PGR Experience Writing Buddies Scheme 2023

Information sheet

The Manchester Met PGR Experience team is delighted to be re-launching a writing buddies scheme for 2023. We're really pleased you are interested in being part of it!

The writing buddies initiative has emerged from our regular writing retreats, which have been running regularly since December 2020. Retreaters have fed back to us how helpful it would be to have some consistent peer support with their writing and we hope this will also form a basis for other writing networks, groups and mini-retreats to develop. If you have been a member of last year’s buddies scheme, you are welcome to re-apply; we will also be in touch shortly to ask for feedback on your experience over the last year, allowing us to keep improving the scheme.

This scheme is open to all Manchester Met PGRs and also PGRs at our partner institutions in the North West and West Yorkshire (Liverpool, Liverpool John Moore's, Chester, Salford, Huddersfield, Bradford, Leeds Beckett).

By providing your details and some information about what you hope to get from the scheme in our [sign-up form](https://mmu.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/manchester-met-writing-buddies-scheme-sign-up-survey-2023), we will be able to match you according to your stage of study and aims for the buddy partnership. The sign-up sheet will be open until Friday 30th June 2023 and matching will take place in early July.

This matching is light-touch and pairings will be what you make of them! We would suggest working with your buddy as:

* A peer mentor, with whom you set writing goals and maintain accountability
* A colleague at a similar academic stage, with whom you can review progress and problem-solve
* A friend to listen and share the ups and downs of writing with
* The beginning of a network of like-minded PGRs, perhaps allowing you to work together in bigger groups to run your own shut-up-and-write sessions or mini-retreats

The timeline for your pairing is also up to you, but we would suggest you agree this when you first meet and keep us updated if you are having any problems or simply feel a pairing has reached a natural end, especially if you are interested in being re-matched. You might want to:

* Meet regularly (e.g. monthly) to check progress against your writing goals
* Set an end-date for the pairing based on both your writing goals
* Or make this more open-ended, as a source of ongoing support and friendship
* Extend your buddy meetings into writing sessions, where you meet in person or online to write quietly in company – whether just as pair or with others invited too, to form a network

If you have any questions during the matching process or once paired, please get in touch with us using the PGR Experience mailbox, [research.students@mmu.ac.uk](http://mailto:research.students@mmu.ac.uk/)