The Faraday Institution
PhD Training Programme
Course Guide
2022/2023

Powering Britain's Battery Revolution
Creating a dynamic and diverse pool of talent for the fields of battery technology and energy storage

The Faraday Institution is actively committed to attracting, nurturing and empowering a dynamic and diverse pool of talent for the fields of energy storage and battery technology that can creatively tackle the challenges facing society today. Central to this is increasing the knowledge, skills and aspirations of researchers early on in their careers. Wellbeing is a key pillar of our training programme (see page 24)

The Faraday Institution predicts the need for 150 PhDs a year from 2025 and around 250 PhDs from 2030 per annum to meet the UK skills needs in the sector. The Faraday Institution PhD Training Programme is designed to skill researchers for future battery related careers in academia, industry and policy making as well as actively boost researcher professional identity to maximise career success.

“Striving to reach Net Zero will require the diverse skills of many as we seek to find pioneering solutions to the complex challenges faced. The Faraday Institution is committed to investing in people and high-quality talent development to put the UK battery sector at the forefront of the electric revolution.”

–Fran Long, Head of Training and Talent Development, The Faraday Institution

Meet our Faraday Institution cohorts and view a video to learn about the PhD researcher successes.
Faraday Institution
PhD Training Programme Overview - 2022/2

For this academic year, a combination of in-person and online training has been planned.

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A full list of the training by year group is available here.

Please save the dates. The expectation is that Faraday Institution Cluster PhD researchers attend all the training for their year group and full participation is required. In the rare instance that there are unforeseen circumstances, please contact fran.long@faraday.ac.uk at the earliest convenience to discuss. Further details about each training session will be provided in due course. Please do not make travel arrangements until this is received as dates and timings are subject to minor changes.

The Faraday Institution PhD training is mapped to the Vitae Researcher Development Framework and follows best practice as outlined in the Vitae Researcher Development Concordat (2019).
Welcome to the Faraday Institution’s PhD programme in energy storage. The Faraday Institution aims to prepare its PhD research community for battery related careers in academia, industry, policy making and more, where they can not only participate in one of the most exciting research moments of our generation, but also be prepared to lead in the future. Faraday Institution PhD researchers will have access to networking opportunities, industry visits, mentorship, internships, as well as quality experiences that will further develop knowledge, skills, and aspirations. Further, participants in this programme will work on Faraday Institution research projects, alongside some of the best scientists and engineers in the UK, to solve pressing challenges in batteries and energy storage.

This programme of bespoke battery-related courses, delivered by experts in the field, ensures PhD researchers are equipped with the in-depth knowledge and skills needed to maximise the potential of their research projects. The programme includes week-long training modules such as the “Newcastle Battery School” and “WMG Battery School”.

A range of battery-related industry talks provide PhD researchers with valuable insights into the application of battery technologies. These include industry partners such as Envision and UKBIC as well as research facilities at Warwick Manufacturing Group (WMG), ISIS Neutron and Muon Source as well as Diamond Light Source.

“The development of talented people, and their ideas and skills, is critical to the success of the UK research and innovation system.” UKRI 2022*

*Supporting Skills and Talent, UKRI (2022)
Wednesday 12th – Friday 14th October 2022

1:1 Welcome Interview Video Call, online
This is an opportunity to learn more about the Faraday Institution and the exciting training plans for the year ahead. It also enables the Faraday Institution to get to know each PhD researcher and understand their individual career aspirations. A video call will be scheduled with each participant.

Monday 17th October 2022 14:00 – 15:00
Introductory Cohort Call, online
A chance to meet the rest of the cohort and learn more about the Faraday Institution.

Tuesday 8th – Thursday 10th November 2022
Harwell Science Campus, Didcot, Oxfordshire

Introduction to the Faraday Institution, in-person
Meet the FIHQ team to learn more about the organisation and the Faraday Institution research project portfolio.

Williams Advanced Engineering Talk and Tour
Gain industry insights from the team including Rob Millar, Head of Electrical and Battery Systems at Williams Advanced Engineering and Expert Panel Member at The Faraday Institution. The Formula E battery was developed at Williams Advanced Engineering and participants will be able to discover more about how it propels cars to high speeds, whilst maintaining practicality in safety, aerodynamics, range and recharging times. Also hear about what a role as a battery engineer entails.

A cohort of Faraday Institution PhD Researchers visiting Williams Advanced Engineering
Thursday 10th November 2022

STEM Ambassador Training 1, in-person
with Fran Long (STEM engagement specialist) and Claire Hamnett (Science Learning Partnership)

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths) Ambassador training will equip PhD researchers with the skills to share their research in relatable and engaging ways to a range of audiences, including young people, with the aim of inspiring the next generation to consider careers in the field of energy storage and battery technology as we look to build a sustainable future.

