

Dear Postgraduate Researchers at Scottish Universities,

We are writing to share an opportunity for Postgraduate Research (PGR) students to contribute to an important national enhancement project being led by **sparqs** ([student partnerships in quality Scotland](#)), Scotland's national agency for student engagement.

sparqs is undertaking a project to develop a **Model of the Postgraduate Research Experience**, to sit alongside the [existing model for taught students](#). This new PGR model will play a key role in quality enhancement processes across Scotland and will form part of Scotland's **Tertiary Quality Enhancement Framework**. It is essential that the model reflects the **authentic lived experience of current PGRs**, and sparqs is keen to hear directly from you.

Invitation to Participate in a National Workshop

sparqs is inviting PGRs from across Scotland to take part in an **interactive workshop in 2026** that will contribute directly to the design of the PGR Experience model. The workshops are designed to explore the question: **"What are the key elements of the postgraduate research experience?"**

Participant contributions will directly influence the final model, including its core building blocks and reflective questions, which will be used to support enhancement of postgraduate research programmes across Scotland.

Workshop Dates

There are **two workshops available for current PGRs**, both covering the same content. You only need to attend **one** session. Please choose the date that suits you best:

- **Workshop 1:** [Wednesday 11th March 2026](#), 2.00–5.00pm (PGRs)
- **Workshop 2:** [Monday 27th April 2026](#), 2.00–5.00pm (PGRs)

Register your attendance in advance at one of the links above.

A third workshop will be held separately with staff who support or supervise PGRs at institutions and sector agencies:

- **Workshop 3:** [Tuesday 18th March 2026](#), 10.00am–1.00pm (staff and agencies)

Alternative Ways to Contribute

PGRs in Scotland who are unable to attend either workshop are encouraged to share their views via an [asynchronous online form](#), ensuring that a wide range of experiences can inform the final model.

Why Take Part?

This is an excellent development opportunity to:

- Contribute directly to a **national resource** that will shape future PGR provision.
- **Influence** how postgraduate research experiences are understood and improved across Scotland.
- Ensure **PGR voices** are central to quality enhancement work.

All participants who contribute to the model's design (by attending the workshop and/or by participating asynchronously) will have the option to be **credited by name for their contributions** on the model's webpage. We will also be thanking participants (by name) via a thank you post on LinkedIn and other sparqs social media.

Further Information

If you have any questions about the project, please contact:

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We encourage all PGRs to consider taking part and contributing to this important piece of national enhancement work and thank you for your participation.