



HEALTH SCIENCES DOCTORAL TRAINING CENTRE



Welcome



It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the **Health Sciences Doctoral Training Centre (HSDTC)**! We are here to support your scientific and professional training needs throughout your research degrees.

The centre is funded through King's College London and in line with the college's vision, the centre is focused on providing world-class research education across the health sciences, to establish a culture of mentorship and professional developmental training, relevant to each individual student.

We offer a wide range of opportunities in research, professional, and career development skills using a variety of approaches, including in-person sessions, online sessions, workshops, and self-study tutorials. We also offer access to a wide range of digital resources.

We have a strong focus on participation and building diverse communities across the health sciences. We have a Buddy Scheme, a PGR Student Forum Fund, and after a hiatus, our Annual Research Symposium returns.

We will continue to evolve our training strategy to include blended learning. Of course, we recognize the value in face-to-face sessions – we really want to meet you! However, we also know that online sessions are more accessible and will have a wider reach, so we will continue to offer much of our training virtually.

We hope you enjoy this brochure. You'll find out more about what we do, who we are, and how to contact us. For more information you can always visit our website kcl.ac.uk/healthsciences and we are active on Twitter [@Kings_HSDTC](https://twitter.com/Kings_HSDTC) to get the most up-to-date information.

If you have any questions, or any suggestions for courses you'd like to see the HSDTC organize, please do not hesitate to contact us on hs-dtc@kcl.ac.uk.

Dr Nick Puts
Director, Health Sciences Doctoral Training Centre

About the Health Sciences Doctoral Training Centre

The HSDTC provides training, development and careers support for the 1,800 doctoral research students in the four Health Faculties¹ at King's College London, irrespective of funding stream.

The HSDTC:

- is structured around seven **interdisciplinary research themes**
- delivers a **comprehensive training programme** for doctoral research students
- encourages collaboration and cohort building across the Health Faculties via a range of **bursaries and prizes**, the **HSDTC Buddy Scheme**, and the **HSDTC Annual Research Symposium**

At the heart of the HSDTC is our training programme, which includes online, blended learning, interactive workshops and wet lab-based courses, across four broad areas:

**Research Methods
& Skills**

**Communication
& Impact**

**Careers &
Employability**

Doctoral Essentials

¹ The four Health Faculties at King's College London are: the Faculty of Dentistry, Oral & Craniofacial Sciences; the Faculty of Life Sciences & Medicine; the Florence Nightingale Faculty of Nursing, Midwifery & Palliative Care; and the Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology & Neuroscience.

How to book courses

You'll find brief course outlines and booking links on the following pages in this brochure and on our online **course listings**, which will be updated regularly throughout the year. You can also search for HSDTC courses directly on **SkillsForge**.

Most courses can be booked easily through **SkillsForge**, but please see our **training FAQs** if you have any queries about bookings.

Training partners

The HSDTC also partners with other training providers across King's College London and King's Health Partners:

- **Centre for Doctoral Studies**
- **LISS Doctoral Training Partnership**
- **MRC Doctoral Training Partnership**
- **Centre for Stem Cells & Regenerative Medicine**
- **Department of Biostatistics & Health Informatics**
- **Maudsley Biomedical Research Centre**
- **Innovation Scholars: Big Data Skills Training**

King's is also part of the **Bloomsbury Postgraduate Skills Network**.

As an HSDTC student you will be able to access their courses. Some are available through **SkillsForge**, others you will have to book directly. Please check their websites for training opportunities and application processes.

You may also wish to look at these additional **online resources** provided by or through King's College London or offered for free by other organisations.

KING'S CLINICAL ACADEMIC TRAINING OFFICE (KCATO)
tinyurl.com/KCATOhub | [@Kings_CATO](https://twitter.com/Kings_CATO)

King's College London and our health partners provide a world-leading centre for clinical academic training. Navigating both a research and a clinical career path poses unique challenges, so we have launched a bespoke programme of support for **health professional researchers** at King's, including:

- Support networks and events for connecting and sharing experiences, as well as provide practical advice on juggling multiple commitments;
- Navigating the clinical academic pathway and opportunities to hear from health professional researchers further on in the career path;
- Information on funding for your clinical academic research.

Health professional doctoral researchers can also participate in the **HSDTC Buddy Scheme** and be matched with a more experienced doctoral researcher.