This will include exploring the ‘Faraday Fully Charged Battery Box’ of resources for STEM outreach with pupils 8+, created in collaboration with the Curiosity Box.
Lithium-ion batteries have become the industry standard for rechargeable batteries due to their high energy densities, long life, and competitive prices. They do, however, come with safety issues as they contain flammable materials that may combust when cells fail. While safety protocols and risk mitigating processes are increasingly successful at avoiding failure, lithium-ion battery fires and accidents do occasionally occur, which is why a better understanding of the fundamentals of battery technology is essential to mitigate future incidents.

This course seeks to take its attendees, coming from a broad range of expertise and experience, through the science that underlies lithium-ion technology, including how the battery influences external factors such as charging infrastructure and driver behaviours. It includes information from basic electrochemistry to module integration, battery system operation, typical methods employed to monitor and maintain system health, as well as the hazards and risks associated with incorrect battery management.

The North-East is a hub for lithium-ion battery cell manufacture at Envision AESC and the production of electric vehicles at the Nissan MUK Plant, and with the development of a new gigafactory in Britishvolt. Industry tours are planned to showcase the commercialisation side of lithium-ion batteries.
Sunday 5th – Friday 10th February 2023
WMG Battery School, in-person
University of Warwick

WMG will be sharing the knowledge and expertise of their world-class research and teaching staff. Delegates will learn about battery cell production through lectures, live discussions and practical lab sessions from the state-of-the-art battery, materials and pilot line facility.

Year 2 Faraday Institution PhD researchers will be in Warwick at the same time creating networking opportunities.

Wednesday 8th March 2022, 10:00 – 12:00
STEM Ambassador Training Call, online

This call serves as an introduction to the preparation tasks ahead of Faraday Institution PhD researchers presenting to schools.
Tuesday 14th March – Thursday 16th March 2023

**STEM Ambassador Training 2, in-person**

with Fran Long (STEM engagement specialist) and Claire Hamnett (Science Learning Partnership)

**Harwell Science Campus, Didcot, Oxfordshire**

This two-day STEM Ambassador training course culminates with attendees presenting their research in creative, age-appropriate ways, to inspire pupils in schools about the race to electrify the UK and develop the next generation of batteries whilst raising STEM career aspirations. What better time to enthuse the next generation than [British Science Week](https://www.britishscienceweek.org/)

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**Tours of Harwell Science & Innovation Campus**

The programme includes visits to research facilities on the [Harwell Science & Innovation Campus](https://www.harwell.com/):

**Diamond Light Source** is the UK’s national synchrotron and is one of the most advanced scientific facilities in the world. Its pioneering capabilities are helping to keep the UK at the forefront of scientific research. Faraday Institution Research Fellows use beamlines here as part of their battery research.

**ISIS Neutron and Muon Source** is a world-leading centre for research at the STFC Rutherford Appleton Laboratory. The suite of neutron and muon instruments give unique insights into the properties of materials on the atomic scale.

“The massive investment in the battery industry is unprecedented.”

Robert Llewellyn, *The Fully Charged Show*
Energy storage technologies are at the centre of a global research and development race. The uptake of these disruptive technologies will have a significant impact on the marketplace, policy making, economics, and supply chain resource availability.

The prevailing theme of the Faraday Institution’s second year of PhD programming is a “mini MBA” on energy storage and entrepreneurship. The principal objective is to prepare our researchers with the knowledge and skills required to contextualise the global, industrial, and policy aspects of energy storage in which their research has the opportunity to make an impact. Further, the training looks to give researchers the necessary skills to become leaders in their own right—in academic, industrial, governmental and entrepreneurial settings—for the benefit of the researcher and the UK.

Specific courses include personal development and strength identification, presentation skills, negotiations, leadership development, R&D project management, energy policy making, and entrepreneurship.

“Professional and career development are integral to enabling researchers to develop their full potential.” Researcher Development Concordat 2019*

*Researcher Development Concordat (2019)
Introductory Cohort Call, online
A chance to meet the rest of the cohort and learn more about the Faraday Institution.

Mini MBA Week 1, in-person
Newcastle
Myers Briggs Personality Profiling, with Kindred

How do we get the best out of ourselves and others?

Aims: To understand self and others better to benefit interactions and outcomes.

