

Introduction

The Postgraduate Researcher (PGR) Network aims to cultivate a sense of community among and respond to the needs of PGRs across SIPR member universities. Bringing together researchers from diverse disciplinary and geographic backgrounds, it provides a space for social and academic connection – supporting members' wellbeing, development, and sense of belonging.

Key Themes

1. Fostering interdisciplinary dialogue and research translation
2. Crowdsourcing solutions to conceptual or methodological challenges
3. Navigating the opportunities, challenges, and everyday politics of academic life
4. Reducing the isolation often associated with doctoral research
5. Building social capital and practical experience

Highlights

- Professor Kirsteen Grant launched an ongoing series of fortnightly virtual writing retreats, providing dedicated writing time for researchers to progress their work and connect with colleagues in a supportive environment. To learn more and sign up, please follow [this embedded link](#).
- SIPR funded socials across Glasgow, Dundee and Edinburgh, creating opportunities for PGRs from different institutions to connect outside formal academic settings. Feedback from these events highlighted the value of increasing awareness of SIPR's activities and opportunities among PGRs, while informing plans for more varied and activity-based social events.
- SIPR hosted the International Summer School for Policing Scholars (ISSPS) 2026 at the University of Stirling. ISSPS is an international collaboration which, this year, brought 28 PGRs together with policing scholars and practitioners from across Britain, Sweden, Australia, and America. The programme provided opportunities to engage with a broad range of theoretical and methodological approaches, develop international networks, and reflect on how to work effectively with partners to deliver impactful research.

Looking Ahead

- SIPR will explore opportunities to develop funded internships with policing partners. These are still under development and discussion, but it would be hoped that by providing research experience, transferable skills, and sector knowledge beyond academia, these placements will support PGRs' pursuit of academic and non-academic careers. They could also create opportunities for partner organisations to draw on research expertise to inform the evaluation of policing policies and practices.
- We are keen to increase PGR awareness and uptake of SIPR opportunities - including research grants, funding for knowledge exchange and

dissemination, and development opportunities. As part of this, we plan to work with member universities to remove barriers to PGRs acting as Principal Investigators on SIPR-funded projects. Alongside this, we will explore the adoption of the Contributor Roles Taxonomy within SIPR reporting to improve transparency and recognition of individual research contributions.

- Building on feedback from recent PGR socials, the PGR Network will organise socials that bring PGRs together through non-academic workshops (e.g. investigative interviewing techniques), training opportunities (e.g. naloxone administration), and recreational activities (squash, bouldering, etc.). If you have ideas for future activities, please contact SIPR@napier.ac.uk.