



Presidential Monthly Reports (February):

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KPA President

February Report Summary:

- **KPA representation**
- **KPA Events**

KPA representation:

It is my pleasure to present the monthly report on behalf of the Keele Postgraduate Association. Over the past month, the organization has made significant strides in achieving its objectives through a variety of meetings and events, The KPA Officers attended several meetings, including:

- Keele Doctoral Academy Meeting
- Council Meeting
- Student Voice Committee Meeting
- Events and Campaigns Meeting
- Keele Communities Together meeting by Vice President Rachana
- Student Loans Company visit to Keele - Student Focus Group
- PGR Monthly meeting
- PVC Ed/Sabbs drop-in

The Keele Doctoral Academy Meeting focused on improving the support and training of postgraduate research students. At the Council Meeting, the progress of ongoing projects and initiatives on a large scale from a sector and university perspective was reviewed. The Student Voice Committee Meeting provided a platform for students to voice their concerns and suggestions for enhancing the postgraduate experience at Keele. The Events and Campaigns Meeting was centred on planning various events for the upcoming months, including social and professional development events. At the Keele Communities Together meeting, the KPA, through Vice President Rachana, discussed strategies to strengthen its relationships with other communities at Keele. The Student Loans Company visit involved a student focus group that provided feedback on the student loan process. The PGR Monthly meeting highlighted the achievements of postgraduate researchers and provided an update on ongoing research projects. Finally, the PVC Ed/Sabbs drop-in facilitated discussions on academic and welfare support for postgraduate students.

Moreover, providing support to our PGR reps is critical as it would enhance the research experience for PhD students, promote student engagement, reduce isolation, and improve research involvement. Hence, the Keele Postgraduate Association has been actively collaborating with the Keele Doctoral Academy to develop a comprehensive training plan for these reps, recognizing the significance of equipping them with necessary skills and knowledge to serve the postgraduate community at Keele better.

Additionally, we have been working closely with the Institute of Liberal Arts and Sciences (ILAS) and KDA to design a membership survey, which will be conducted in March. The aim of this survey is to gather feedback from our members on different aspects related to their postgraduate experience, including academic support, welfare services, and social events. The results of this survey will help us to understand the needs and expectations of our

members and guide us in developing initiatives that align with their interests and requirements.

Finally, We are delighted to report the KPA Bursary's positive reception among postgraduates, with feedback emphasizing its significant impact on both academic and personal growth. This bursary program is a testament to the KPA's unwavering dedication to supporting postgraduate students at Keele University. We acknowledge the tireless efforts of KPA Coordinator Alison Tansey and the Bursary Committee in managing and promoting the scheme, ensuring its continued value to postgraduates at Keele University. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to them for their commitment to the KPA and its members.

KPA Events:

The KPA also organized various events during February to promote well-being, diversity, and community engagement. These events catered to a wide range of interests and preferences.

A brief description of the events is as follows:

1. "Give Yourself Some Love - Mindfulness Craft Workshop": A morning mindfulness craft workshop was held, part of FebYOUary, with resident mindfulness teacher Beck. The aim was to promote self-compassion and relaxation.
2. "Speed Friending": The KPA provided an opportunity for students to make new friends or potentially meet love interests through a speed friending event using prompt cards.
3. "Children & Parent Painting Class": Parents were given a chance to rediscover their artistic side and learn from their children.
4. "Cookie Heart Decorating": The KPA organized a cookie heart decorating event, promoting self-love and encouraging participants to share their decorated cookies with friends, family, or a significant other.
5. "Themed Menu & Cheese Wine Platters": A special cuisine menu was offered with cheese and wine pairing platters, providing a chance for students to try out new foods and flavors.
6. "Fireside Yoga - Part of FebYOUary": Yoga sessions were held at Keele Hall with Fliss, followed by mingling over chai tea and fresh fruits.
7. "Random Act Of Kindness" Wind Chime Workshop & Walk: Students made positive message wind chimes at the clubhouse, followed by a walk around campus to display their creations.
8. "KARAOKE": Sunday evenings were dedicated to karaoke, providing a platform for students to showcase their singing talents.
9. "Afro Taste Night": A potluck event was organized, where postgraduate students shared food samples from their native cultures.
10. "Pancake Day": A special pancake menu was offered all day to celebrate Pancake Day.



11. "Coffee & a Cake": Students were given a free hot drink and cake to take a break from their studies.
12. "Express Yourself Party Night - Collab With LGBTQ Society": The KPA collaborated with the LGBTQ Society to organize a party night with traffic light cocktails, glitter, a pride theme, and playlist.
13. "Smash Piggy Bank Workshop": During the "Money Week," the KPA held

Furthermore, the Keele Postgraduate Association has sustained its weekly events, which comprise the Monday Productive Session, Wednesday Online Drop-In Session, and Thursday Postgrads Coffee Morning. These events had a good turnout and provided members with the opportunity to interact with committee members and discuss current challenges for the members. We express our gratitude to the KPA staff management team and team leaders for their invaluable support and assistance in organizing the events throughout February. Their dedication and hard work have been instrumental in ensuring the success of these events and the achievement of the KPA's objectives.

Photos on the left show part of the Afro Taste Night Event and the international delegate's visit from Georgia where we presented our association's endeavours to enhance the postgraduate experience at Keele University.



We had a productive month at the KPA, organizing successful events that catered to various interests and promoted well-being, diversity, and community engagement. Moving forward, we will continue working towards creating a supportive and inclusive community for postgraduate students at Keele.

In March, we planned various events aimed at improving the postgraduate experience for our members, including academic and professional development workshops, social events, and activities promoting well-being. Check out our March calendar on our website or contact us directly for a preview of upcoming events. We value feedback from our members and encourage you to reach out to us with any inquiries or concerns about events via email at kpa.bookings@keele.ac.uk to book the events or through our social media channels.

KPA Committee members can be seen meeting in January to plan for the February events, with the assistance of our dedicated staff members. We are pleased to report that February was a successful month, and we remain committed to continuing our efforts in planning for the upcoming events in March.



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