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 or LDC Development Programme, which are available for all postgraduate researchers in the University.
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 skills you will need to become that successful researcher.

While subject knowledge is important, you will also require skills to manage in your research, solve problems and communicate your findings to 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 wheel outlines the skills and behaviours demonstrated by all researchers from a first year researcher to experienced professor. Our online resource provides more information.
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 9 key themes under which we offer workshops, webinars and online materials.
The Taking Ownership of your PhD theme is for those new to the PhD, and includes a highly recommended workshop of the same name and further webinar support to help you plan your PhD journey to become that confident and effective researcher.
Life as a researcher can pose many challenges. We provide sessions with advice and support to help you build your resilience.

**Resilience**

- Taking Ownership of Your PhD
- Resilience
- Communication - Writing
- Communication - Presentations
- Research Productivity
- Creative & Critical Thinking
- Public Engagement
- Careers
- Facilitation

**Workshops and webinars with advice and support**
Research is only significant when you inform the wider community. We can help you develop the skills to find motivation and communicate your research effectively whether in writing for your thesis and for research publications.
As a researcher you need good presentation skills. We offer both highly practical sessions and advice to help you deliver convincing presentations, create academic posters and prepare for conferences.
Other sessions will help you identify and practise techniques to improve your work productivity, learn project management skills and achieve your own goals.
Skills in problem solving, innovation and critical thinking are also essential to research and we offer innovative sessions to develop new techniques here.
As a researcher you should identify how to make your research count and share it with the wider public. We provide support to help you start.
Our programme will help you take control of your own career planning early, start your career networking and prepare for applications later on when you are ready to the next step in your career.
Finally we can help you advance your facilitation skills and create your own development events through our Development Tutor Scheme, in which you can gain teaching in our programme.
Online Resources

- Available to all everywhere, anytime
- Supports your own development
- Available from Liverpool Life or PGR Development website

https://pcwww.liv.ac.uk/~pgro/Online%20Resources.htm

Our online resources, with videos and podcasts, provide additional support and can be accessed in your own time from our website or in Liverpool Life.
Liverpool Life includes the PGR Portfolio of Activity that allows you to record all your training and professional development during your research degree, including conferences and teaching experience and so on.

Online help and webinars are available to help you start.
At the start of your degree you will need to plan your professional development, starting 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.
The LDC Development website provides further information on the topics discussed here, and has contact details for all the team, Aimee, Sandra and myself.

Further information on our programme can also be found in the LDC Newsletter, our blog PGR news at Liverpool and Liverpool Life.

We look forward to meeting you at our upcoming events!