Staying in touch

All doctoral research students in the Health Faculties at King's are automatically registered with the HSDTC, and receive a monthly newsletter highlighting upcoming courses, events, and other opportunities; please let us know if you're not receiving your newsletter or if you would like to be added to our mailing list.

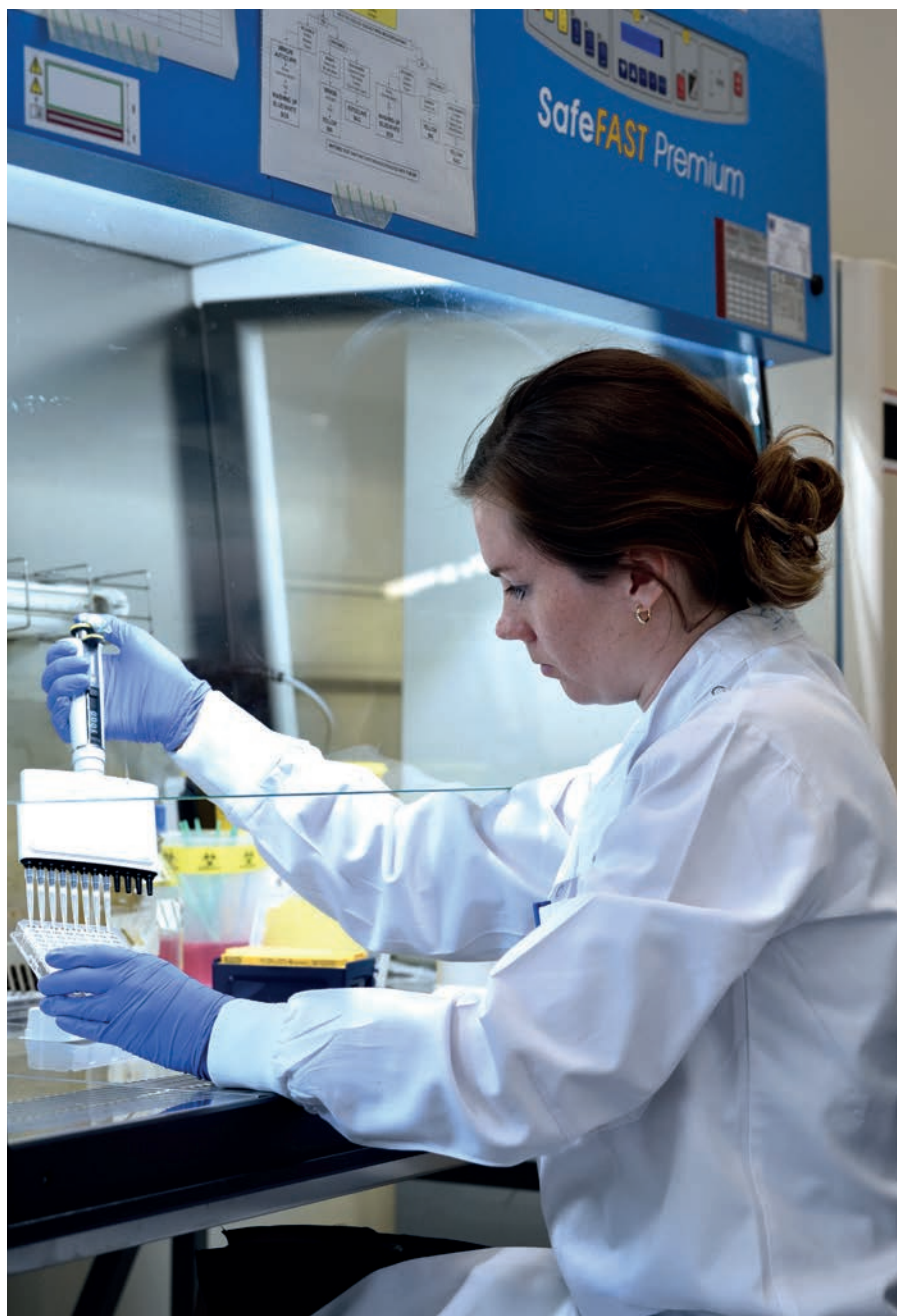
To find out more, please visit the HSDTC website or follow us on Twitter. If you have any queries, feedback, or suggestions, or want to get in touch about anything else, please feel free to email us.

