

Introduction by the Pro Vice Chancellors

Welcome to Newcastle University.

Congratulations on taking this next step on your education journey by choosing a research degree. No matter what field you are in, all research is about asking questions, and finding new knowledge in the answers. By the time you graduate, we want you to have answered some of your own questions, and in so doing to grow in confidence and gain skills and knowledge. That's a tall order, but we wouldn't have offered you a place unless we had confidence in you!

Everyone at the University is here to help you. Newcastle University is one of the UK's leading research universities, with more than 2,000 researchers and 2,000 research students. You should find all the resources and expertise that you need to answer your research questions here in our community, or if not you should be able to reach out through the University's vast number of collaborative research partnerships all around the world. Each Faculty has a Dean and a team who are responsible for ensuring that arrangements are in place to support your progress, and the University has also launched a Doctoral College which provides complementary support. Please work with people in these teams as well as with your programme directors and supervisors.

Importantly, the Newcastle University Students Union also has a sabbatical officer, Danica Limawan, who represents postgraduate students and will be delighted to hear from you, assist you and involve you in activities with other research students. Please also make use of the support and opportunities that the University provides across the board, from co-curricular clubs and societies to well-being and career services

While we aim to support you in every way possible, be in no doubt that your contribution matters too! You will discover that research is a team game, so everyone's contribution is important. You may be interested that for the UK Government's Research Excellence Framework (REF) exercise which assesses research in all UK universities, a large part of our submission describes the contributions made by post-graduate research students to our research and its beneficial impact on society, as well as describing how we support you.

Whatever your future holds, we hope that you will find research as deeply rewarding as we have and wish you every success.



Professor Brian Walker
Pro Vice Chancellor - Research Strategy & Resources



Professor Tom Ward
Pro Vice Chancellor - Education



Danica Limawan
Postgraduate Officer, Newcastle University Students' Union