

University of Wolverhampton

BEYOND FUTURES RESEARCH STUDENT CONFERENCE 2026

Programme

When: 8 October 2026

Where: University of Wolverhampton City Campus,
4th Floor, Millennium City Building, Wulfruna St,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1LY

Research Student Conference

Guests are warmly invited to attend, engage, and support our talented research student community as they showcase their research.

Through inspiring keynotes, oral and poster presentations, the conference will explore how our research students are driving forward research in:

- ◆ Green innovation and sustainability
- ◆ Health and social care
- ◆ Inclusive communities

Conference Proceedings 2026

To read the extended abstracts for the conference presentations, scan the QR code or click on the link:

[Beyond Futures Research Student Conference Proceedings](#)



People's Choice Awards 2026

During the conference, vote for your favourite poster in the categories of:

- ◆ Visual Impact
- ◆ Clarity of Message
- ◆ Importance to Society

To vote, scan the QR code or click on the link to the [Research Student Posters 2026](#) (hosted by SurveyHero)



All oral presentation and poster prizes will be announced during the conference closing at 4:15pm.

Conference Schedule

08:45	Registration & Networking – Tea & Coffee (MC437)	
09:10	Welcome: Professor Prashant Pillai, Pro-Vice Chancellor Research & Knowledge Exchange (MC401)	
09:20	Keynote: Ethical AI use in Research - Dr Andrew Gascoyne (MC401)	Stepping up to a Research Degree: A Guide for Aspiring Doctoral Students (MC201)
10:00	Oral Presentations	
11:15	Break – Tea & Coffee (MC437)	
11:30	Oral Presentations	
12:50	Networking Lunch – Buffett (MC437)	
13:30	Poster Presentations - Exhibition & Engagement Session (MC437)	Reimagine your research: Make a zine workshop (MC413)
15:30	Keynote: Public and Community Engagement: Purpose and Practice for Research - Dr Martin Khechara (MC401)	
16:15	Conference closing & prizes – Professor Laura Caulfield, Dean of Research Culture & Postgraduate Research (MC401)	
16:30	Close	

This programme is correct at time of publishing but may be subject to change due to circumstances outside of our control. Please visit www.wlv.ac.uk/beyondfutures for any updates to the schedule.



Welcome Address

Time: 9:10am

Venue: Millennium City Building, 4th Floor (MC401)



Professor Prashant Pillai, MBE
Pro-Vice Chancellor, Research & Knowledge Exchange

Professor Prashant Pillai MBE, is an award-winning academic leader who has over 20 years of UK Higher Education experience.

Prashant's priorities are to embrace Research and Knowledge Exchange across the University and embark on a journey of sustained growth: promoting people, culture and ambition.

Prashant will welcome attendees and officially open the Beyond Futures Research Student Conference 2026.



Keynote: Ethical AI use in Research

Time: 9:20 - 9:50am

Venue: Millennium City Building, 4th Floor (MC401)



Dr Andrew Gascoyne
Senior Lecturer in Mathematics and Artificial Intelligence

Andrew is a researcher in the Digital Innovations and Solution Centre (DISC) working on Deep Machine Learning models from architecture to applications. He is also Chair of the Computing & Mathematical Sciences Ethic Panel.

Andrew is passionate about mathematics education within Higher Education, as a member of the Higher Education Academy (HEA), and the dissemination of mathematics to wider society.



Stepping up to a Research Degree

A Guide for Aspiring Doctoral Students

Time: 9:20 - 9:50 am

Venue: Millennium City Building, 2nd Floor (MC201)



Professor Subashini Suresh
Head of Doctoral Studies

This session is aimed at students currently undertaking taught postgraduate study who are considering registering for a PhD or other research degree.

It will give a taste of what doing a PhD is like, explaining the commitments, the systems of academic support that will be available and the differences between doctoral study and what you may have encountered previously.

The intention is to leave participants with a good understanding of what a doctorate involves and whether it is right for them, and to provide all the knowledge and guidance they will need to prepare and submit a successful application.

The workshop is **free** to attend and there is no need to book.

Oral Presentations: Session 1

Venue: Millennium City Building, 4th Floor (MC413)

10:00	Naomi Frost	Informing best practice in zoo animal welfare assessment
10:15	Thomas Smith	Investigating the diet of the invasive alpine newt
10:30	Nicole Grimason	Population trends of <i>Rana temporaria</i> in the UK
10:45	Wendy Lomas	Lightweight, Sustainable AI Models for Conservation Bioacoustics
11:00	Siting Guo	Conductivity–Mechanical Performance Trade-Offs in Cellulose Nanocrystal-Modified PLA Nanocomposites for Smart Packaging
11:15	Break	
11:30	Dhanalakshmi Thenappan	Inflammatory responses in pregnant women with iron deficiency anaemia in relation to adiposity and iron treatment
11:45	Shalini Kumarasamy	Inflammatory responses in pregnant women with inflammatory bowel disease.
12:00	Michelle Worthington	Skeletal muscle dysfunction in PMOS (PCOS) women
12:15	Bumi Jang	Silent Barriers to Infant Malaria Prevention
12:30	Zuha Fatima	Polymeric Nanoparticles for Drug Delivery Applications



