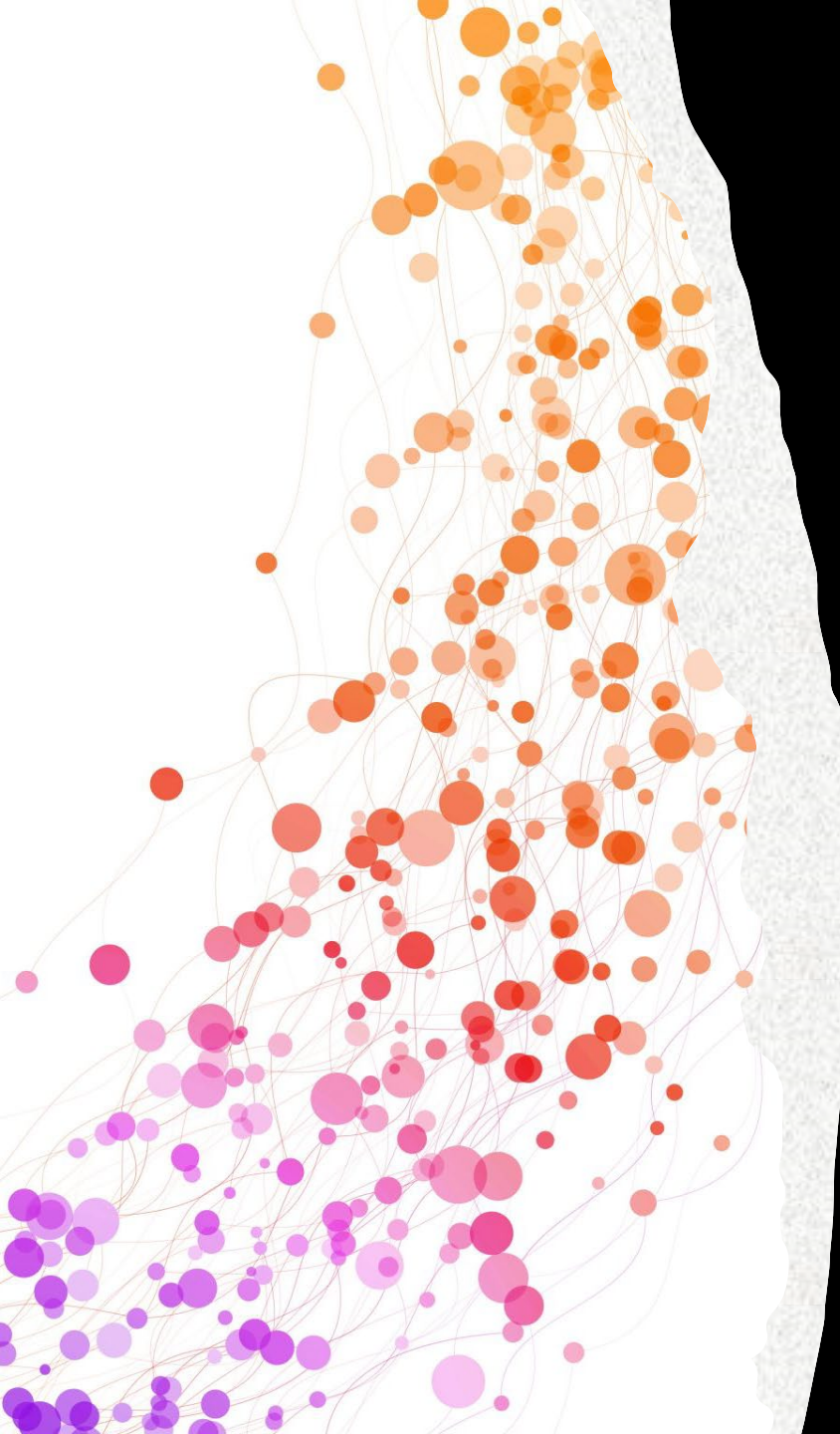




UKCGE Annual conference 2026

PGR Progression Monitoring Workshop

3 July 2026

Your hosts:

Julie Roberts, DBA Director,
GCU

Ole Pahl University AD-PGR,
GCU



Who are we?

