



Empowering Postgraduate Voices in Digital Research at the University of Edinburgh

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Digital Research Services Outreach Project Overview

The **Digital Research Services (DRS) outreach project** at the University of Edinburgh promotes best research practices, enhances digital research skills, and raises awareness of resources and services across the research lifecycle, with an emphasis on digital, data-led, and computational research. These services enable world-class research, support discovery, and improve research outcomes.

PGR Engagement: Overall Share and Breakdown by College

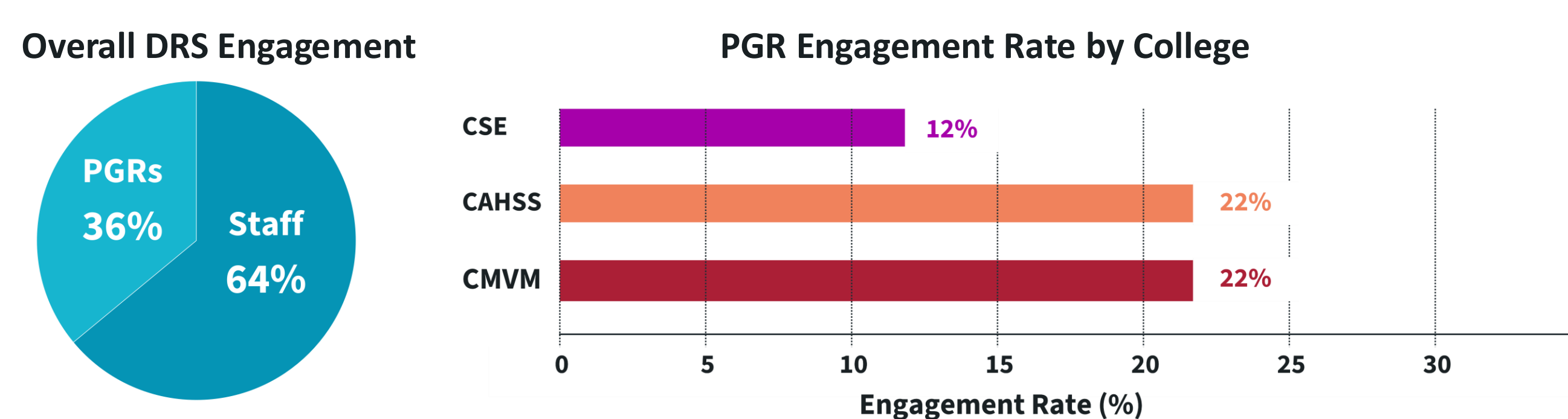
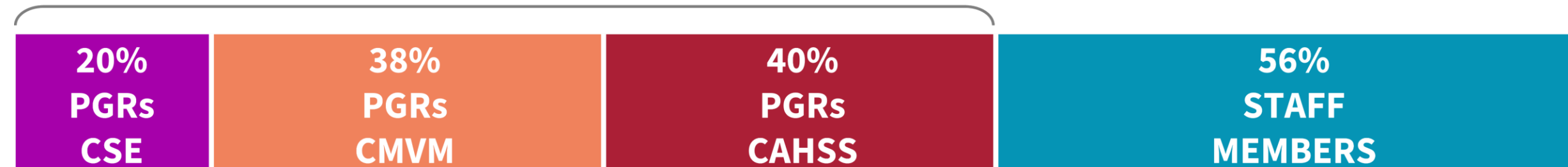


Figure 1. PGR engagement within DRS. The pie chart (left) shows the proportion of total DRS contacts accounted for by Postgraduate Researchers (PGRs, 36%) relative to staff (64%). The bar chart (right) shows the PGR engagement rate within each college, across the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences (CAHSS, 22%), the College of Science and Engineering (CSE, 12%), and the College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine (CMVM, 22%).

PGRs as Learners

Composition of PGR Attendees at Digital Research Services Training Events

44% of attendees are PGRs



Top Topics
Data Security
Coding Practices
Long-term Storage
Data Visualisation

Top Formats
Live Online Sessions
Workshops
Tailored Advice
Case Studies / Examples

Figure 2. PGR event attendance, training needs, and preferred delivery formats. PGRs account for 44% of DRS training event attendees, with engagement varying by college (CAHSS 40%, CMVM 38%, CSE 20%). Based on DRS training data (2020–2025) and the 2025 Digital Research Facilitation Survey, the four most requested topics were data security, coding practices, long-term data storage, and data visualisation (left). PGRs strongly preferred interactive and live formats, online synchronous sessions, workshops, and tailored advice over passive or on-demand approaches, with case studies particularly valued across disciplines (right).