👉 kcl.ac.uk/healthsciences

🐦 @Kings_HSDTC

✉️ hs-dtc@kcl.ac.uk

Throughout this brochure where you see a hyperlink to a webpage, you can also find the information on our HSDTC web page: kcl.ac.uk/healthsciences



RESEARCH METHODS & SKILLS

CLINICAL RESEARCH & ETHICS

Principles of Clinical Research (HSDTC2)

Build a comprehensive understanding of the principles of clinical research best practice, from design to delivery to closure. For researchers who develop and deliver clinical research projects with human subjects.

Clinical Research Protocol Development (HSDTC3)

Build a comprehensive understanding of research protocols and how to develop one in accordance with best practice. For researchers who develop and deliver clinical research, including CTIMPs.

Managing Early Phase Clinical Trials: Principles and Practice (HSDTC121)

This interactive online course is for doctoral researchers who want to learn about the principles and practice of managing early phase clinical trials, and combines presentations, discussions and exercises.

Informed Consent for Research (HSDTC4)

Explore the concept and principles of informed consent for research, from historical development to an understanding of legislative and ethical considerations for research practitioners.

'Many thanks to the HSDTC for providing me with an excellent range of training courses – they have made a difficult task easier and have allowed me to learn essential skills for completing my PhD!' **Stuart, Basic & Clinical Neuroscience PhD Student**

Being Sustainable in Science Laboratories

(HSDTC108) This short course introduces laboratory sustainability and provides context for its growing importance, and will conclude with a discussion of future science trends and how you can get more involved.

Research Governance, Ethics and Integrity

The Research Governance, Ethics and Integrity department at King's is committed to enabling researchers to achieve research excellence by supporting the King's research community to ensure that all research conducted is safe, lawful, and of the highest standards of integrity and rigour.

BIOINFORMATICS & STATISTICS

DataCamp Subscription (HSDTC20)

DataCamp is one of the leading online resources for learning to programme in the main languages used in data analysis. Look out for announcements for the next round of subscriptions.



Introduction to Python for Biologists (HSDTC36) **In-person course** This introductory level course is for doctoral researchers in the health sciences with a biological background but with no previous programming experience, with an emphasis on practical problem-solving.

Advanced Python for Biologists (HSDTC26)
In-person course A more advanced course for doctoral researchers in the health sciences with a basic knowledge of Python who want to write more complex programs, deal with larger datasets, or contribute to existing software projects.

RNA-Seq Analysis with Babraham Bioinformatics (HSDTC116)

Introduction to the quality control, processing, and analysis of RNA-Seq data, starting with a comprehensive lecture covering the theory of RNA-Seq data generation and analysis and followed by hands-on practical sessions.

ChIP-Seq Analysis with Babraham Bioinformatics (HSDTC117)

A complete introduction to the theory and practice of the analysis of ChIP-Seq data, this course is designed for biologists who may have limited practical bioinformatics skills but who would like to use ChIP-Seq as part of their work.

Extracting Biological Information from Gene Lists with Babraham Bioinformatics (HSDTC118) This course looks at the various software packages, databases and statistical methods which may be of use in performing structured functional analysis on gene lists in order to try to automatically determine any interesting biological themes which turn up.

Introduction to Statistics for Researchers (on-demand on KEATS) The course is for doctoral researchers and research staff who wish to learn more about statistical methods and apply statistical techniques in practice.

Analysing Qualitative Data (PGR316) This course will consider and discuss a range of issues relative to the micro-analysis of qualitative data, including coding systems, choosing extracts for analysis, and the meaning and importance of interpretation.

Using NVivo for Qualitative Research (PGR317) This course introduces the NVivo software package. All of the basic functions of NVivo will be covered, including the importation, storage, and organisation of various data sources, the potential for transcription, the creation of cases and nodes, and classifications and attributes.

Innovation Scholars: Big Data skills training for the health workforce

King's has launched a new UKRI-funded flexible and modular training programme to upskill health care professionals, researchers and industry partners. Training modules cover three areas i) **Health Data Science** exploring electronic data records; ii) **'Omics** harnessing genetics and molecular data collected in online databases; and iii) **Artificial Intelligence** focusing on data image analysis and understanding AI through practical applications.



ute Canteen



COMMUNICATION & IMPACT

Masterclass in Compelling Communications

(PGR198) Are you looking to learn how to tell a story through your research? Join the Entrepreneurship Institute for a masterclass in compelling communication. Regardless of discipline, by honing your compelling communication skills, you will be able to convey your research effectively to any audience. This masterclass will provide you with the essential tools needed to differentiate yourself among fellowship funding applications and panel interviews, both in academia and outside of academia.

