ARIES DOCTORAL TRAINING

Handbook

For Postgraduate Researchers (PGRs) & Supervisors

Updated October 2026

UKRI Natural Environment Research Council

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Introduction

I am delighted to welcome you to the NERC ARIES Doctoral Training programme. ARIES supports a vibrant group of postgraduate researchers working on diverse research projects across the Environmental Sciences. ARIES is also a community; one that you will find to be supportive, sociable and inspiring.

The ambition of ARIES is to develop researchers and leaders capable of tackling global challenges associated with understanding, protecting and living sustainably with the natural environment. Building on the success of the EnvEast Doctoral Training Partnership, which trained over 130 postgraduate researchers (PGRs), ARIES research is focused around five core themes, but many projects cut across multiple themes to deliver impactful science with global reach.

The importance and need for well-trained researchers in Environmental Sciences cannot be understated. A comprehensive training programme designed to deliver focused and relevant learning opportunities at the appropriate stage of your studies is therefore embedded within your PhD. This can be further tailored to meet your specific needs. As an ARIES researcher you will also have access to facilities and colleagues across 5 universities and a number of research centres (9 are partners under the ARIES Doctoral Training Pathway, 7 under the ARIES Doctoral Landscape Award). The opportunities this provides will not only help you complete your research degree but also to prepare for your career beyond that.

We regularly bring all PGRs together for training events, building a network of PGRs who support each other through the PhD and beyond. You'll also have opportunities to network with PGRs from other training partnerships (e.g. enviroSPRINT, CADA), and with researchers and policy-makers from amongst our more than 20 business, government and NGO partners. We even provide funds for ARIES PGRs to develop and deliver their own training, with examples including presenting at London Science Museum public "Lates" and our Python users group.

ARIES aims to support and inspire the next generation of Environmental Scientists, providing them with the skills and knowledge needed to tackle global challenges of the 21st Century. We look forward to working with your through the course of your PhD and hope you will enjoy studying with us.

Professor Simon Butler,

Director, ARIES Doctoral Training

Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion

ARIES is committed to equality, diversity, widening participation and inclusion in its work with PGRs, supervisors and partners; and in its interaction with the research community and beyond. Everyone has a right to be treated with dignity and respect, and to be provided with equal opportunities to flourish and succeed in an environment which enables them to do so.

The full ARIES statement on Equality, Diversity, and Widening Participation is available online. If you have any issues, concerns or suggestions about equality in the ARIES Doctoral Training programme, please contact the ARIES office, Director or your local ARIES representatives. All conversations will be treated in confidence, with further action taken as required.

ARIES-Funded and Associated PGRs

ARIES does not refer to its researchers as "students". We strongly believe that as integral members of the research communities within your universities and institutes, and the wider UK and International research community, postgraduate researchers (PGRs) is a more accurate descriptor of your role. ARIES PGRs are registered at one of five Universities and may be based at a number of other Host Institutes for all or part of their doctorate.

PGRs are funded through two main routes:

1. Most ARIES PGRs are directly funded by ARIES using a grant provided by NERC (we will refer to these as "ARIES-funded" from here on).

2. Some ARIES PGRs are funded by other means, but are considered part of ARIES for training and development purposes. We refer to these as "Associated" PGRs.

If you aren't sure whether you are a funded or associated PGR, please check with us or your supervisor. It's important in either case that you are aware of when your funding end date is, and that you *aim to complete your PhD by that date*. In all cases PGRs are required to submit their thesis within 4 years of your start date. It's also important that you are familiar with the terms and conditions of your funding, which will have been provided to you with your offer, and at your registration. This means the terms set out by your **funder** (for ARIES-funded PGRs this is NERC); your **University of registration** and **Host Institute** (where relevant); and your **visa** (if you come from outside of the UK). Please take time to familiarise yourself with these.

Communicating with ARIES

The ARIES mailbox is aries.dtp@uea.ac.uk. This is monitored by the ARIES Administrator (Dr Yu Zhao) and the ARIES Manager (Dr Shaun Bradshaw).

In our communication with you, we commit to:

- Seek to always communicate clearly, consistently and inclusively, in accordance with our Equality and Diversity policies.
- Consider the methods we use to communicate to ensure they are appropriate to the audience.
- Seek regular feedback from our postgraduate researchers, partners, and external organisations.
- Ensure all communications align with our vision and values.

