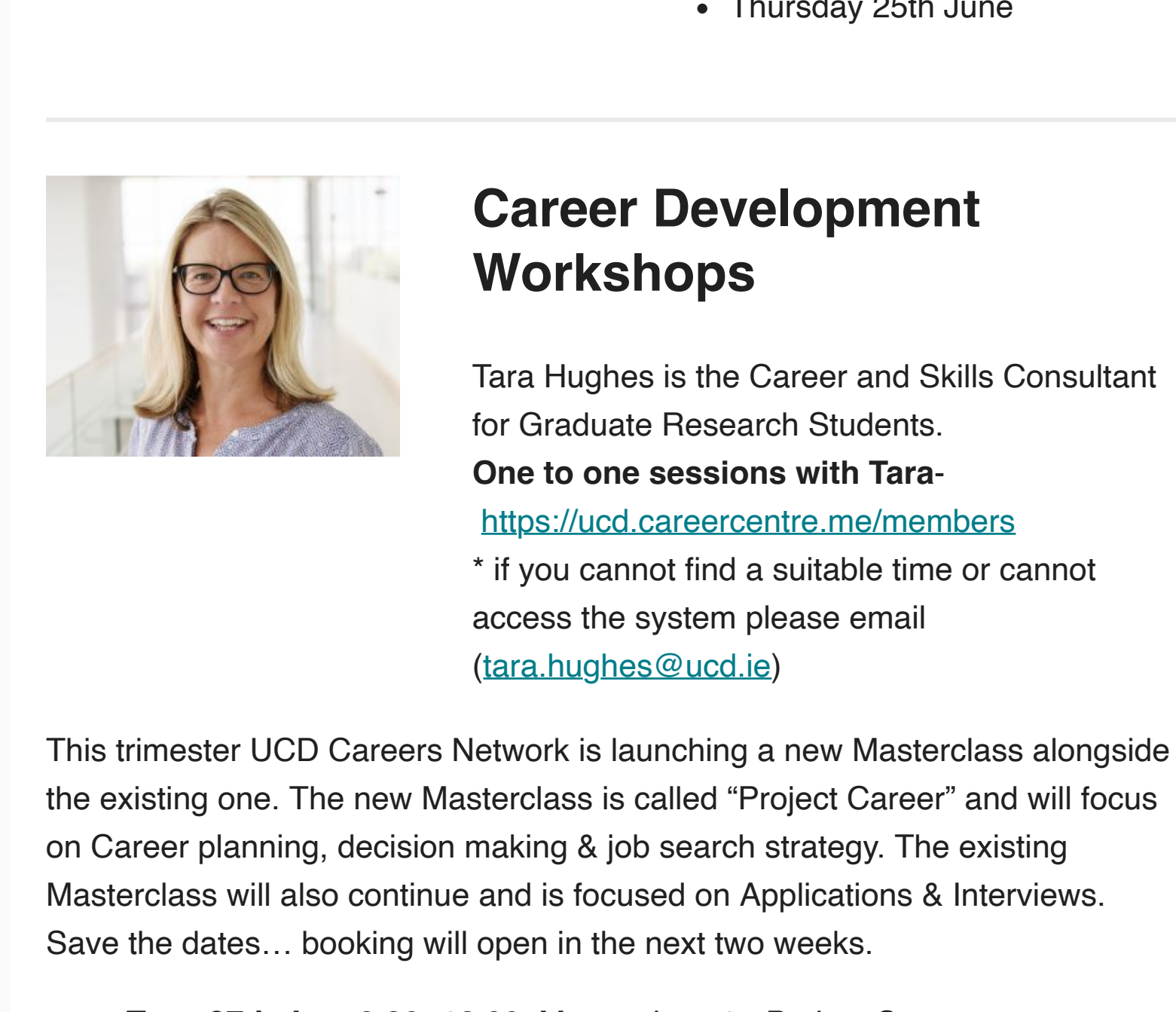
This is a two-day thesis-writing bootcamp for late-stage PhD students, who potentially struggle with lack of motivation, writer's block, sense of isolation, thesis fatigue, or simply those who need support, place, time, and structure to focus solely on writing.

Dates:

- Friday 27 March, 9am-5pm and
- Saturday 28 March, 10am-3pm

The [application form](#) to be completed by the applicant and submitted to writing_centre@ucd.ie by Tuesday 24 February 2026.

