

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

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: Dr Andrew Gascoyne - Ethical AI use in Research (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: Dr Martin Khechara - Public and Community Engagement: Purpose and Practice for Research (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 *Rana temporaria* 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)

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| 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 | Abdulhakeem 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 |
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 Oral Presentations: Session 3

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

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| 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: A Case Study of the My Tomorrow Campaign. |
| 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 **Shambhavi Dilip** - Investigating mechanistic action of ZnDDC for Multiple Myeloma treatment

12:15 **Okwuchukwu Eboji** - Molecular Gatekeepers: Regulating Aquaporins in Health and Disease

12:30 **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
- ◆ **Adaku Anopueme** - Southeast Nigeria women's menopause experience
- ◆ **Queenette Uche 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



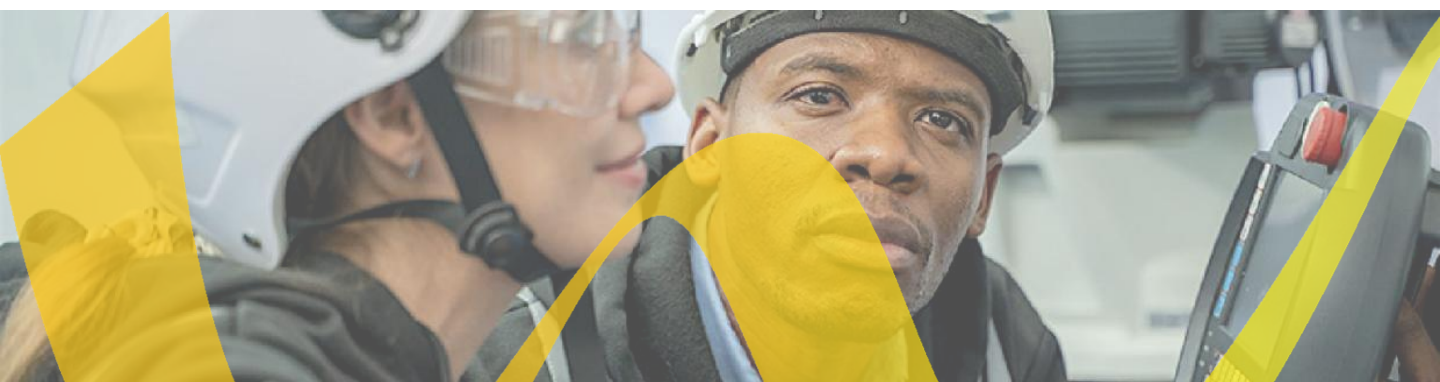
Poster Presentations

- ◆ **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 Chathurika Kanchani 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
- ◆ **Fathima Hinosa Mohamed Niyas** - Explainable Brain MRI Decision Support
- ◆ **Sadikun Nabi** - Familiarity, Place and 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
- ◆ **Richard Igbo Tobor** - AI, Digital Exclusion, and Health Inequalities
- ◆ **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.