We expect you to support us in:

- Timely reading of emails from the ARIES Office, including communications and e-Bulletins
- Providing up-to-date information for your profile on the ARIES website
- Completion of the ARIES Annual Report
- Completion of all feedback requests including training event feedback
- Acknowledgement of ARIES funding and support in all external publications, including media appearances

There are additional opportunities for PGRs to assist ARIES with communications by contributing to the PGR-led SciEnvy blog.

Any issues or enquiries regarding ARIES communications should be raised with the ARIES office in the first instance. **Unless specifically stated, ARIES communications should be assumed to be targeted at the named recipient(s) only.**

Our aim is to always follow best practice in communicating accessibly and inclusively to all. If you have trouble accessing our communications, or suggestions for improvements, please let us know.

ARIES and Your Host University

We understand that ARIES PGRs will have multiple affiliations. You may feel yourself affiliated to your supervisor(s); to a research or laboratory group; a department/school; a university and/or research institute; as well as part of the ARIES cohort.

The respective roles of these different groups may not always be obvious, and especially so, perhaps, when it comes to ARIES and your university of registration.

You should remember that it is your university that will award your PhD, and it is your university that you will need to ask about such things as stipend payments, progress review meetings (or 'Boards') or library access; or if you run into problems of some sort. You might communicate with your university through your supervisor(s), or graduate school/doctoral college, or another administrative department.

Where ARIES has requirements of its PGRs these are generally intended to mirror those of its partner universities. Your university should make you aware of when ARIES training means you are exempted from their mandatory training. If this doesn't happen, please let us know so we can follow up to prevent it happening again.

ARIES Supervisory Charter

The ARIES Supervisory Charter defines the minimum standards and requirements expected within our Partnership for supervision of ARIES Postgraduate Researchers (PGRs). With this charter, the basis for successful communication throughout the duration of the PhD is established with the obligations of the supervisors recorded. The list of duties is not exhaustive and the post-holder may be required to undertake additional duties. These duties may also be subject to change at any time throughout the PGR's studies. All ARIES supervisors are required to sign the charter to indicate their understanding and support of our expectations for supervision. Further information can be found on the ARIES website.

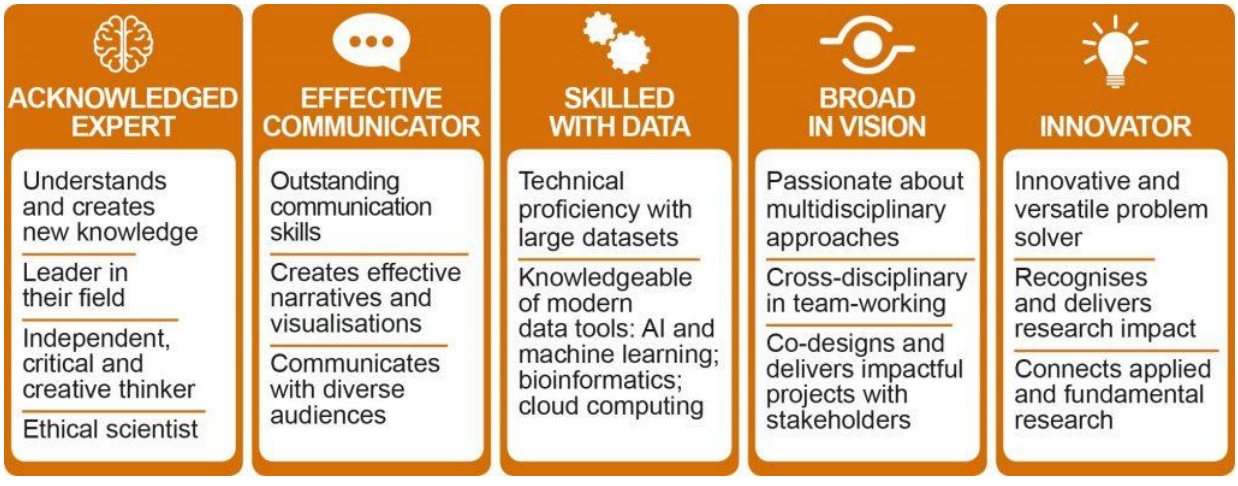
Training

ARIES Training Plan

The ARIES Vision:

"To train PhD PGRs with excellent potential from across society, equipping them with the necessary skills to become 21st Century Scientists: leaders in the science and sustainable business of the natural environment"

ARIES aims to provide an excellent programme of cohort-based training that will support not only your PhD thesis work, but also your future career. We offer opportunities for advanced and transferable skills training, aiming to broaden your horizons and develop a valuable professional & support network. ARIES PGRs are trained in 5 key areas through the mandatory whole-cohort training events:



Our Doctoral Training programme is designed to:

- Develop cohorts of PGRs with advanced skills and knowledge, multidisciplinary outlooks, and potential to operate successfully across all postgraduate careers
- Provide you with the foundation research skills necessary to quickly and efficiently begin your planned programme of research;
- Ensure you engage with interfaces between science and societal needs by developing your ability to achieve non-academic impact and effective public engagement.
- Provide you with continuing personal and professional training in non-research specific areas, for example in enterprise, innovation, multidisciplinary working, and science communication;
- Train you to understand modern methods of data management, interrogation, analysis and presentation, from bioinformatics to artificial intelligence;
- Offer you career-specific training and support at every stage towards a successful transition to post-PhD employment.

The Framework

Our training programme is designed around the Vitae Researcher Development Framework (RDF)[1], a framework which articulates the knowledge, behaviours and attributes of researchers such as yourselves. It is a helpful tool to identify goals for your training development and is summarised in the diagram above.

Further information on the RDF and how we use it to support your training and development is provided during your induction.

Your Health and Wellbeing

Staying healthy is important to get the most out of your PhD and other opportunities within ARIES – it's easy to get caught up in your research & training and forget that maintaining a healthy body and mind will bring you better results, give you a better experience while you are studying with us and develop important benefits for the future. We encourage you to remain as physically active as you are able, and to integrate good practices to maintain your mental wellbeing. This might be as simple as planning to take regular breaks, finding a way to incorporate regular exercise or working to identify and minimise triggers for a drop in mental health. There will be opportunities at our cohort events to take part in activities and learn more about practical tools to look after your health and wellbeing.

If you experience issues with your mental or physical health, you are not alone. Please review the Wellbeing and Support page on our website, which has links to your institutional support services.

If you need to take time away from your PhD for annual leave, medical leave, emergencies, parental leave or any other reason, please review the Absence page on our website for details of our policies and how to notify us.

[1] https://www.vitae.ac.uk/researchers-professional-development/

Reporting Requirements

Tracking your Training – the TNA

You will identify your own training needs using the ARIES Training Needs Assessment (TNA) system, the mechanism by which you can regularly assess your own progress and goals with the support and advice of your supervisor(s) and the ARIES Training and Progression Panel (TPP). The TNA gives you a useful framework to reflect on your skills as a researcher, set your goals for the future and build a portfolio of evidence that you can draw on for progress review meetings during your doctorate, and in future job applications.

You will have responsibility for tracking your training and development, and we encourage you to discuss your TNAs with your supervisors(s), both informally and as part of your formal progress review meetings. **The TNA is YOUR tool** and will help you to think carefully about where you want to be at the end of your PhD (and beyond), and how you can get there.

Annual Report

ARIES will also ask you to complete a survey each Summer, to collect data on your activities over the past year. This also gives us the opportunity to gather feedback from our PGRs – we value your feedback enormously, so please do let us know your thoughts. Among other things, the report will ask you for any highlights from the last year (conference presentations, publications, public engagement events, etc.).

UKRI-funded PGRs will find that they are also required to complete an annual online survey of their research, engagement and other activities known as ResearchFish. Your university will coordinate their own ResearchFish submission and contact you directly.

The reporting requirements for ARIES PGRs are detailed in the table below.

Table 1. Reporting requirements for all ARIES PGRs

Year 1	Within 6 weeks of starting your PhD. Submission to ARIES by**:** **15 December**	You should complete the **ARIES Initial TNA form** early during your PhD and discuss it with your supervisors at your Initial Supervisory Meeting/Board (usually within your first 6 weeks). Revise your TNA according to the feedback received and ask your supervisor to sign and comment before submitting it to ARIES.
	Submission to ARIES by: **15 June**	The **ARIES Continuing TNA form** should be completed alongside your **Annual Report** and includes confirmation that you have produced a literature review and PhD research proposal.