Any queries to Dr Zeljka Doljanin zeljka.doljanin@ucd.ie



Irish Professional Photographers & Videographers Association (IPPVA)

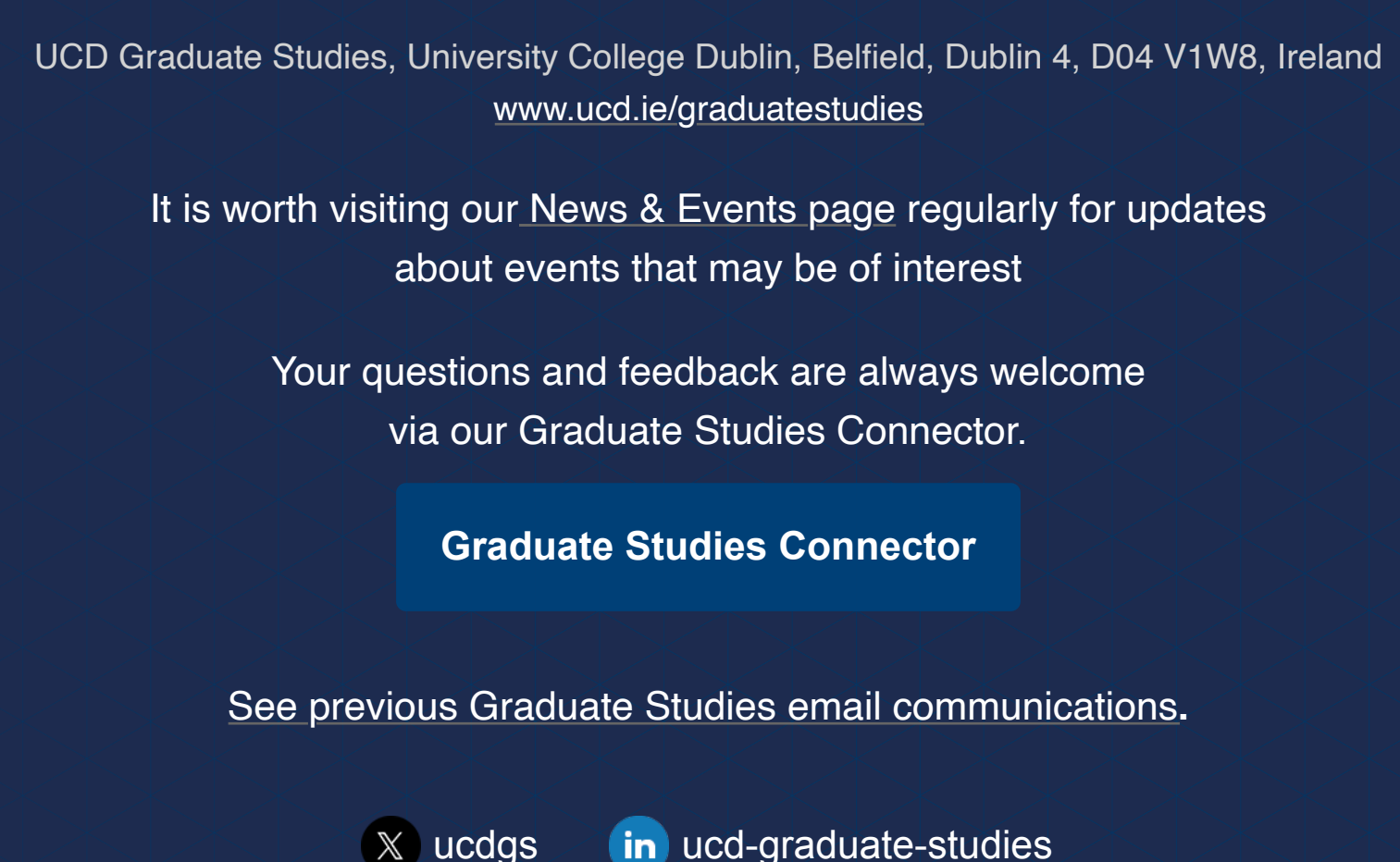
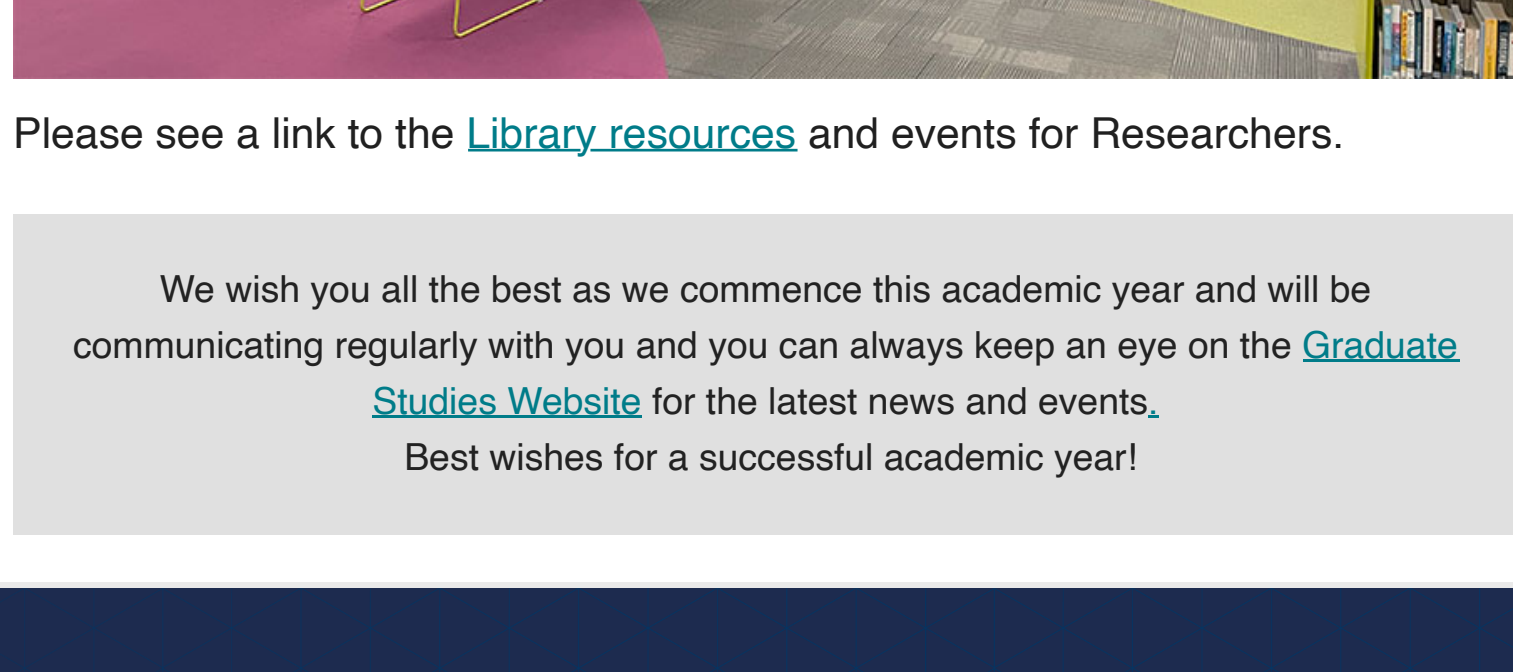
Are hosting their annual conference in Dublin on **23rd and 24th January**.