 Oral Presentations: Session 2

Venue: Millennium City Building, 4th Floor (MC424)

10:00	Richard Bell	Decision inertia in emergency commanders
10:15	Susan Whyte	Cybersecurity Resilience in Emergency Management: Critical Infrastructure
10:30	Jessie Allen	Performance autoethnography: Talking to health professionals as strangers
10:45	Ruth Poxon	Student Nurses' experiences of learning in clinical practice
11:00	Abdulahakeem Ekun	AI-Augmented Firmware Security for Connected Embedded Devices
11:15	Break	
11:30	Ezekiel Olatunji	Defining Flood Resilience with Conceptual Clarity
11:45	Nancy Mpofu	Invisible Insecurity in Hotel Work
12:00	Isaac Mansaray	AI's Impact on HRM: UK IT SMEs Remote Work
12:15	Veronica Annor	Decarbonising the NHS: Game-Based and AI-Driven Approaches
12:30	Ikemefuna Collins Nwanze	Low-Energy MOFs For Carbon Capture



Oral Presentations: Session 3

Venue: Millennium City Building, 4th Floor (MC414)

10:00	Joshua Malcolm	Socioecological Determinants of Black-African Children's Dietary Habits
10:15	Zakiyyah Ahmed	When Inclusion Excludes: Belonging, Participation and Intergenerational Practice Among South Asian Older Adults in the Black Country
10:30	Amy Claire Fenn	Building Inclusive Communities through Youth-Led Violence Prevention
10:45	Sheila Passey	Reclaiming Aethelflaed: Feminist Storytelling and Historical Representation
11:00	Carol Hopwood	Children of Windrush: Schooling experiences in 1960s Wolverhampton
11:15	Break	
11:30	Queentali Thokchom	Social media literacy and well-being of UAEU students
11:45	Jenny Koehring	Standard Tests for Non-Standard Candidates
12:00	Joshua Whale	The Academic Delivery of Entrepreneurship Education
12:15	Amirhossein Talebi	Towards Inclusion: An Autoethnography of a Refugee Teacher
12:30	Steve Pendleton	Academic Motivation & the Poverty/Attainment gap



 Oral Presentations: Session 4

Venue: Millennium City Building, 4th Floor (MC401)

10:00	Caroline Jubb	Beyond the Pool: Load Monitoring in Competitive Swimming
10:15	Callum Taylor	Effects of a Six-Week Virtual Reality Training Intervention on Perceptual-Cognitive Skills and Performance in Elite Youth Footballers
10:30	Josh Till	Elite Judo and Simulated Altitude for Everyday Recovery
10:45	Hazel Shanley	Exercise for metabolic-related health in postmenopausal breast cancer
11:00	Edward Stanhope	Remotely Supervised Multi-Phasic Exercise for Breast Cancer Surgery
11:15	Break	
11:30	Mugdha Vengurlekar	Investigating PMCA Influence on Glioblastoma Tumorigenesis and Resistance
11:45	Amisha Budhiraja	Gene mutations: Driver for breast-to-brain metastasis
12:00	Okwuchukwu Eboji	Molecular Gatekeepers: Regulating Aquaporins in Health and Disease
12:15	Mary Ibidapo	Ligand Conformation Regulates Integrin-Mediated Mechanotransduction in Osteosarcoma in 3D





Reimagine your research: Make a zine workshop

Time: 1:30 - 3:30pm (Drop-in)

Venue: Millennium City Building, 4th Floor (MC413)

Scholarly Communications Team, Library & Skills

Zines are DIY self-published works which can be about anything and made by anyone.

Making them is a fun creative activity but zines can also be useful in research: from generating ideas and collecting data, to sharing research findings, reflective practice- not forgetting that creating zines can also be really good for your well-being!

This hands-on workshop, run by the university library, offers a creative opportunity to reflect on and communicate your ideas through zines. Come and explore the basics of zine-making and use a range of materials to design and create your own unique zine.

The workshop will provide a relaxed and inclusive space to experiment, connect with others, and express your ideas in a new way.

No artistic experience is required, and all materials (and snacks) will be provided.

This will be a drop session so you're welcome to join anytime between 1.30 and 3.30pm.

◆ Poster Presentations

Time: 1:30 – 3:30pm

Venue: Millennium City Building, 4th Floor (MC437)

- ◆ **Rotimi Adeyemi** - Assessing Digital Technologies for Construction Stakeholder Management
- ◆ **Sushma Adhikari** - Understanding cardiometabolic risk factors and barriers to health screening in the South Asian community of Wolverhampton.
- ◆ **Nazia Aga** - FN3K Regulation and Mitochondrial Dysfunction in Cardiovascular Disease
- ◆ **Tolulope Akinfemiwa** - Migrant Mothers Perception on Children's Dietary Habit
- ◆ **Queenette Anwuluorah** - Factors influencing engagement of African and Caribbean communities in UK dementia research
- ◆ **Martin Ballantyne** - Regional Comic Cons as Participatory Cultural Spaces
- ◆ **Alhaji Bangura** - Transforming Clinical Waste Management through Artificial Intelligence: An NHS Case Study for Safer, Smarter and Lower-Carbon Healthcare
- ◆ **Russell Booth** - Discovering reputational publics
- ◆ **Sarah Bremer** - More Than Testimony: Inside Germany's POW System
- ◆ **Kayleigh Brookes** - Schooling Food: A case study of Bluebell Academy