Learning objectives:

- Participants will discuss the theory of MBTI® (Myers Briggs Type Indicator) and what it reveals about the way they see and interact with the world
- They will identify their own personality preferences, those of others and how that can affect their interactions, decision making and actions
- They will learn where their preferences are a strength and can create challenge
- They will gain strategies to better equip them to make decisions and improve how they communicate, collaborate and build relationships with others

"Knowing yourself is the beginning of all wisdom." Aristotle, Greek Philosopher

kindred
Helping you communicate and connect
**Dynamic Presenter Training, with Body Talk**

Participants will benefit from advanced techniques to increase their personal influence in order to give greater respect, build stronger relationships and grow rapport with the people with whom they work. These are skills that are transferable for academic and industry careers. This workshop, comprising sessions on theory, personal coaching, and purpose, offers tools to be more effective in daily interactions.

Participants will be coached in delivering their knowledge and scientific content in an engaging and compelling way to a variety of different audiences. Topics covered will include:

- Dynamic and engaging communication
- Presenting with confidence
- Making scientific content and slides more engaging
- Storytelling
- Engaging different audiences

Workshops, small group coaching sessions and assigned tasks will ensure personalised feedback and individual participant skills development.

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**Industry Tours**

The North East is a hub for lithium-ion battery cell manufacture at Envision AESC and the production of electric vehicles at the Nissan MUK plant, and with the development of a new gigafactory by Britishvolt. Industry tours are planned to showcase the commercialisation of lithium-ion batteries.

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"Believe in yourself, and make other believe in you and your ideas.” Baroness Karren Brady, Business Leader

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Envision AESC

Year 1 Faraday Institution PhD researchers will be in Newcastle at the same time creating networking opportunities.
Thursday 19th January 2023

Project Management: Your PhD and Beyond online, with Skillfluence

This interactive workshop will explore the practical application of project management to research projects. Working through a project lifecycle we will explore:

- How to work with collaborators and stakeholders to define project success
- How to effectively plan projects taking into account the iterative nature of research
- How to pre-empt issues and risk manage the project
- How to assess progress and resolve issues with the project.

Throughout the workshop we will discuss how these skills can be applied to research or to future projects that participants may undertake both within and beyond academia.

Sunday 5th – Friday 10th February 2023

Mini MBA Week 2, in-person

University of Warwick

A week of training, talks and industry tours.

The UK Battery Industrialisation Centre (UKBIC)

Industry talks and tours

An opportunity to visit battery related industry settings in the Midlands as well as hear from a range of industry partners and organisations. This will include a visit to Jaguar Land Rover and UKBIC.

“Few inventions have changed our lives as much as the battery. I’m excited that more inventors and investors are being attracted to the quest to build a better one.” Bill Gates, Entrepreneur & Philanthropist
Negotiation Skills, Institution of Mechanical Engineers (IMechE)

Researchers negotiate as part of everyday life, whether on the price of lab equipment, a pay rise or an extension to a deadline. This programme has been designed to provide researchers with an opportunity to learn tools and techniques for negotiating in a variety of internal and external scenarios. The course provides an opportunity for participants to practise these new skills and receive feedback on negotiation styles and preferences. Participants will leave the programme with a renewed confidence in seeking win-win outcomes in negotiations.

Getting Social: A Guide to Social Media for Researchers, with Skillfluence

A workshop that constantly evolves to take into account the fast-moving nature of social media and that features up to date case studies and examples. Getting work on social media may be easy, but ensuring it is used to effectively promote the latest research and boost ones’ professional researcher identity, is more challenging. This workshop takes participants through the main social media channels and looks at how to create short, sharp, sharable messages that foster meaningful interactions, grow their network and boost their researcher identity online.

What the course will cover/learning outcomes:

- Using social media as a research tool
- Raising researcher identity with social media
- LinkedIn and Twitter
- How and who to connect with
- LinkedIn and Twitter
- How and who to connect with

“Science is not finished until it is communicated.”
Professor Sir Mark Walport, former UK Chief Scientific Advisor
What’s the Market Opportunity for my Research? with Imperial College London

Going from an Idea to a Business Model
This workshop will explore the techniques needed to take a potential business idea and turn it into an effective business model. Topics will include:

- Creating a business model canvas
- Explaining the difference between market-pull and technology-push
- Recognising different types of innovations
- Designing a product or service that could be a potential business
- Analysing the competitive environment of your business
- Analysing and evaluating your business model canvas
- Analysing the competitive environment of your business
- Analysing and evaluating your business model canvas

Commercialising your Business Model
Participants will have the opportunity to create a business model canvas to explore how their ideas will work as a potential business.