Year 2 **Year 3** **Year 4**	Submission to ARIES by: **15 June each year**	**Annual Report & ARIES Continuing TNA form**, giving confirmation that you have submitted the required written work as part of your annual review process.

Copies of these forms are available on the ARIES website.

ARIES Cohort Training

The ARIES system of whole-cohort training builds a networked group of scientists working across NERC's science remit, and across the Partnership. We focus our training into a few residential and online events, which both enables you to focus on your research for longer periods and provides a space in which you can gain some distance from your PhD and reflect on how things are going with the support of your peers. All costs associated with travel to and from ARIES events, as well as accommodation where required, is covered by the ARIES Doctoral Training programme. Details of how to claim these costs are on our website.

ARIES cohort training is delivered to **all** its PGRs through a series of mandatory events. PGRs will **only be excused under exceptional circumstances** when we are notified at least a month in advance (e.g. when there is an unavoidable clash with fieldwork). Where you miss cohort training you must find alternative training to replace it. An indicative schedule for these cohort training events is shown below, in Table 2**. It is important that you consider this list when choosing additional training – otherwise you may duplicate training that will be delivered through our cohort events.**

As our PGRs come from varied backgrounds and are hosted at many different organisations, which have their own induction and training schemes, it is inevitable that there will be some repetition of training within our programme. Please see this as ***reinforcement*** of the important training that we believe all PGRs need. Taking time to recall, remember and apply these key skills will be beneficial to your development.

Table 2. Mandatory Cohort Training Events

2026	
3-5 November	**Year 1 Induction**, Hautbois Activity Centre, Norfolk
Introduction to ARIES Kickstart your PhD Wellbeing, Equality and Diversity Data management and record keeping The PGR-supervisor relationship	The ARIES training vision Training Needs Analysis Hints and tips PGR-led Activities Where can ARIES take you?
30 November – 2 December	**Year 1 Winter School,** a 3-day virtual event
Elevator pitches and posters Ethics, rigour, respect and responsibility Impactful environmental science Building a profile	The NERC big picture Working with Data Time management Wellbeing
2027	
20-21 April	**CADA, venue TBC**
	A 1–2-day symposium and training event run in conjunction with CREATES (University of Cambridge led DLA) *n.b. this is not a mandatory event for PGRs in Year 1 of their PhD.*
TBC, June	**Year 1 & 3 Summer School,** Norwich
Year 1: Academic writing The publishing process Employability skills Networking Communicating with different audiences	Year 3: Developing your writing Preparing for the Viva Employability skills CVs, cover letters and interviews Design skills for science communication

2028	
TBC, Spring	**EnviroSPRINT or other training event**

Please note the above dates in your diary! The sessions shown here are to give you an idea of what might be included – they may change depending on new opportunities arising and trainer availability. Some training events require preparation in advance so please be prepared to make time for this.

Expected Level of Training

PGRs are often keen to know how much training they are required to complete during their PhD. To answer this, it is important to first understand how we classify training within ARIES:

Advanced Research Training – This training might be specific to PGRs or to specific groups of PGRs and provides the skills needed to undertake a PhD within a particular research area. It also covers training in the translation of research into practice (e.g. environmental modelling, advanced statistics).

Continuing Professional Development (CPD) – This is the process of enhancing your transferable skills, either through formal training courses or 'experientially' by reflecting on your practice (e.g. presentations, time or project management skills).

Careers Training – The purpose of this training is to enhance your employability and make the most of the skills that you already have and will gain through your PhD. It may also serve to broaden your horizons by helping you to understand some of the sectors where your skills might be applied and valued by employers (e.g. CV development, interview techniques).

Experiential learning – Where you lead your own training (e.g. convening a seminar series) or where you learn from taking part in an activity (e.g. presenting at seminars and conferences, working as a demonstrator to support PGR learning, working in outreach).

The amount of training required will depend on your pre-existing skills, your research programme and your career plans.