PGRs as DRS Users

Resources have been developed to support the postgraduate research community in data, digital, and computational research. These include the 'Essential Guide to DRS for PGR students & staff', introductory bitesize webinars, and induction video series.

PGR Engagement with Digital Research Services



Figure 3. PGR awareness of and engagement with Digital Research Services (DRS). Despite broadly comparable engagement to university-wide levels, PGRs report lower awareness and use of DRS. Email is the preferred communication channel (75%), alongside event attendance, websites, mailing lists, and social media. Notably, 28% were unaware of Digital Research Facilitation and only 8% actively participated in facilitation initiatives.

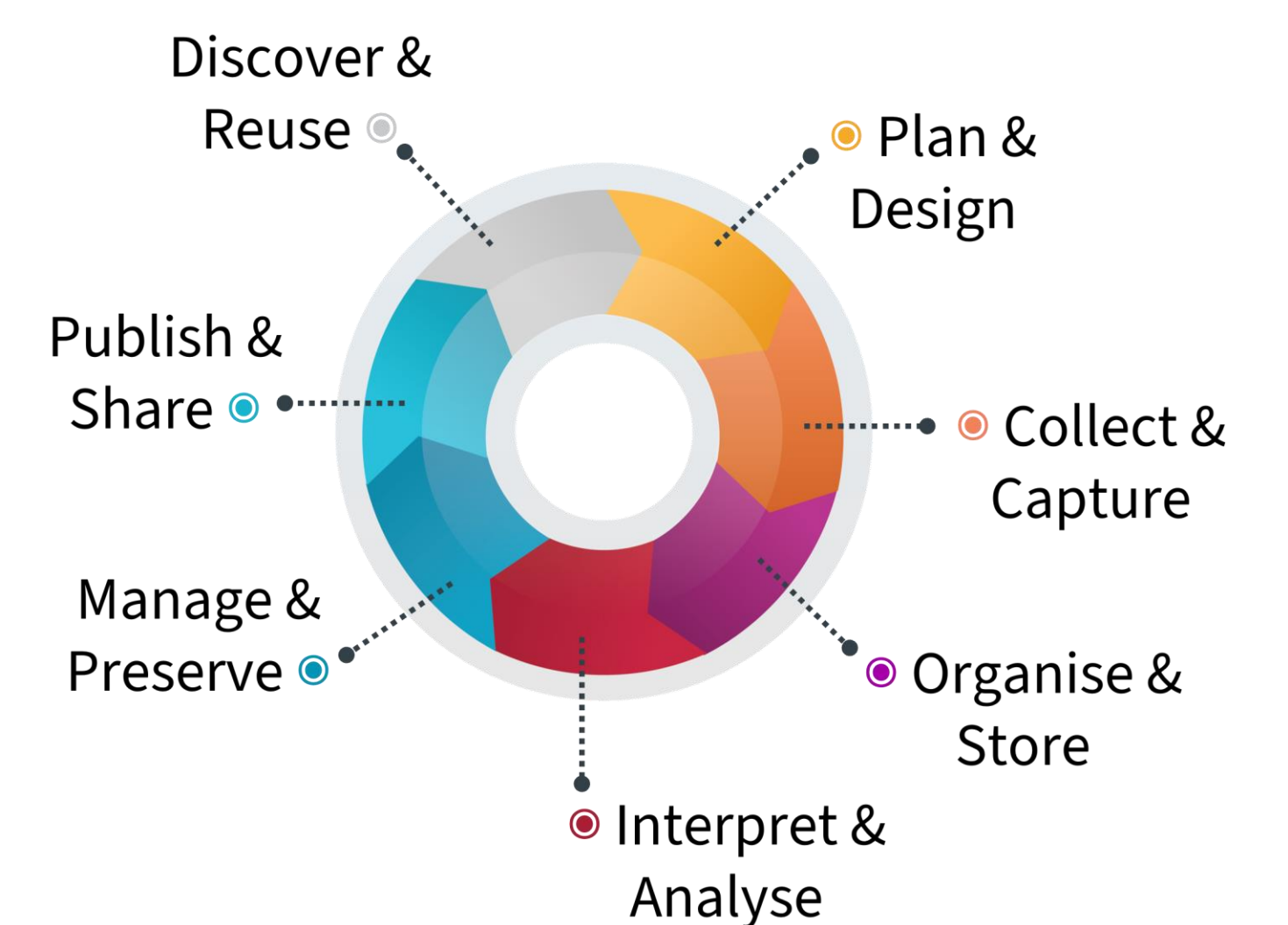
Opportunities for Engagement

We invite you to join the conversation on enhancing PGR engagement and educational journeys, equipping students with the skills to lead and innovate in their respective fields with adaptable, interdisciplinary training that prepares them to overcome future challenges.

