

MIGSAA Generic Skills (Years 2, 3 and 4)

For students starting in 2017 and 2018.

The aim is to give you a broad background of skills, experience and information that will help you in your future careers and studies.

A compulsory (pass/fail) unit of 15 credit equivalents is completed by satisfactory attendance at and participation in generic skills activities over years 2-4 as certified by the MIGSAA Management Committee. **An even balance of 5 credits per year is expected.**

- In Year 2 we expect you to cover 4 different items from the union of the two lists below, irrespective of how long each activity takes.
- In Year 3 we expect you to cover 4 different items from the union of the two lists below, irrespective of how long each activity takes.
- In Year 4 we expect you to be focussed on getting a job, writing your thesis and defending it and so two training activities on these themes will be sufficient.
- By the end of Year 4 that is 10 different items in total.
- Each item from the examples overleaf can only be counted once in total over Years 2-4.
- You can, if you like, complete the portfolio of activities earlier than suggested above, but please do not put off doing it to the final year. Credits will be awarded in blocks of 5 after 4,8 and 10 items are completed.

Activities

You are registered students at both Heriot-Watt and Edinburgh Universities, and so you can attend formal training courses and take part in other activities in either or both universities. Lists of courses are at

- Heriot-Watt University Centre for Academic Leadership and Development
General information - <https://www.hw.ac.uk/services/ald/research-students.htm>
Course dates - <https://pdms.hw.ac.uk/index.php>
- University of Edinburgh Institute for Academic Development
<https://www.ed.ac.uk/institute-academic-development/postgraduate/doctoral>

and examples are given overleaf.

ACTION REQUIRED: It is up to you to seek out and book your place in good time on these centrally-provided courses.

Generic Skills Examples

The two lists below contains some specific suggestions. If you don't know what type of skill you are lacking, please seek advice by asking your supervisor, the Generic Skills Officer (Sebastien Loisel, HW) or the Cohort Director (Michela Ottobre, HW). Please record what you do in the **Generic Skills section of your log book**. Otherwise we will not know that you have done it.

Examples of Training (Short/Long Courses/Workshops)

- Using your voice effectively in talks
- (called *Voice in Action* at HW)
- Data visualisation and presentation
- Scientific writing
- How to avoid unconscious bias
- Time management
- Research ethics
- TA training (full day)
- Entrepreneurship
- Communicating with industry
- CV writing
- Non-native Language course(s)
(up to 2 items)
- Computing Course(s) (up to 2 items)
- Careers in mathematics presentations (Year 4)
- Interview training (Year 4)
- Viva training (Year 4)
- Other equivalent events agreed (in advance) by Generic Skills Director

Examples of Experience Gained by Playing an Active Part as

- MIGSAA student representative (participating in/organising multiple, smaller activities)
- Organiser of a scientific event with external participants/speakers (e.g. minisymposium), including getting funding (includes the Annual Colloquium)
- Organiser of a reading group (including logistics, room bookings, funding, etc.)
- Presenter/assistant in an outreach activity
- Organiser of a different outreach activity
- Tutorial assistant
- Trained marker
- Grant proposer - make a properly costed funding proposal to an outside body for an event, visit or other activity.
- Industry intern - a placement in industry
- Participant in "European Study Group with Industry" (not the ICMS modelling camp)
- Another equivalent role agreed (in advance) by Generic Skills Director

Citizenship

Attending mathematical or scientific conferences, seminars, reading groups, MIGSAA events (annual colloquium, residential symposium, industrial sandpit, etc.) are **not Generic Skills**. These should be recorded in the **Citizenship section of your log book**.