

# Welcome to the Research Student Society!

Greetings new and existing students!

Wow- it is 2016 already- this time last year I was starting out fresh faced. My name is Verity and I am the chairperson for the *Research Students Society* (RSS) this year. I am going into my second year of a full time MPhil/PhD here at Worcester.

The past twelve months have been fantastic for me, with plenty of ups and downs. This year I am really keen to carry on the hard work of the previous students that established the *Postgraduate Research Society*. However, myself along with Alice (the vice-chairperson) and other current students have worked over the summer to make some changes to how our community works. Including a new name!

As you can see- from the following video, talk and information in the induction packs- we are trying to implement an **inclusive and flexible ecosystem for the RSS**. In the hope that this will encourage all of the student members and connected staff to engage.

Thank fully, being a research student at Worcester you automatically get membership! Please add you preferred email to our JISC mailing list. If you are reading this electronically then send me your email and I will add you.

Best wishes and hopefully see you all soon,



Verity Postlethwaite

@verity\_pos

[v.postlethwaite@worc.ac.uk](mailto:v.postlethwaite@worc.ac.uk)



# Research Student Society – Charter

The functions of the RSS are:

- to represent postgraduate research student interests around the university;
- to support postgraduate researcher students;
- to develop opportunities to share and disseminate research;
- to organise social events.

## Representation

The RSS facilitates student representation at multiple levels of the university; in order to voice and listen on behalf of postgraduate research students. This varies from university level committees, to the students union, to institute level. Information from these is presented at the meetings, either in person or through electronic reports.

## Meetings

We have meetings throughout the year to discuss a variety of topics. These include updates from representatives, upcoming events and other relevant issues brought to our attention. They run for around an hour, with the agenda sent out before for those that want to input digitally beforehand. Then minutes are sent out over JISC mail to document and formalise what has been discussed.

## Disseminate Research

We offer opportunities for students to present their work at both the informal seminar series and more formal research conferences. The seminar series are designed to practice presenting skills in front of a non-specific audience. The research conference attracts external speakers and audience is a more formal opportunity to hone in the presentation skills. The society collaborates and organises the various events so there is an opportunity to gain valuable experience putting the events together.

## Social Events

Research and personal experiences suggest that being a research student can be a lonely and isolating experience. The society attempts to reverse this by offering a supportive, informal and welcoming space for research students to meet. The spaces to meet and chat are: RSS meetings, JISC mail, Facebook group, Jenny Lind, social gatherings. Look out for key dates and links to plug into all these.

# Research Student Society – Structure

How can you get involved?

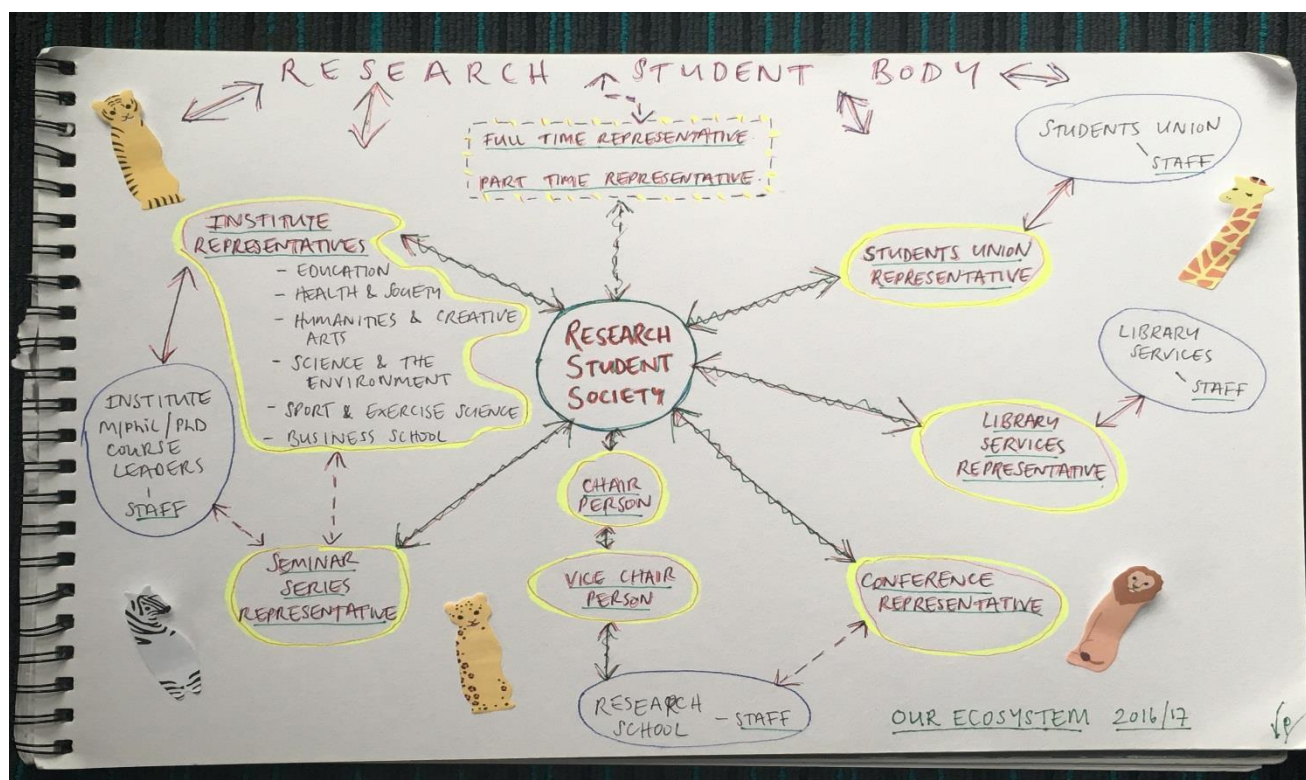
The design of the RSS ecosystem is so that willing volunteers can manage their time and schedules around contributing.