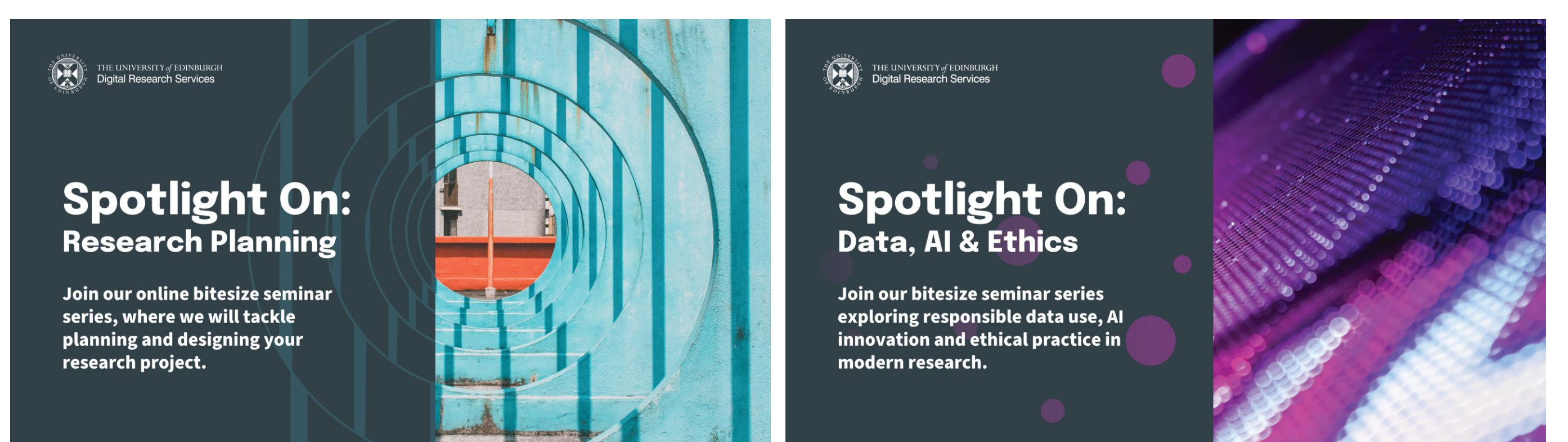
To continue the discussion, please contact the team at digitalresearchservices@ed.ac.uk, subscribe to our mailing list, and connect with us on social media.

Research Facilitation Programme Highlights (2025-26)

The **Research Facilitation programme of events** for the 2025-26 academic year has been designed based on training attendance data and participant feedback. To meet the needs of the postgraduate research community, training covering all phases of the digital research lifecycle has been delivered, including a series of digital research planning sessions.



With sessions delivered in different formats and opportunities provided for networking, the programme contributes to skills development and enhances the postgraduate research student experience. Key sessions delivered within the programme include:



Spotlight on: Research Planning Series

- Data & Computing Costs
- Research Data Management
- DMPonline
- Project Management
- Copyright & Licensing
- Open Science Framework