Turbocharge Your Writing (PGR270) Learn the secret to high output, low stress scholarly writing, using clear and practical strategies that can greatly increase your writing productivity.

Virtual Writing Retreat (CRSD28) Do you have a deadline for a thesis chapter, grant application or paper coming up? These Virtual Writing Retreats give you time, peace, and space to fend off procrastination and beat writer's block!

Publishing a Scientific Research Paper

(PGR261) Gain insights from a former journal editor who knows scientific journals from many angles and learn how to choose a journal and then write and structure your paper and get it through peer review.

Focus on Peer Review – Nature

Masterclass For students and researchers in the natural sciences who are new to publishing or wish to refresh their skills

Scientific Writing and Publishing – Nature

Masterclass For students and researchers

in the natural sciences who are new to publishing or wish to refresh their skills.

Narrative Tools for Researchers – Nature

Masterclass For researchers in the natural sciences who want to enhance their communication to their peers by using narrative tools to tell their research story.

How to Write a Great Research Paper, and Get it Accepted by a Good Journal

(HSDTC82) This course is for doctoral researchers and ECRs in the health sciences who are seeking guidance and experience in preparing papers for publication in English in respected journals.

Presenting your Research with Confidence in the Health Sciences (HSDTC89)

This workshop will provide a clear step-by-step structure that you can use again and again to give high quality presentations. For doctoral researchers in the health sciences.

Three Minute Thesis (PGR600) Could you explain your doctoral thesis to an audience in just three minutes? The King's College London Three Minute Thesis competition is open to all doctoral researchers at King's.

Communicating your Research and Experience for Business (HSDTC123)

This course will help doctoral researchers to engage more confidently with businesses by translating their research and academic experience in a way that is relevant to businesses.

Pitching to Journalists (HSDTC132) Learn how to get onto a journalists' radars, and the benefits of building a strong network of journalists as your research career progresses.

How Social Media Can Help Your Research Career (HSDTC105) Learn about the power and effectiveness of social media as a researcher and develop your own tailored approach and manageable long-term social media strategy.

Benefits of Writing a Press Release and How to Do It (HSDTC106) Get a journalist's take on how to compose a press release with genuine impact. From headlines and embargoes to notes to editors, you'll learn about every aspect of the press release and distribution.

VISUAL COMMUNICATIONS PATHWAY (KEATS)
The use of effective graphic design and the inclusion of well-designed and executed scientific figures can significantly improve your ability to communicate your work to peers and a wider audience. However, learning to use advanced graphic design and photo editing software without support can be challenging and off-putting. All of the courses listed below form part of the Visual Communication Pathway for PGRs in the Health Faculties.

'This was excellent and I learned a lot and gained confidence from doing it. It was helpful for more than doing press releases and thinking about my research as a whole.' (HSDTC106: *What Journalists Look for in a Press Release.*) **PhD Student, Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology & Neuroscience**

Adobe Photoshop for Scientists – Producing High-Quality Figures with Integrity (HSDTC95) For doctoral researchers in the health sciences wishing to prepare and present figures containing image data in papers, grant applications, seminars, posters, and theses.

Adobe Illustrator for Scientists (HSDTC96) For doctoral researchers in the health sciences wishing to prepare and present diagrams, schematics, figures and data in papers, grant applications, seminars, posters, and theses.



Good Graphic Design Practice for Scientific Visual Communication (HSDTC80)

For doctoral researchers and research staff in the health sciences who want to learn how to create better figures for use in their work.

Creating Adaptable Figures Using Adobe Illustrator (HSDTC81)

For doctoral researchers and research staff in the health sciences who want to learn how to create better figures for use in their work.

Creating Better Figures, Presentations and Posters in MS PowerPoint (HSDTC133) Apply the basics of good graphic design when creating figures, presentations and posters in MS PowerPoint software. You will be provided with example posters and figures that you can then edit to improve their visual communication, with guidance and advice from the course trainer.

CAREERS & EMPLOYABILITY

King's Careers & Employability: Resources, Webinars and 1-2-1s Bespoke careers support for King's PGRs, offering 1-2-1s, workshops, webinars, and resources. The team also produce a podcast just for PGRs called Careers in Your Ears. [anchor.fm/careersinyourears](https://www.anchor.fm/careersinyourears)

What's Next? Career Options in the Health Sciences (HSDTC1)

Whatever direction your future career takes, these sessions will give you invaluable insights into your options, whether inside or outside of academia.