In order to meet the expectations above, you will need to undertake training over and above the mandatory ARIES programme of cohort training. ARIES recognises that each PGR will be different, but we expect that this training might cover the following:

- *Advanced Research Training* required for you to effectively carry out your programme of research, leading to the submission of your thesis. This may be achieved through one or several training activities (taught courses, self-study, peer learning and individual instruction with your supervisor or research group), and we expect that it will consist of a **minimum of 5 days of tuition per year**.
- Additional *Advanced Research Training* beyond your immediate research area to achieve advanced capabilities in other areas of the environmental sciences, such as statistics, data management, coding and/or modelling.
- *CPD* to achieve a broad portfolio of transferable skills for the workplace, which is likely to require an investment of **2 days of training per year**. For example, this might include training in media/public engagement, innovation/enterprise, time management, project management, etc.
- *Careers training* such as interview skills and writing effective job applications.
- Delivering a presentation (oral or poster) at an international conference.
- Additional *experiential learning activities* such as writing a blogpost or article, contributing to the E^3I club's activities, delivering a research seminar/presentation to your research group/department, etc.

ARIES will send you periodical eBulletins listing opportunities for training across the partnership and externally. We also encourage you to do your own research to find relevant training opportunities and discuss any gaps in your training that you would like to address with your supervisor. If you hear of any opportunities that would benefit other ARIES PGRs, please let us know at aries.dtp@uea.ac.uk and we will include them in the next eBulletin. You could also let your peers know about training you have found useful via social media or by writing a blog post about the training for SciEnvy.

Compliance

ARIES takes its responsibility to train its PGRs seriously and expects its PGRs to fulfil their obligations for training and reporting. **Failure to attend mandatory training or to complete the requisite reporting by the agreed dates will result in suspension of access to ARIES funding and/or training.** This suspension will remain in force until all such obligations are fulfilled, or until a request for a waiver on the grounds of *exceptional* extenuating circumstances is received and approved by the Strategy Board (or the Director acting on their behalf).

Other ARIES Opportunities

Before accessing and/or paying for training opportunities outside of the ARIES Doctoral Training programme, it is imperative that you check the mandatory training offered by ARIES to avoid unnecessary expenditure and repetition. From time-to-time ARIES sponsors training events. Details of these events will be sent out via the eBulletin.

PGR-led Activities

Some of the activities associated with ARIES are PGR-led, and participation in these activities is strongly encouraged. Examples include professional video editing training and creating board games for science communication (#LetsPlayScience). Taking a co-ordinating role in such activities provides valuable learning opportunities and transferable skills.

SciEnvy

The SciEnvy blog was set up during the EnvEast Doctoral Training Partnership and has continued through the efforts of other EnvEast and ARIES PGRs. It aims to share your research and experiences with each other, as well as other PGRs and early career scientists, the wider scientific community and the public. SciEnvy has well over 10,000 reads to date. This is your chance to get involved, make your voice heard and, at the same time, practice writing for different audiences.

We are currently in the process of relaunching this blog, so please do be in touch if you would be keen to be involved.

E^3I PGR Innovation Club

The E^3I (Environmental Enterprise, Engagement and Innovation) is an ARIES-funded PGR innovation club, which promotes and funds activities related to the broad definition of “innovation”. This includes activities related to public outreach/engagement activities, innovation-related training, seminars and competitive awards for individuals to attend meetings or participate in enterprise activities. Get involved and help define how this funding is used. Information and links to E^3I’s social media can be found on the ARIES website.

The E^3I club has equipment for activities in-keeping with its aims. , Please email aries.dtp@uea.ac.uk for further information

Funding for PGR-led training

ARIES runs a rolling call for training proposals. These are considered for funding by the Strategy Board three times per year. ARIES PGRs are welcome to submit proposals.

Institutional training

As an ARIES PGR, you have access to a wealth of expertise across the training programme. Many courses covering generic research, transferable skills and advanced training are offered at all five ARIES universities, so there should be no need to travel. Details of how to access training will be provided to you at your university induction (contact your graduate school/doctoral college if not). Additionally, postgraduate researchers can usually access MSc modules, if these will fill a gap in their subject knowledge that is key to the success of their research project. You are strongly advised to discuss any additional training courses you would like to attend with your supervisor. They will be able to advise you on the most opportune time to undertake additional training, so that you can best take advantage of the content.

