Welcome to the latest edition of the PGR Highlights, which includes updates from the PGR QME Subcommittee.

We are in full Festival-planning mode at the moment and the final programme is beginning to take shape. Thank you to all those providing continued support with this project and we look forward to making the Third Festival of Doctoral Research another success!

March 2018

For action

- **Three Minute Thesis Grand Final**: Bookings are now open for the Three Minute Thesis Grand Final, taking place Thursday 17 May 2018. This promises to be a great event, showcasing eight doctoral researchers (one per faculty) who have each won their Faculty heat. We encourage you to come along and support your peers! So far, we have seven competitors who will be heading to the Grand Final. We will announce the final competitor once the Faculty Heat for Social, Human and Mathematical Sciences has taken place.

Competing in May are:

- **Humanities** - Isaac Gustafsson-Wood
- **Engineering and the Environment** - Alan Sanderson
- **Business, Law and Art** - Hang Tran
- **Health Sciences** - Norah Alhwoaimel
- **Natural and Environmental Sciences** - Rachel Owen
- **Physical Sciences and Engineering** - Daryus Chandra
- **Medicine** - Stephen Lim

Congratulations to everyone that took part in the heat stages of the competition! Take a look at the [Twitter highlights](#) from the Faculty Heats.
• **Festival of Doctoral Research 2018:** With just under 6 weeks to go, a number of events are now open for booking on the Festival of Doctoral Research website. Just a few of the events which are open for booking are:

  o **Doctoral College Director’s Awards** – Nominate a PGR for an award recognising an achievement outside of their research project. **Nominations close 27 April.**

  o **‘Bake Your PhD’ Showcase** – Enter your own bake, or simply come along to this showcase and cast your vote for your favourite ‘Bake Your PhD’ creation.

  o **Doctoral Research Showcase** – New for 2018, this event will showcase a wide variety of doctoral research projects from across the disciplines, through a mix of posters, exhibits and hands-on activities. [Applications to exhibit are now open!](#) PGRs who enter FSHMS showcase can enter the same poster into the Doctoral Research Showcase. The Showcase will be an open event for the University community (fellow PGRs/staff/students) to attend.

  o **Research Photography Competition** – Submit up to three photos to “Get your PhD noticed,” along with a short blurb. Prizes will be awarded to competition winners and the entries showcased at a special Festival Closing Reception. Entries close **27 April.**

  Themes (Inspired by EPSRC Annual Photography Competition):

  - Equipment and Facilities
  - Eureka and Discovery
  - Innovation
  - People and Skills
  - Weird and Wonderful

![Entries from 2016 & 2017 Photography Competition](#)

  o **Three Minute Thesis Grand Final** – as listed above.

• **Breaking Silos Conference:** The Faculty of Business, Law and Art Doctoral Research Conference takes place next week, 10 – 11 April. The conference will provide a unique opportunity to explore and benefit from creative and innovative cross-disciplinary research perspectives and methodologies. Registration to the conference is open and can be found [here](#).
To note

- **DTP/CDT Bid Process Update:** After an exhausting process, Southampton has submitted many outline bids in 2018 EPSRC and the UKRI AI CDT calls. Those who are selected to proceed to the full outline stage will be known in late April/early May. They will have until early July to provide a full bid for consideration.

- **SUSU PGR Officer:** Giles Howard will be on placement for eight weeks from April. He will continue to attend Doctoral College Board and PGR QME Subcommittee meetings, but will devolve support for other matters to his colleagues on the SUSU PGR Committee. Giles confirmed that he would continue as the SUSU PGR Officer over the summer, but would be stepping down from his role at the end of the 2017/18 academic year. The timing of the process for his replacement would be scheduled to coincide with other SUSU elections.

Should you have any queries regarding the content of this Digest, please contact the Director of your Faculty Graduate School in the first instance:

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I hope you find the digest a helpful source of information about the activities of the Doctoral College. If you have any suggestions to help improve the format or content of the digest please let me know.

Chris Howls
Director, Doctoral College

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**FESTIVAL OF DOCTORAL RESEARCH**

8 – 24 May 2018  
#PGRfestsoton