The duty of the representatives is to communicate and be contactable by the relevant students, staff. Then where necessary attend meetings or produce summaries for meetings electronically.

The following roles are in post for the twelve months of the 2016/17 academic year, so beginning October 2016 and ending October 2017.

<b>Chairperson</b>	To coordinate meetings, plan/organise/communicate with vice-chairperson and relevant people; to attend RKTC and RDPC university meetings
<b>Vice Chairperson</b>	To administer meetings and write up minutes; be available to cover for the chairperson
<b>Seminar Series Representative</b>	To communicate with institute research coordinators and institute representatives to host offer to host or contribute to a research event in each institute per academic year. Work with vice chairperson to promote, market and disseminate events
<b>Conference Representative</b>	To set up and coordinate the conference committee
<b>Library Services Representative</b>	To communicate with Library Services about any relevant updates for research students
<b>Full Time Student Representative</b>	Digital/virtual pointperson/concierge for full time students to contact with specific issues or feedback
<b>Part Time Student Representative</b>	Digital/virtual pointperson/concierge for part time students to contact with specific issues or feedback
<b>Students Union Representative</b>	To attend the Students Council and any relevant Students Union meetings

<b>Institute of Education Representative</b>	To attend their respective Institute Research Committee and communicate with research coordinators and seminar series secretary
<b>Institute of Health and Society Representative</b>	To attend their respective Institute Research Committee and communicate with research coordinators and seminar series secretary
<b>Institute of Science and the Environment Representative</b>	To attend their respective Institute Research Committee and communicate with research coordinators and seminar series secretary
<b>Institute of Humanities &amp; Creative Arts Representative</b>	To attend their respective Institute Research Committee and communicate with research coordinators and seminar series secretary
<b>Institute of Sport and Exercise Science Representative</b>	To attend their respective Institute Research Committee and communicate with research coordinators and seminar series secretary
<b>Worcester Business School Representative</b>	To attend their respective Institute Research Committee and communicate with research coordinators and seminar series secretary



## Research Student Society – Key Dates

<b>3<sup>rd</sup> October</b>	All day	Induction Day
<b>10<sup>th</sup> October 10-11:30</b>	10 – 11:30	Research Student Society Meeting
<b>December (date TBC)</b>	TBC	Christmas gathering
<b>14<sup>th</sup> February</b>	10 – 11:30	Research Student Society Meeting
<b>26<sup>th</sup> June</b>	TBC	Research Student Society Meeting
<b>TBC</b>		Seminar Series
<b>TBC</b>		Postgraduate Research Conference
<b>Ongoing online</b>		JISC mail – for key news and updates
<b>Ongoing online</b>		Survey Monkey – for contacting student representatives

Any concerns, curiosities or to add your preferred email to the JISC list, please contact Verity or Alice.

[v.postlethwaite@worc.ac.uk](mailto:v.postlethwaite@worc.ac.uk)

[a.burgin@worc.ac.uk](mailto:a.burgin@worc.ac.uk)

Have a great year! 😊