Ordinarily, it is expected that PGRs will attend training at their Host Institute, but where training requirements can only be met by other institutes within ARIES, our PGRs should be able to access this training by arrangement with the relevant department (subject to the availability of places). For help making such inter-institute arrangements, please contact aries.dtp@uea.ac.uk.

The ASB fund (ARIES-funded PGRs only)

As part of the ARIES studentship, funded PGRs have an Additional Skills Budget (ASB) to pay for external training and conference attendance, in addition to your Research Costs Budget (RCB). The ASB moneys are held by your university of registration, and you will need to monitor your own spending. We ask you to submit a statement of spending every 6 months and we will provide training on how to monitor and report on your spending.

ASB funds **may not be spent on research costs** and are allocated for your own personal development and training. **ARIES funding is only available within your 'funded period'** (usually 3.5 years), and this includes your RCB and ASB funds.

Examples of allowable ASB expenditure are:

- ✓ Attend/present research at one or more conferences or meetings
- ✓ Attend supervisory meetings away from the Host Institute, if needed
- ✓ Undertake training where the training cannot be accessed for less within the ARIES partnership
- ✓ Travel for educational purposes

- ✓ Membership of learned societies

Examples of disallowed ASB expenditure are:

- Costs of Research (e.g. lab consumables)
- Equipment purchase (such as computers)
- Any expenditure disallowed under ARIES guidance

NERC Training and Internships

NERC fund several series of training events, which are usually free to attend for NERC-funded PGRs. PGRs not funded by NERC can still apply but may take lower priority or be asked to pay.

Environment Young Entrepreneurs Scheme (YES)

This scheme provides training to teams of early career researchers with an interest in commercialising their research. Teams then enter a competition somewhat along the lines of "Dragon's Den". The winners receive a substantial prize and the chance to pitch internationally. Information can be found on the Environment YES website.

UKRI Policy Internships

This scheme places PGRs in influential public policy organisations for a three-month placement. PGRs continue to receive their stipend, and their studentship is extended by three months to make up the lost time. The application process is highly competitive, and you will need to submit an ARIES Policy Internship statement of intent to us, as well as applying to UKRI. ARIES has funding for up to two Policy Internships per year. Further details are available on the Policy Internship website.

If successful, you may also need to comply with the regulations and processes of your University of Registration in order to seek formal permission to interrupt your studies.

CASE Placements

Some ARIES PhD studentships are awarded in collaboration with a non-academic CASE partner. These studentships include a placement at the CASE partner's organisation, as part of the PGR's programme of study. ARIES PGRs undertaking a PhD project with CASE support will attend a three to 18-month placement with the non-academic partner during their funding period. The placement offers experience designed to enhance professional development.

Other Internships

We do not presently have a formalised internship scheme within the ARIES Doctoral Training programme. Many of our partner Universities do, however, operate such schemes. ARIES actively encourages all PGRs to consider undertaking some form of placement. Many of you will do so because you hold a CASE award, and nearly all of our Collaborative Partners have told us that they would be willing to host one or more internships/placements. These can take place during the period of study (not recommended in the first year) or could be after you have completed your thesis. Please feel free to discuss this with us.

NERC Research Centre Training Programme

NERC's Research Centres (including the British Antarctic Survey and British Geological Survey, UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, National Centre for Atmospheric Science) offer a wide range of training courses that are open to NERC PGRs.

ARIES and your University Training Requirements

As well as meeting ARIES training requirements, PGRs must satisfy the training requirements of their University of Registration. You should refer to your graduate school/doctoral college/supervisor for further guidance. ARIES has negotiated some dispensations with our partner universities, which are detailed below.

UEA: As an ARIES PGR (both ARIES-funded and Associated), your training is according to the ARIES Doctoral Training pathway, and it is this document that you should refer to rather than the SCI Faculty or SSF Faculty Training Pathway. **You are not required to complete the UEA TNA.**

Essex: Proficio is an innovative professional development scheme for doctoral PGRs, unique to Essex. Your Proficio account will be credited with £2,000 during the course of your studies to spend on a variety of courses to support your professional skills development. In addition, a conference fund of £500 is available. Your supervisor will support you to identify your training needs, but you can browse, search and book places on training courses through the portal. To access Proficio you will need to complete a short (10 minute) TNA, through which Proficio will recommend courses to address any needs identified. **This does not take the place of the ARIES TNA.**

Kent: The University of Kent Graduate and Researcher College runs a Researcher Development Programme, designed to equip postgraduate researchers with a range of research and transferable skills. ARIES PGRs based at Kent will be encouraged to take full advantage of the wide variety of workshops and online training available through this programme, which is organised around the domains of Vitae's Researcher Development Framework. **Kent ARIES PGRs are not required to**

complete the Kent Researcher Development Assessment, please send our Researcher Develop Team a copy of your most recent ARIES TNA.

