Hello and welcome. I’m Dr Shirley Cooper. In this short video I will provide an introduction to the professional development opportunities in the Liverpool Doctoral College Development Programme, which are available for postgraduate researchers in the University of Liverpool.
As a new researcher, your first focus may be on your doctoral thesis. However, a thesis is just one of the outcomes of the PhD - the most significant output is you as a professional researcher.
Consider what you will need to achieve to be an outstanding researcher.

Clearly good subject knowledge is important, but you will also require skills to manage and succeed in your research and communicate your findings to others in the wider academic community.

These skills are also essential for your future career whether inside or outside Academia.
This wide range of research-related skills is captured in the Researcher Development Framework, or RDF, developed by the national organisation, Vitae.

The RDF outlines the range of skills and behaviours demonstrated by all researchers from a first year PGR to experienced professor

See our online resource For more information
LDC Development programme

"Students will be expected to develop the higher-level capabilities as outlined in the Researcher Development Statement."

UKRI Statement of Expectations for Doctoral Training

The LDC Development programme is shaped by the RDF and satisfies the UK Research and Innovation, Statement of Expectations for Doctoral Training.
The programme is divided into 7 key themes each based on workshops, webinars and online materials.
The Taking Ownership of your PhD theme has sessions specifically for those new to the PhD and including the highly recommended workshop with the same name.

Advice on the PGR toolbox and Help for international researchers.
The Resilience theme provides advice and support to help you manage the challenges of research life through a range of workshops, webinars and PGR led support.
The Creative & Critical Thinking theme includes workshops to develop skills in problem solving, innovation and critical thinking, using techniques in design thinking and Lego Serious Play.
Our Communication theme includes a wide provision. There are workshops and webinars in presentations and writing to help new researchers progress with these essential skills. Support for conference attendance and poster sessions And thesis writing workshops for those later on in their degree.
The Public Engagement theme offers workshops and an online course to help you make your research count and share it with the wider public.
Our Careers theme has an expansive provision of workshops, webinars, online Provision as well as one to one support to help you plan and prepare for the next step in your career.
Finally our Facilitation includes a series of events to develop your facilitation skills and learn how to create your own development events. This is essential training to join our Development Tutor Scheme where you can gain experience teaching on our programme.
All our online resources, with videos and podcasts, can be accessed in your own time from either our website or in Liverpool Life.
In Liverpool Life you will also find the PGR Portfolio of Activity, which is an online tool that allows you to record all your training and professional development during your research degree, including conferences and teaching experience and so on.

The tool is aligned to the RDF and Online help is available.
At the start of your degree you will need to plan your professional development with your supervisor, beginning with the Development Needs Analysis form.

Together you and your supervisor should agree on a training plan that combines subject related training, further training from the LDC Development team and from other University areas.

Your training and development is carried out over the year and is reviewed on an annual basis.
You can find further information on the LDC intranet site and the LDC Development team website.

News of upcoming events is sent out regularly in the LDC Newsletter and appear on the blog PGR news at Liverpool.

We look forward to meeting you at our upcoming events!