◆ Poster Presentations

- ◆ **Simran Chauhan** - Targeting NETs to improve immunotherapy in CRC.
- ◆ **Megan Clifford** - Menstrual Health Interventions in Education & the Workplace
- ◆ **Dione Collins** - Who Gets to Lead in the NHS?
- ◆ **Louise Cooper** - Acquired brain injury and its effects on the family
- ◆ **Joshua Darkin** - Do Organismal and Environmental Factors Influence *Zootoca vivipara* Ectoparasites?
- ◆ **Caroline Dixey** - Sustainable Healthcare: NHS Approach to Decarbonising Clinical Waste
- ◆ **Salman Fairoos** - High-Throughput Drug Synergy Screening in Colorectal Cancer Organoids
- ◆ **Maharage Fernando** - A systematic review on the relationship between nutrition and primary dysmenorrhea among Asian women
- ◆ **Deepshikha Ghimire** - Assessment of Knowledge and Self-Medication Practices among Public Health Students: A Pilot Cross-Sectional Study
- ◆ **Liam Hodgetts** - Navigating Critical Reading in FE with AI Assistance
- ◆ **Md Rifat Hossain** - Designing Antimicrobial Emulsion-templated Porous Polymer Scaffolds for Hard and Soft Tissue Regeneration



◆ Poster Presentations

- ◆ **Rumesha Tharindi Jayaratne** - Radical Imposed Service Innovation and impacts on Service Sector Resilience
- ◆ **Ritika Joon** - Impact of Probiotics on the Gut Microbiome in Healthy Individuals
- ◆ **Mayur Sopan Kale** - Mechanistic Investigation of Alb-ZnDDC and Alb-CuDDC Anticancer Activity and Resistance in PANC-1 Pancreatic Cancer Cells
- ◆ **Hansa Khan** - A Balanced Patriarchal Approach for British Pakistani Women
- ◆ **Florentino Nhanca** - Co-Designing Sustainable Energy Solutions in Rural Guinea-Bissau
- ◆ **Allina Merlin Joby** - Targeting Neutrophil Extracellular Traps to improve immunotherapy in Glioblastoma
- ◆ **Hinosa Niyas** - Explainable Brain MRI Decision Support
- ◆ **Sadikun Nabi** - Familiarity, Place & Connection: Hospital-Based Dementia Care
- ◆ **Mumtaz Noman** - Accessing Debt Finance through Social Capital for Ethnic Minority Women Entrepreneurs
- ◆ **Temiloluwa Louis Obata** - Characterising Subsurface Uncertainty for Informed Brownfield Redevelopment
- ◆ **Deinsam Ogan** - Small-scale Gold Mining: Bottlenecks & Structural Impediments for Realising the SDGs



◆ Poster Presentations

- ◆ **Christian Ogbodo** - Fragmented Systems, Shared Risk: Integrated Pipeline Governance Framework
- ◆ **Ogundokun Olayemi** - The Gut-Brain Axis in Parkinson's Disease.
- ◆ **Prince Osei** - Digital Transformation and Green Innovation for Sustainability
- ◆ **Joshua Pal** - AI and Robotics: Digital Transformation in Intensive Care
- ◆ **Gisele Rosa** - Intercultural Mediation Strategies in ESOL Language Teaching & Learning
- ◆ **Ela Sharma** - Barriers to Migrant Women's Reproductive Care in England
- ◆ **Marvellous Smith** - Experiences of Neurodivergent Students: Implications for International Students
- ◆ **Dionne Williams** - Intersectionality, Habitus, and Black Women's HE Careers
- ◆ **Mohmad Zouabi** - PMCA4: A Therapeutic Target in Vascular Smooth Muscle





Keynote: Public & Community Engagement: Purpose & Practice for Research

Time: 3:30pm

Venue: Millennium City Building, 4th Floor (MC401)



Dr Martin Khechara
Associate Professor for Engagement in STEM & Public Engagement Professional

Martin is a public engagement professional and practitioner, a highly experienced science communicator, presenter, writer, director and science theatre practitioner.

Martin leads on development of strategy for better outreach and community and public engagement in STEM.



Closing & Prizes

Time: 4:15pm

Venue: Millennium City Building, 4th Floor (MC401)



Professor Laura Caulfield
Dean of Research Culture & PG Research

Laura provides academic leadership to develop a supportive and ambitious research culture, strengthen the institution's research ethics and integrity processes, oversee the research degree provision and improve our PGR student experience.

Laura will give a round-up the day's events and announce the oral and poster presentation prizes including the prestigious best poster and best presentation winners 2026.



Please contact the organising team on
beyondfutures@wlv.ac.uk with any queries you may have.