

Postgraduate Researcher Summer Conference Middlesex University | 16 & 17 June 2026

Shifting Landscapes of Research in Critical Times

The Middlesex University Postgraduate Researchers' Summer Conference (PGRSC) is an annual event for our PGR community. This year the conference will run over two days and is planned as a face-to-face (16th June) and on-line (17th June) event to ensure that it is as inclusive as it can be, especially to our international colleagues.

PGRSC 2026 will showcase the research being carried out by PG researchers across the Faculties, International Campuses and our Collaborative Partner Institutions. It is an opportunity to share ideas, create fruitful collaborations and celebrate research.

The broad theme of this year's conference is 'Shifting Landscapes of Research in Critical Times'. The theme is intended to capture the current planetary context in which research is undertaken, that is, to take into account the myriad threats and promises that research is subject to, framed by and responding to, for example:

- the rise in Artificial Intelligence;
- geopolitical forces and systemic crises;
- futures thinking,
- working across disciplines;
- the pursuit of hope.

It is our ambition that the conference creates a vital space to exchange ideas, experiences, insights, evidence and wisdom from our research, and to animate critical debate to address 'wicked problems' of our time.

There will be exciting Keynote addresses that respond to this theme as well as more interactive opportunities for debate in the form of roundtable discussions and performative workshops. The goal is to create space for lively dialogue, critical debate, and community building.

'Shifts' might be understood differently within/across disciplinary fields; for example, you might want to focus on methodological, professional, technological, organisational, or practice-based change. You might also want to consider how research in your field relates to uncertainty and transition. Please discuss your ideas with your supervisory team to ensure that your abstract addresses the call. PGRs at any stage of their research are encouraged to submit.

The conference will include the following types of participation. Please indicate in your abstract the method of your presentation:

- Paper Presentation
- Symposia/Panel Presentation
- Poster
- Performance
- Workshop

- Video screening with commentary

Submission guidelines

Submission is now open and closes at 5pm on Thursday 26th March 2026. You can submit your abstract online at Microsoft's Conference Management Toolkit - CMT (link TBC).

Before being able to submit you need to register with the CMT submission system, which will require only your name and contact email: [link TBC]

When you submit your abstract, you are required to complete a form which contains an abstract window. This is not the abstract we are asking you to submit; please enter a symbol to fulfil the requirement and upload the abstract as an attachment. Once your abstract is reviewed, you will receive an email with the outcome, feedback and follow up instructions to the same email account you used to register with CMT.

Abstract requirements

You should discuss your abstract with your supervisory team before submission, and it should meet the following requirements:

- Should be 300 words
- It should contain the following sections:
 - Title
 - Author(s)
 - Type of contribution: (a) presentation; (b) poster; (c) performance; (d) video screening with commentary
 - Names of supervisory team
 - Degree start date
 - Stage of research where applicable (e.g. registration, transferred, writing up)
 - Department
 - Indicate that the abstract has been reviewed and approved by your supervisory team.
 - Please indicate whether you wish to participate (a) on campus or (b) virtually. We will ask you to confirm your choice closer to the date of the Conference.

As the presenters will be at different stages of their research, the guidelines for the abstract are given in this document. Depending on where you are with your research, please consider the following:

- Introduction to provide a rationale for the study
- Aim of your research
- Research methods used or planned
- Current or expected findings and contribution

Please submit a written abstract about the research you will communicate, regardless of the type of your contribution (presentation, poster etc.). Please make clear the type of your contribution.

Additional information

For all the authors and MDX PGRs there will be a number of Research Development sessions available prior to the conference, aimed to assist with the preparation of the abstracts, posters and presentations. More information will be provided to you via email notifications and on

our website. Students unable to attend the conference are welcome to contribute a pre-recorded presentation, which should be discussed with your supervisory team.

Additional information and updates will be posted on the 'MDX Research Students' Facebook page, LinkedIn and Bluesky. Share news about the conference using the hashtag #PGRSC2026.

Key dates

- Submission of abstract opens: now!
- Submission of abstract closes: 5pm, Thursday 26th March 2026
- Confirmation of presentation: early May 2026
- Conference: 16&17 June 2026