

Officers Reports:

President Report (March - April):

Executive Summary of paper:

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

Introduction:

This paper outlines the initiatives undertaken by the Keele Postgraduate Association (KPA) to enhance the postgraduate experience at Keele University. The KPA has been actively collaborating with university partners and departments to provide postgraduate students with improved academic support, welfare services, and social events. The paper discusses the training plan designed for the PGR representatives, the membership survey to be conducted to collect feedback from members, and the KPA Bursary's positive response among postgraduates. The report also highlights the numerous last two months' events organized by the KPA to promote well-being, diversity, and community involvement and the challenges the KPA team faced. The conclusion of the paper expresses gratitude to the KPA staff management team and team leaders for their invaluable assistance in organising the events and attaining the KPA's goals.

KPA representation:

The KPA committee where active and supported several initiatives together with different partners highlights of it since last February:

1. Working with the KDA on a comprehensive training plan for PGR Reps to ensure they have the necessary skills and knowledge to represent the postgraduate community effectively.
2. Leading the Postgraduate Membership Survey in collaboration with KDA and ILAS will provide valuable insights into the support available to members and identify areas for improvement.
3. Successfully organizing diverse events and programs throughout the year to address the issue of social isolation and promote community engagement.
4. Writing a short Q&A guide for all KPA officer's roles to help them navigate their responsibilities more effectively.
5. Contributing to the review of the KPA governance challenges and strategy, which aims to address postgraduate social isolation barriers for the next year.

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.

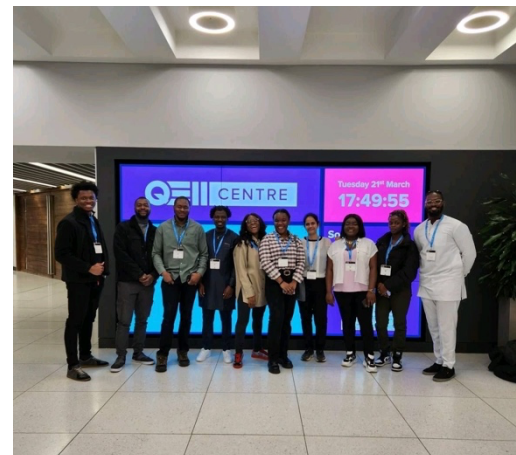
Additionally, we decided to delay the election by 4 weeks for a few reasons. Firstly, it will help to ensure that the current governance structure is not disrupted, including ongoing changes to the constitution. It will also prevent

any issues with the election process overlapping with the spring break. Secondly, it will give the election officers more time to finalize communications and scheduling before nominations open.

During the last period we have been working closely with the Institute of Liberal Arts and Sciences (ILAS) and KDA to design a membership survey, 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 the KPA 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.

The photo on the right shows a group of AI Master's students from Keele, with diverse research backgrounds, who have applied for the KPA bursary to help them attend the *AI UK 2023 conference* in London!



KPA Events

The KPA also organized various events during February to promote well-being, diversity, and community engagement. And continue on providing more events in March and April These events catered to a wide range of interests and preferences.

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, March, and ongoing April events. Their dedication and hard work have been instrumental in ensuring the success of these events and the achievement of the KPA's objectives.

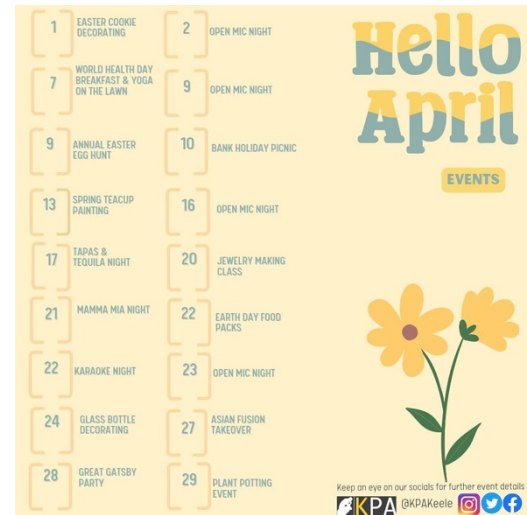
Photos on the left show part of the Afro Taste Night Event and the international delegate's visit from Georgia where we presented our association's endeavours to enhance the postgraduate experience at Keele University.



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.

We are pleased to report that March and April were successful months, and we remain committed to continuing our efforts in planning for the upcoming events in May.



Abdelrhman Rayis (He/Him)
KPA President