Advancing in Academia: Health Sciences (on-demand on KEATS)

An on-demand training course for doctoral researchers and postdocs in health and life sciences at King's who are aspiring to a career in academia.

Royal Literary Fund Writing Fellows

We host two Royal Literary Fund Writing Fellows, who can help you to improve and refine your writing skills. They are professional writers who offer 1-2-1 sessions to help with a diverse set of writing skills including accurate grammar, overcoming writer's block, fluent academic style, literature reviews, and more.

Participants will understand the value of working collaboratively to benefit research and maximise impact.

DOCTORAL ESSENTIALS

Masterclass in Personal Effectiveness (PGR336)

This masterclass will teach the fundamentals of a growth mindset and personal resilience through identifying common mental blocks and creating positive working and thinking habits to address them. This workshop will cover time management techniques to assist with the proactive planning and prioritising of research. Participants will grow their confidence in testing the boundaries and how to navigate unexpected results or roadblocks.

Masterclass in Disruptive Thinking: Up-Level your Impact (PGR197)

Are you looking to engage in your research in a new way? Join the Entrepreneurship Institute for a masterclass in disruptive thinking, regardless of discipline, the skill of disruptive thinking will help you grow as an academic by enabling you to develop and explore new problems and engage with existing ones in creative, novel ways. This masterclass will provide you with



the essential tools to test boundaries and confidently pioneer new ways of approaching things that challenge the status quo.

Effective Collaboration in Research – Nature Masterclass For researchers in the natural sciences who wish to participate in or set up and lead collaborative projects.

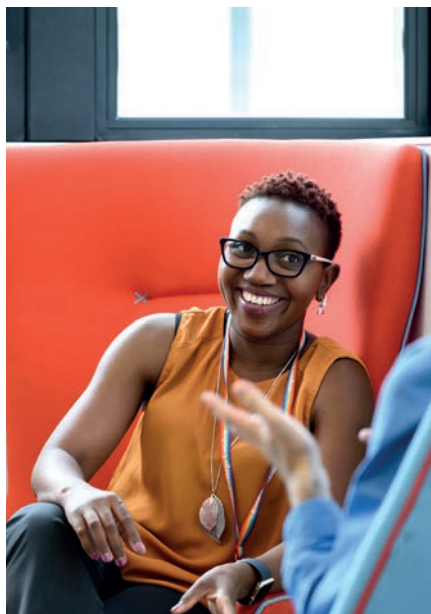
Managing Research Data to Unlock its Full Potential – Nature Masterclass For researchers in the natural sciences who want to develop their data management skills or mentor others through the process.

Starting Your PhD in the Sciences (PGR100) Get an overview of the PhD: what it is, what to expect and how to manage a research project effectively; aimed at first year students in biomedical and health sciences, medicine, dentistry, etc.

Preparing for the Upgrade in the Sciences (PGR174) For PhD students in the sciences going into their upgrade, this session will provide guidance on how to construct your upgrade report and help to prepare you for your interview/presentation.

Writing Up the Thesis in the Sciences (PGR103) For PhD students in the sciences who are entering their writing-up phase, this session will address the structure and content of a thesis and will explore writing strategies and how to cope with ‘writer’s block’.

The Seven Secrets of Highly Successful Research Students (PGR237) Find out what doctoral researchers do to finish on time, overcome isolation, doubt and writer’s block, and enjoy the process, while spending time with family and friends and perhaps even having holidays!





Other opportunities

The HSDTC encourages collaboration and cohort building across the Health Faculties via a range of **bursaries and prizes**, the **HSDTC Buddy Scheme**, and the **HSDTC Annual Research Symposium**.

BURSARIES

HSDTC ADVANCED TRAINING FUND

Up to £300 to support training in a method, technique or application to advance your doctoral research project.

HSDTC BIOSTATISTICS & HEALTH INFORMATICS BURSARIES

Up to £475 towards a short course at the **Department of Biostatistics & Health Informatics**.

HSDTC DOCTORAL SUMMER SCHOOL BURSARIES

Up to £375 to support your attendance at doctoral Summer Schools delivered across King's.

PGR STUDENT FORUM FUND

Up to £750 to support your new or existing PGR Student Forum. Recently funded groups include the **Denmark Hill PGR Association** and the **FANS & CAP PhD Student Forum**.

