

Dear Colleagues who support Postgraduate Researchers,

We are writing to invite staff, sector agencies, and other stakeholders who support postgraduate researchers (PGRs) 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**.

To ensure the model is robust, meaningful and reflective of the full postgraduate research landscape, sparqs is seeking the insights of staff who **supervise, support, and shape the PGR experience** across the sector.

## Invitation to Participate in a National Workshop

sparqs is hosting a series of **interactive workshops in 2026** to inform the design of the PGR Experience model. These sessions are designed to capture perspectives on the question: **"What are the key elements of the postgraduate research experience?"**

Input from staff and sector stakeholders will directly influence the structure of the model, including its core building blocks and reflective questions, which will be used to support enhancement activity within postgraduate research programmes across Scotland.

## Workshop for Staff and Sector Agencies

A dedicated workshop has been scheduled for supervisors, professional staff, and sector agencies who support PGRs:

- **PGR Experience Model Workshop:** [Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2026](#), 10.00am–1.00pm (*Supervisors, relevant staff, and sector agencies*)

This session will provide an opportunity to reflect on the PGR experience from a staff and sector perspective and to contribute professional insight to a nationally significant resource.

Two separate workshops will be held with current Postgraduate Researchers (and staff are encouraged to invite any current PGR at a Scottish institution to participate in these sessions):

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

## Alternative Ways to Contribute

Staff 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?

Participation offers an opportunity to:

- Contribute to a **national quality enhancement resource**.
- Ensure staff and sector perspectives **meaningfully inform** the design of the PGR Experience Model.
- Support the development of a **shared understanding** of the PGR experience across Scotland.
- Influence enhancement approaches to enhancing the student experience within the **Tertiary Quality Enhancement Framework**.

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:

Chase Greenfield  
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We would welcome your involvement and encourage you to share this invitation with colleagues who may be interested in contributing and thank you for your participation.