Plymouth: ARIES PGRs based in Plymouth must meet the requirements of their university of registration, but can access the University of Plymouth Doctoral College's Researcher Development Programme, which offers a wide range of courses and sessions to help you develop and broaden your research and transferable skills. You may need to contact researchskills@plymouth.ac.uk to arrange attending courses there.

Royal Holloway: Royal Holloway's Researcher Development Programme is a series of courses, online training, webinars and opportunities designed for PGRs to help develop their professional, transferable, research and writing skills. This programme is offered as *part* of the training requirements, and it is up to each researcher to decide which courses on the programme they will find useful.

Publications, Conferences and Success Stories

Acknowledgement of ARIES

ARIES-funded PGRs must acknowledge NERC and ARIES in any outputs arising from your PhD.

The grant number for the ARIES DTP Cohorts (up to the October 2024 intake) is NE/S007334/1.

The grant number for the ARIES DLA Cohorts (October 2025 intake and onwards) is UKRI1350.

You can visit the ARIES website or contact us at aries.dtp@uea.ac.uk to obtain ARIES' logos (to use on posters, email signatures, etc.). NERC's logos can be downloaded via the NERC website.

Acknowledgements should state:

"This work was supported by the Natural Environment Research Council and the ARIES Doctoral Training programme, grant number [insert accordingly: NE/S007334/1 OR UKRI1350**]."**

NERC/ARIES/EnvEast must also be acknowledged in outputs produced using equipment (etc.) bought by us. This includes, for example, video footage shot or edited using E^3I equipment (such as cameras, laptops, Adobe software), which was purchased using NERC funds granted to EnvEast (grant number **NE/L002582/1**).

Please tell us about your publications, conferences, outreach work, public engagement events and any other success stories related to your PhD, by emailing us at aries.dtp@uea.ac.uk, as it would be great to hear about them.

Applying for Funds from ARIES

Attendance at cohort training events (All ARIES PGRs)

ARIES will cover reasonable travel/subsistence expenses arising from attendance at ARIES cohort training events, where these are not based at your Host Institute/University. Please follow the relevant expenses process as guided by the ARIES website.

All ARIES PGRs (both funded and associated) should purchase a 16-25 railcard, because PGRs over the age of 25 are still eligible to receive one. Further details are available on the railcard website. PGRs can claim back the cost of a three-year railcard, or three one-year railcards if necessary.

Please note that expenses are reimbursed by bank transfer.

Financial Assistance (ARIES-funded PGRs only)

ARIES recognises that not all costs can be accurately predicted in advance, and that some research costs are subject to fluctuations. ARIES-funded PGRs may apply to the ARIES Doctoral Training programme for further research or training funding over and above their RCB or ASB funds. Please note that you must be up to date with your mandatory cohort training and TNA reporting to be eligible for additional funds. Details of the Financial Assistance process can be found on our website.

ARIES Data Management Policy

The ARIES Doctoral Training programme recognises and abides by the NERC Data Policy. If you are ARIES-funded, your data (including model-generated data) should be made openly available within two years of collection and placed in a NERC data centre (or suitable equivalent). The aim is that all NERC-funded environmentally-related data are managed and made available for the long-term use of anybody without any restrictions. This extends to publications too; these must be published in Open Access journals or related media under a “Creative Commons” licence or similar. Your university may have funds to support the cost of this.

We note that, in some circumstances, there may be confidentiality agreements in place, possibly where CASE partnerships are involved. You are advised to discuss this with the ARIES Management team and your local research contracts office, if this would result in data being withheld from the public domain for more than 2 years.

In all cases, ARIES-funded studentships have a data management plan. Please ask your supervisor for more information on this.