PRIZES

HSDTC SCIENCE COMMUNICATION PRIZE

How well can you communicate your research and its significance to non-experts? Submit a newspaper style article for the chance to win £300 and be featured on our website.

'The HSDTC PGR Student Forum fund gave us the platform we needed to get some much needed social activity going on at the Denmark Hill campus for PGRs... It allowed DHPGR to become more established and put together some wonderful socials such as games and movie nights and pub quizzes' **Dhruti, Denmark Hill PGR Students' Association**

HSDTC SCIENCE IMAGE PRIZE

An annual contest to find the best images that represent the excellent doctoral research that goes on across the Health Faculties at King's, culminating in an exhibition and awards ceremony, with a chance to win £300.

HSDTC BUDDY SCHEME

First year doctoral researchers are paired with a second, third- or fourth-year student to support them during the first twelve months of their doctoral studies at King's.

HSDTC ANNUAL RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

The **HSDTC Annual Research Symposium** is your chance to meet and network with fellow doctoral researchers from other departments and faculties, to showcase your research through a science poster, and to gain valuable new skills and insights through mini-masterclasses.

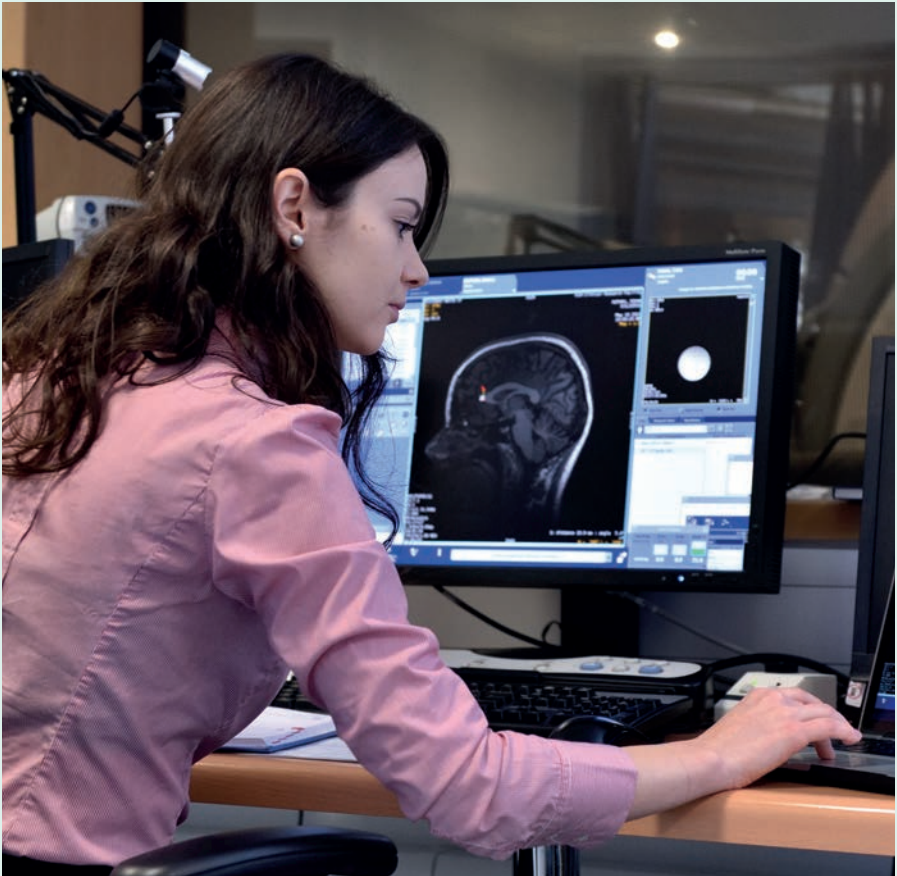
**LOOKING FOR PODCAST INSPIRATION?
CHECK OUT THESE PODCASTS FOR DOCTORAL
STUDENTS BY DOCTORAL STUDENTS**

PHDEETS

A podcast for people currently doing or considering doing a PhD in the UK. Hosted by Nicol, Katie and Carolin, researchers working and studying at the Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology & Neuroscience. phdeets.buzzsprout.com

POSTDOCALYPSE

A podcast by postgrad students about all things postgrad. Once you finish your PhD, there's the big question about whether to continue along the academic path or take one of the many alternative routes on offer. This podcast shares the highs and the lows of postgraduate study and looks at options for post PhD. soundcloud.com/kings-hsdtc





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