- Designing your own business models
- Systematically understand, design and differentiate new business models
- Facilitate innovative ideas for novel products and services
- Differentiate between product and business model innovation
- Rapid prototyping of business models
- Understand principles of marketing, competitive advantage for new business models
- Basics of entrepreneurial finance and introduction to financial forecasting template

“I find out what the world needs, then I go ahead and try and invent it.”
Thomas Edison, Inventor
How to Run a Research Lab

The role of a research leader involves many different aspects from managing a lab, ensuring that health and safety is maintained, to promoting the work of the group and growing the people they manage. This workshop will give individuals the skills, insights and tools they need to effectively lead a research lab and group.

On completion of this module, participants will have considered:

• Funding related responsibilities
• Frameworks for industrial collaboration
• Pathways to impact
• Articulating research challenges and visions
• Conflict resolution
• Health and safety
• Group management and growth
• Social media
• Career development

“Starting and growing a business is as much about the innovation, drive, and determination of the people behind it as the product they sell.”

Elon Musk, Technology Entrepreneur

Early career researchers at the University of Birmingham
Equipping Faraday Institution PhD researchers with the knowledge and expertise needed to embark on successful careers (whether in academia, industry or policy making) is a key aim of the programme. At the heart of the Year 3 training is the development of the skills needed to secure and undertake a valuable internship.

PhD researchers working together as part of their internship at Benchmark Mineral Intelligence

**Monday 10th October 2022**
**Cohort Call online, 15:00 – 16:00**
A chance for the cohort to hear plans for training in the coming year.

**October - November 2022**
**Career 101**
Individual coaching calls for each of the Year 3 Faraday PhD researchers along with their supervisor and one of the Faraday Institution Education Team to have a personalised review of their career development goals.
Wednesday 19th October 2022
How to Gain Trust, Rapport and an Internship, online, with Kindred

Faraday Institution PhD researchers have access to many industry contacts and are expected to facilitate their own internships. Their challenge lies in how to strike the right tone with their initial contact and how to confidently turn their first conversation into one of trust, rapport and the foundation of a good relationship, ultimately resulting in an offer.

The training comprises a range of whole group sessions, set tasks with written feedback and small group coaching.

Thursday 17th November 2022
Interview Training, online, with Kindred

Having established connections in industry, Faraday Institution PhD researchers will face interviews for internships or jobs. While comfortable in their field of expertise, researchers also need a host of ‘soft skills’ to make the right impression on interviewers in a short time, potentially on a remote platform. This training addresses both the challenge of communicating comfortably and professionally both in-person and on camera and also those typical interview challenges of nerve handling, not feeling authentically ‘you’, feeling stumped by a question, having nothing to say, or having too much to say.

The training day will include small group coaching to enable each participant to receive personalised guidance on their interview technique.
How to Complete Your PhD on Time, online, with Skillfluence

Participants learn a combination of project management, productivity and time management skills and methods applied specifically to the challenge of completing a high-quality PhD thesis on time with minimal stress and anxiety. The workshop addresses 'big picture' issues as well as providing specific productivity 'tips and tricks'. Participants will leave the workshop with increased confidence and optimism about completing their PhD thesis on time.

Specific areas to be covered include:

- Starting well
- Designing for success
- Organising for efficiency
- Project management
- Potential risk factors
- Understand the key steps in the process
- Time management essentials

Networking Dinner, in-person

A chance to network with Year 4 PhD researchers and Faraday Institution Head Office staff.
Grant Writing 101, with Skillfluence

Grant Writing 101 will start at the very beginning, taking participants through developing the idea to getting all the ducks in a row to final submission. It will cover more than writing well. This is an interactive workshop comprising activities including group discussion and individual reflection around key proposal components. By the end of the sessions, participants will be empowered to develop research grant applications with confidence.

Grant Writing 101 covers the following topics:

- The funding landscape
- Funding rules and guidance
- Developing ideas
- Finding the right team
- Planning the proposal
- Grant writing tips
- Integrating impact
- Narrative CVs
- Grant assessment
- Thinking like a reviewer
- Engaging with feedback
- The Principal Investigator response
- The outcome

Wednesday 19th April 2023

Thesis Writing, online, with Skillfluence

The course aims to help early-career researchers improve the organisation, clarity, and style of their scientific writing. In this course we cover how to plan, develop and produce a well-written research thesis – with additional tips on how to adapt writing for journal articles. The focus is placed on the writing skills that PhD researchers need to succeed: writing concisely, writing precisely, and using good style to engage an audience. The course also teaches participants the formal writing cycle (the process by which professional writers tackle a writing project), including how to properly edit and proofread text. Finally, several practical tips for using Microsoft Word and reference manager software are discussed, to make the writing process more efficient.

