Graduate School Conference

Empowering postgraduate students to unlock the potential of Artificial Intelligence throughout their academic journey.

25th October 2024
12pm - 4.30pm
The Thomas J Moran Graduate School

Welcome

We are delighted to announce our first Graduate School Conference for postgraduate students in this academic year, which will take place on Friday 25th October, starting at 12pm, at the Thomas J. Moran Graduate School.

This interdisciplinary event, centered on the theme of Artificial Intelligence (AI), will bring together our internal staff, external experts, and showcase cutting-edge research from our talented postgraduate students.

Professor Colin McCoy and Katy Madden

Professor Colin McCoy

Dean of the Thomas J. Moran Graduate School, Professor Colin McCoy will open the conference. Colin has more than 25 years of research expertise in the development of systems to improve the performance of biomaterials, particularly medical devices. As Dean of the Graduate School, he provides academic leadership and strategic direction and support for postgraduate matters across Queen's.

Katy Madden

Katy Madden, Head of Postgraduate Student Services at Queen's, will close the conference. With extensive experience in student services and academic support, Katy leads initiatives to enhance the academic success and campus experience of postgraduate students. Her leadership focuses on fostering collaboration and contributing to the overall strategic direction of student support services at Queen's.

Itinerary

12.00 - 12.45   **Student Registration and Networking Lunch.**

12.45 - 13.00   **Welcome and Introduction.**
Professor Colin McCoy, Dean of the Graduate School, Queen's University Belfast.

13.00 - 13.45   **Keynote Speaker - Learning in the Age of AI: What Students Need to Know Today to Succeed Tomorrow.**
Professor Philip Hanna, Dean of Education, School of Electronics, Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, Queen's University Belfast.

13.45 - 14.15   **How to use GenAI for Your Studies at Queen's.**
Shelby Hanna, Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences, Queen's University.

14.15 - 14.30   **Break**

14.30 - 14.45   **Overcoming GenAI Anxiety With the Academic Prompt Bank.**
Dr Oli Johnston, Academic Skills Centre, University of Sheffield.

14.45 - 15.00   **How GenAI can Help to Develop and Empower Students as Learners.**
Dr Sarah Hack, School of Psychology, University of Surrey.

15.00 - 15.10   **Delegates move to break out rooms for next session.**

15.10 - 16.10   **AI Within Research.**
Led by postgraduate students at Queen's University Belfast. Details of speakers and topics can be found below.

16.10 - 16.30   **Closing Reception.**
Katy Madden, Head of Postgraduate Student Services, Graduate School, Queen's University Belfast.

Breakout Rooms

15.10 - 16.10 Presentations on 'AI Within Research' by QUB Postgraduates

Breakout Room 1 (TR2): AI Capabilities and Limitations

Presentation 1: Automation Artificial Intelligence in Twentieth-Century Science Fiction, with Orán McNally.

Presentation 2: An Immersive AI Powered Virtual Teaching-Learning Environment to Support Teachers in Providing a Better Classroom Experience for Bilingual Pupils, with Ciaron Fitzpatrick.

Presentation 3: Should I Worry About Being Replaced by AI? Breakthroughs and Limitations in Chinese Transcription, with Sijie Mou.

Presentation 4: Deathbots and Dopamine: An Argument of the Indefensible use of Deathbots Through the Scope of Dopamine Interactions, with Anna McDermott.

Breakout Room 2 (TR6): AI, Public Health and Nutrition

Presentation 1: Turmeric: The Adulteration of the Lost Spice, with Heidi Russell.

Presentation 2: An AI-Driven Platform for Integrated Health: Real-Time Recommendations for Personalised Nutrition, Pain Management, and Mental Health Monitoring, with Ziyang Wang.

Presentation 3: Artificial Intelligence in Public Health: Mental Health, Green and Blue Spaces, and DNA Methylation, with Jacob Illyuk.

Presentation 4: The application of AI to Detect Global Food Authenticity: Discriminating the Geographical Origin of Black Tea, with Yicong Li.

Breakout Room 3 (TR7): AI Detections and Predictions

Presentation 1: Explore the use of Deep Reinforcement Learning (DRL) for the Creation of a Cyber Security Agent Which Responds to Network Security Threats, with Matthew Reaney.

Presentation 2: A Needle in a Haystack: Identifying Rare Transient Candidates in Real Time From Host Galaxy Images, with Xique Sheng.

Presentation 3: Graph Learning for Search Autosuggestions, with Declan Curran.

Presentation 4: Multitrophic Responses to Multitrophic Conservation Interventions: Non-Target Species Responses to Biological Eradications on Rathlin Island, with Alexandra (Alusia) Malinowska.

Presentations

Learning in the Age of AI: What Students Need to Know Today to Succeed Tomorrow

Professor Philip Hannah will delve into the latest developments in AI, highlighting the significant advancements of the past year. He will examine what these changes mean for learners, how AI can be used to best support learning, and explore the skills needed to thrive in a future where AI is deeply embedded in many facets of life and work.

How to use GenAI for Your Studies at Queen's

Discover how AI can give you a competitive edge, streamlining research and writing while enhancing creativity. Shelby Hanna will guide you through the do's and don'ts, ensuring you stay on the right side of academic integrity. Plus, you'll engage in hands-on activities to put your skills to the test in real-world scenarios.

Overcoming GenAI Anxiety with the Academic Prompt Bank

Research has shown that students are often anxious about the boundaries of appropriate GenAI use in relation to their academic work. The Academic GenAI Prompt Bank is a dynamic curated database of prompts that students can draw on to help overcome their anxiety about fair usage. Dr Oli Johnson will outline the process of development of the AI Academic Prompt Bank and explore its potential as a way to support students.

How GenAI can Help to Develop and Empower Students as Learners

This session will explore ways in which Generative AI tools may be used by students to support their learning. Introducing the 'I.D.E.As framework', a resource developed to help curate ideas surrounding the use of GenAI tools in learning and teaching, Dr Sarah Hack will discuss practical ways in which such tools may be used to enhance the student learning experience.

Speakers

Professor Philip Hannah

Professor Philip Hanna serves as the Dean of Education for the Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences at Queen's. With a background as a Professor of Computer Science Education, he is particularly passionate about technology and its implications for the future for education in a rapidly evolving world.

Shelby Hanna

Shelby has been an Educational Technologist at Queen's since 2018, specialising in delivering AI training to both staff and students. Alongside this, Shelby is studying games development with the Queen's Media Lab. A Fellow of the Higher Education Academy, Shelby holds a Master's in Fine Art from the University of Ulster.

Dr Oli Johnson

Dr Oli Johnson is an Academic Skills Adviser at the University of Sheffield's Academic Skills Centre, where he has developed and coordinated the Centre's study skills programme. More recently, he has been working on the development of student-facing resources as part of the University's response to the developing use of GenAI in higher education.

Dr Sarah Hack

Dr Sarah Hack is the Programme Lead for the Psychology Foundation Year, University of Surrey. She is interested in practical ideas and activities that help to develop students' learning. Most recently she has been exploring the use of Gen AI tools to support student learning with a focus on the potential of AI tools for helping to bridge educational gaps between students

Discover even more about the Graduate School Conference and book your place on the Graduate School website.