Dr Julie Roberts

Programme Director: DBA

Senior Lecturer in Innovation Management

Supervised **11** doctoral students to completion

Examined **4** doctoral Vivas

Chaired over **25** doctoral viva voces



Professor Ole Pahl

University Associate Dean of Postgraduate Research Students

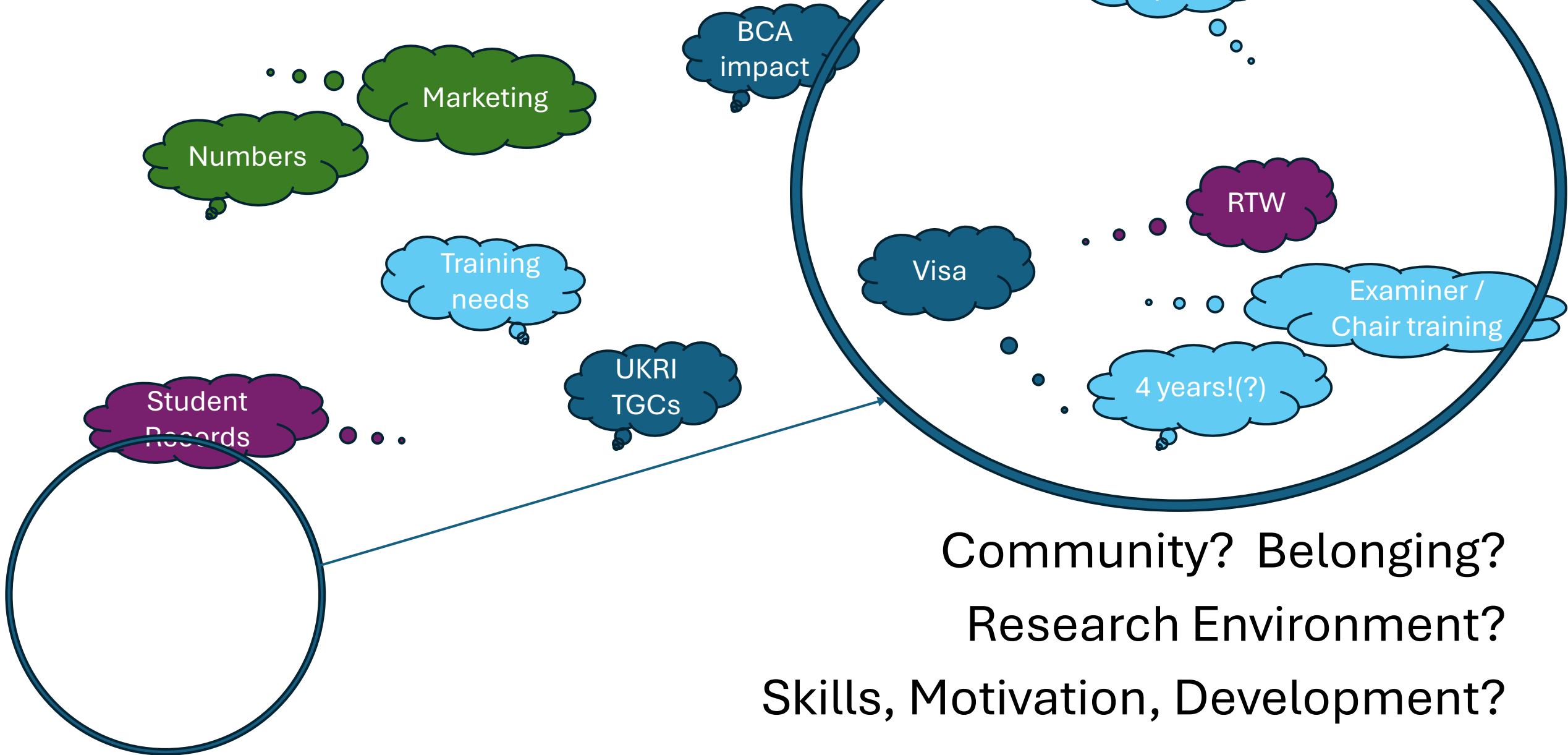
Chair of Research Degrees Committee

Professor in Department of Construction and Built Environment

Paid to worry about PRES 😊



Doctoral Journey Monitoring at GCU



Doctoral Progression: Context and Challenges



Doctoral completions rising in the UK



Student experience and progression quality under scrutiny



Doctoral journeys often complex and gruelling



Progression shaped by multiple interacting factors



Limited systematic data on progression drivers

Conventional (?)
approach to
Completion 1:
Selecting for
success

Recruitment aims to identify independent researchers

Hard to assess potential at interview

Need fair and transparent processes

Academic excellence alone does not ensure completion

Conventional (?) approach to Completion 2: Readiness for doctoral study



Engaged (?)
approach to
Completion 1:
Belonging and
wellbeing

Doctoral study can be isolating

Lower sense of belonging reported

Mental health challenges more prevalent

Need stronger community and support

Engaged (?) approach to Completion 2:

Supervisory support & Monitoring

Supervisor relationship is critical

Monitoring practices vary widely

Limited 'progression' data available

Balance academic and pastoral support

Re-definition of supervisory role from academic to life-coach?

Thematic monitoring & intervention points?

Theme	Core Question
1. Supervisory - Supervision and Research Support	How do supervisory relationships enable or hinder progression?
2. Social Integration - Belonging and Academic Community	How does integration into the research environment affect persistence?
3. Individual - Skills, Motivation and Researcher Development	What capabilities and personal attributes support progression?
4. Institutional/Environmental - Institutional Environment and Wellbeing	How do resources, policies and wellbeing shape completion?

From insight to action: workshop aim



Explore interventions



Identify key challenges



2 Collaborative discussions (10 mins)
2 Stand-up activities (5 mins)



Identify actionable ideas (10 mins)

4 Interactive Short sessions





Group Discussion 1 (10 mins)

Designing the Best PGR Culture & Experience

- ❖ In an *ideal world*, which potential monitoring / intervention actions are most likely to succeed?
- ❖ Individually: make a note of the two most promising actions for each theme

Theme	Core Question
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Individual Activity 1 (5 mins)

Map your own thoughts on the “Success Hemisphere”

Add suggestions for successful monitoring / intervention to the hemisphere

- ❖ X-axis: chance of success (1: low ...to ...10: high)
- ❖ Use coloured stickers to indicate thematic area of suggestion

Theme	Core Question
Supervisory - Supervision and Research Support	How do supervisory relationships enable or hinder progression?
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Institutional/Environmental - Institutional Environment and Wellbeing	How do resources, policies and wellbeing shape completion?

Group Discussion 2 (10 mins)

Designing the Best PGR Culture & Experience

- ❖ In the *real world*: What are the challenges in implementing potential monitoring / intervention actions that are most likely to succeed?
- ❖ Individually: make a note of the two most promising actions for each theme

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Individual Activity 2 (5 mins)

Map your own thoughts on the “Success Hemisphere”

Add suggestions for successful monitoring / intervention to the hemisphere

- ❖ X-axis: level of barriers / uncertainty ... or individual / collective experience
- ❖ Use coloured stickers to indicate thematic area of suggestion

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Take-home points

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
PARTICIPATION**

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