These provisions apply to ARIES-funded PGRs only. Different data management rules may apply to Associated ARIES PGRs.

Data security and the handling of personally sensitive information is both your responsibility, and the responsibility of individual institutes. It is strongly recommended that all ARIES PGRs undergo

training on good data security practice and on their obligations under the UK Data protection law. Most Universities have excellent online self-study courses on data security compliance.

Related to this is a need to ensure that you do not inadvertently breach copyright regulations when presenting your research, publishing or teaching, including in the use of machine learning-based prediction engines like ChatGPT. Most Universities also have excellent online resources outlining good practice.

Governance of ARIES

ARIES is run by a Strategy Board (SB) that includes members from hosting partners who have experience in training PGRs. The Board meets twice each year, in September/October and May/June.

The Training and Progression Panel (TPP) reports to the Strategy Board, and its role is to ensure excellence and coherence in the provision of training, and to review PGR progress. The TPP meets twice a year.

We also have an Advisory Board (AB) comprising individuals in senior positions in UK business and government agencies. The Advisory Board provides advice to the Strategy Board.

You can find the members of the AB, SB, and TPP on the ARIES website.

PGR representative(s) to both groups are elected by each cohort every two years to provide PGR feedback to the ARIES.

The first point of contact for routine matters relating to ARIES is the administrative team. You can contact them at aries.dtp@uea.ac.uk.

Transfers Policy

The ARIES Doctoral Training programme has a policy in place to handle requests for institutional transfers, should a PGR wish to transfer their studies to a different university of registration during their award period, due to unforeseen circumstances. Please contact aries.dtp@uea.ac.uk for further information.

Complaints and Grievances

In line with UKRI Terms and Conditions, ARIES Doctoral Training has a policy in place to support PGRs and Supervisors with the efficient and satisfactory identification and resolution of complaints relating to the running of the ARIES Doctoral Training programme. We encourage you to contact us via aries.dtp@uea.ac.uk if you wish to raise a concern.

Additional Information for Supervisors

In addition to the mandatory cohort training, ARIES PGRs also have defined expectations of the additional training we ***expect*** them to engage in, plus written work that they ***must*** carry out (see Expected Level of Training, above). Supervisors should oversee the execution of, and provide feedback to the PGR on, these written assignments. In most cases, they are no more than the draft thesis chapters that you would in any case be expecting them to provide at appropriate times.

ARIES also takes a proactive approach to tracking the training progress of PGRs. They are required, in conversation with you, to conduct an Initial Training Needs Analysis (TNA) form, and then update this annually. The ARIES Training and Progression Panel reviews their assessments at these milestones and provides feedback.

Please note that ARIES-funded PGRs are usually awarded a 3.5 year studentship, including a Research Budget and a Budget for additional skills training and activities. **ARIES funding (including the RCB and ASB) is not available beyond the funded-period**.

ARIES is a partnership that sits outside of the HEIs and institutes and has a responsibility to capture data for reporting to our funders. This may mean that there is some duplication of reporting also required by your Host Institute (we are not able to retrieve any useful data from ResearchFish, for example). We have worked to streamline forms and avoid duplication wherever possible, but we hope that you will appreciate the difficulties in developing uniform procedures that work across the different University partners and our non-University research organisation hosts.

What if a PGR can't attend mandatory cohort training events because of fieldwork commitments, etc.?

- Fieldwork etc. should be planned around ARIES training events. If this is not possible, PGRs must submit a request for non-participation in ARIES mandatory training. PGRs that miss training will be required to demonstrate (with evidence) that they have undertaken alternative training to cover the ARIES training that was missed. **Failure to attend mandatory training or to complete the requisite reporting by the agreed dates will result in suspension of access to ARIES funding and/or training.**

What's the total time spent training over the lifetime of an ARIES PhD?

- We calculate that ARIES training takes about 20 days over the 3.5 years of the studentship. Time spent undertaking additional/institutional training will be dependent on individual PGRs' training needs and the requirements of their Host Institute.

Are reporting requirements the same for 'ARIES-Associated' PGRs?

- Yes.

Will my PGR be able to access their RTSG beyond the 3.5 year funded period of the studentship?

- No. ARIES studentships are (usually) funded for a duration of 3.5 years. **UKRI will not permit the use of RCB or ASB budgets after this period.**