Topics covered include:

- What makes a good PhD thesis
- Critiquing thesis text
- Effective data presentation
- Writing clearly and avoiding common errors
- Improving your style and keeping your audience interested
- The writing and editing cycle
- Time-saving techniques in MS Word

“All scientists must communicate their work, for what is the point of learning new things about how the world works if you don’t tell anyone about them?” Jim Al-Khalili, Professor of Theoretical Physics
The Faraday Institution PhD Training Programme is front loaded with more sessions taking place early on. Therefore, the training schedule at this stage is lighter. The focus of Year 4 is centred on individual study, completion of a quality thesis and preparation for the transition to the next career stage. Celebrating successes will also lie at the heart of the year.

**Monday 10th October 2022**

**Cohort Call 14:00 – 15:00, online**

A chance for the cohort to hear plans for training in the coming year.

**16th November 2022**

**CV writing workshop, online**

The workshop will enable a researcher to develop a quality CV to showcase skills and experience, in readiness for securing a role post PhD. This includes working with a career coach to learn how to best convey suitability for a role. Following the workshop, attendees will have 1:1 feedback and coaching on their CVs to maximise the impact.

**Wednesday 1st – Thursday 2nd March 2023**

**Harwell, Oxfordshire**

**Networking Dinner, in-person**

This provides a chance to meet with Year 3 PhD researchers and Faraday Institution Head Office staff to strengthen connections and expand networks.

**Transitioning from PhD to postdoc and industry roles**

This is an opportunity to hear from those who are in the next stage of their careers who will share their personal stories. Researchers will learn how to best prepare and gain an appreciation of the challenges and rewards of the next career stage.
Spring / summer 2023 (Date and location to be confirmed)
Graduation celebration, in-person
The Faraday Institution invites the group to attend this special event to showcase the achievements of cohort 2 of the Faraday Institution Cluster PhD Programme. Attendees, their supervisors and invited guests will hear stories of research impact, internship adventures, business spin outs and more.

The PhD Graduation Celebration 2022, held at the Royal Society
Additional Faraday Institution training opportunities open to all Faraday PhD researchers

Faraday Institution Early Career Researcher Conference

Warwick Conference Centre

Monday 31st October – Tuesday 1st November 2022

Are you ready to unlock your potential as a battery scientist or engineer? Do you want to reconnect with your peers? Or even just experience the positive energy and buzz from being at a large conference? If so, the Faraday Institution’s Early Career Researcher Conference is the event for you. Open to all Faraday Institution PhD researchers.

• Research talks
• Interactive break-out sessions
• Insight from researchers working in industry
• Training sessions
• Career development opportunities
Faraday Masterclasses, online, monthly
Hear from experts in the fields of battery technology and energy storage. Register. Recordings of past sessions are available on the Faraday Institution Slack Channel.

Friday 17th February 2023
Undergraduate attraction events on National Battery Day, in-person & online
Calling all Faraday Institution PhD researchers to run local attraction events for undergraduate students at their universities, that showcase battery technology careers. An opportunity to get creative, inspire others, partner with university societies, career advisors, lectures and more.

In addition, the Faraday Student Committee will host an online event to ensure wide participation and spotlighting of the opportunities in the battery sector and careers that can help find pioneering solutions to the challenges faced in creating a sustainable future.
PhD Researcher Health and Wellbeing

We care deeply about the wellbeing of our PhD researchers and acknowledge that undertaking a PhD project can present challenges.

We commit to:

- provide training on time management and successful thesis writing
- have 1:1 coaching calls (as outlined in the training guide) and additionally, if requested, with the option for training budget to pay for a few sessions of professional career coaching if required
- schedule regular breaks on training days as far as is practicably possible
- make all reasonable accommodations to enable full participation at training events or provide alternative options if indicated
- provide prayer spaces, where requested
- ensure dietary requirements are catered for
- work with accessibility and EDI consultants to adopt best practices to create inclusive training environments
- connect PhD researchers with the wider Faraday Institution community network and industry partners
- provide high-quality training that will set individuals up for career success
- select trusted, professional training partners
- ensure the Faraday Institution Code of Conduct and EDI Charter are followed

“To produce world-class research, we must provide a healthy and supportive research environment that allows researchers to flourish.”
Vitae 2018*

*Researcher Wellbeing and Mental Health, Vitae 2018