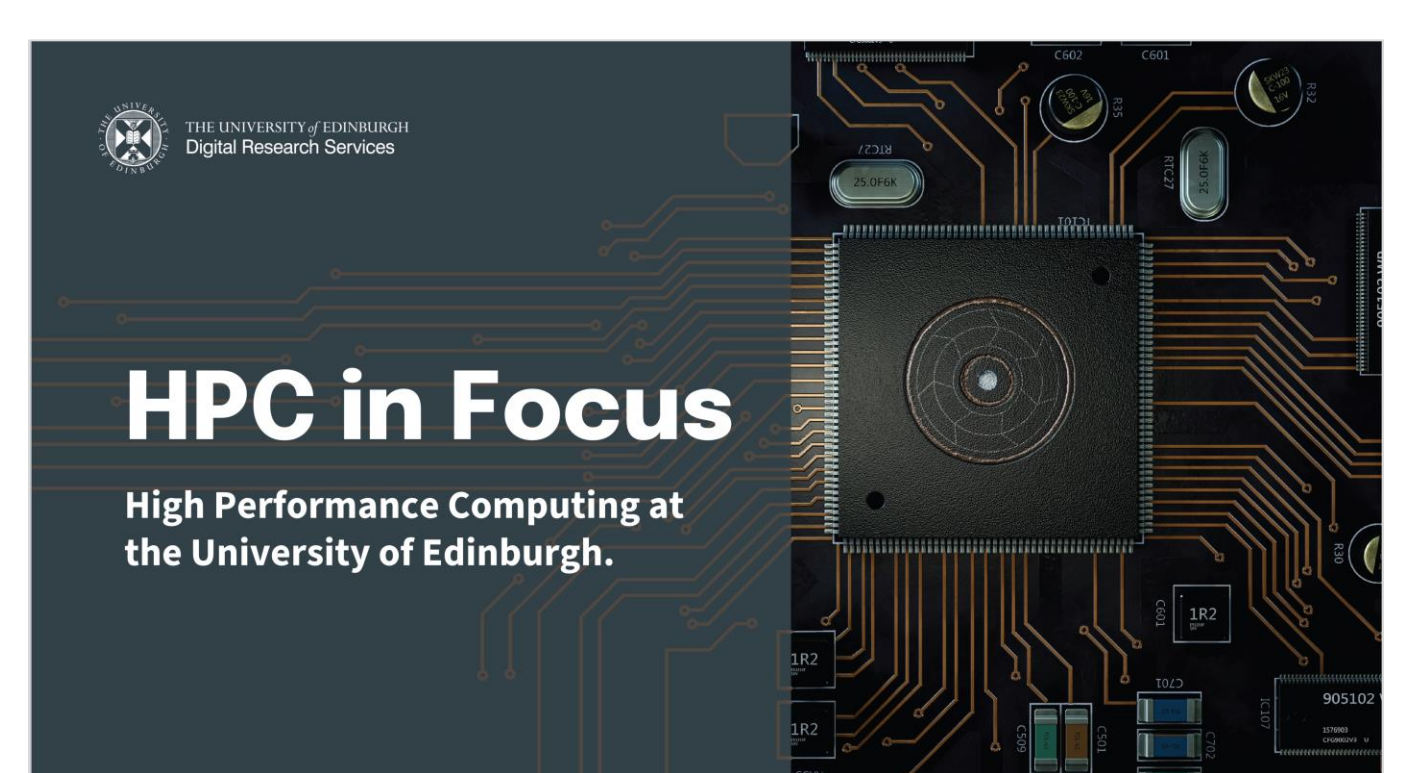
Spotlight on: Data, AI & Ethics Series

- Safe Havens & Data Security
- FAIR principles
- Working safely with personal data
- AI in Health & Biomedical Research
- AI in Imaging for Health & Bio Research
- Ethics in the Age of AI & Big Data



Lunchtime Seminars Series

- Planning Successful Research Projects
- Efficient Use of Data Storage & Computing
- Managing Research Data for Better Outcomes



HPC In Focus Series

- HPC information session
- ARCHER2 HPC Carpentry
- How to work on Eddie

PGRs as Researchers



Figure 4. Digital Research Services ambassadors programme for PGRs
DRS Ambassadors Internship Programme graphic (top), 2025 Ambassador cohort (below).

The **Digital Research Services Ambassadors Internship scheme** is a fully paid, flexible, 12-week, part-time internship. Since 2019, it has offered postgraduate students valuable interdisciplinary, hands-on research experience. The internship supports effective and efficient use of digital research tools and services, encourages best research practices and innovation, and fosters interdisciplinary collaboration.

DRS also provides PGRs with opportunities to present their work to large, university-wide audiences.