Full details can be found at <https://www.ippva.com/ippva-conference-23rd-january-2026/>.

Student rates are available and group access can be discussed should a group be interested in formal attendance.

2026 program is centred on several high-level areas that intersect with current academic research and professional development:

- **Intellectual Property (IP) & Digital Rights:** Featuring direct input and advice from the **Intellectual Property Office** on protecting creative assets in a shifting digital landscape.
- **Economic Sustainability & Business Resilience:** Addressing the fiscal challenges of the creative economy, including taxation, long-term planning, and industry-standard sustainability.
- **Professional Standards & Ethics:** Sessions led by world-class practitioners such as **Julia Dunin** (World Photographic Cup 2026, Best of Nation - Team Ireland) and **Noel McIntyre** (Leica Master Shot recipient) on maintaining excellence in a globalised market.



Post Graduate Research Student Survey 2025 follow up

UCD recently received the results of the 2025 PGR StudentSurvey.ie that 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 areas for 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 Student Experience Quality Enhancement Action Plans. These plans use the survey data to establish specific goals for the coming year and will be evaluated prior to the 2027 survey cycle.

While UCD achieved a 33% response rate in 2025, we aim to sustain and build upon this engagement. Your direct feedback is a vital tool; it actively shapes School-level decisions and helps us enhance the university experience for 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. An extended section on student supports that Eamonn can help you with is on UCD Student Advisers

website: www.ucd.ie/studentadvisers

Graduate Research Student Coffee Mornings

The monthly Graduate Research Student Coffee morning provides a great opportunity for students to meet with other graduate research students, share experiences and insights, 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

The full schedule of dates for 2025/26 is available below so if you're new to UCD or continuing your studies, keep an eye out for an email nearer the time with details on how to sign up.

2025/26 Schedule

Venue: TBC

Time: 10.30 - 11.30am

- Thursday 29th January
- Thursday 26th February
- Thursday 26th March
- Thursday 30th April
- Thursday 28th May
- Thursday 25th June

Career Development Workshops

Tara Hughes is the Career and Skills Consultant for Graduate Research Students.

One to one sessions with Tara- <https://ucd.careercentre.me/members>

* if you cannot find a suitable time or cannot access the system please email (tara.hughes@ucd.ie)

This trimester UCD Careers Network is launching a new Masterclass alongside the existing one. The new Masterclass is called "Project Career" and will focus on Career planning, decision making & job search strategy. The existing Masterclass will also continue and is focused on Applications & Interviews. Save the dates... booking will open in the next two weeks.

- **Tues 27th Jan:** 9.30 - 12.00: Masterclass 1 - Project Career
- **Wed 25th Feb:** 9.30 - 12.00 Masterclass 2 - Applications & Interviews
- **Thurs 5th March:** 10.00 - 12.30: Masterclass 1 - Project Career
- **Wednesday 15th April:** 9.30 - 12.00 Masterclass 2 - Applications & Interviews

Please see a link to the [Library resources](#) and events for Researchers.

We wish you all the best as we commence this academic year and will be communicating regularly with you and you can always keep an eye on the [Graduate Studies Website](#) for the latest news and events. Best wishes for a successful academic year!

