



MORE REFERENCE MATERIALS

Academic Development and Learning Resources

There are a range of support and academic development resources available to students.

Access the Centre for Academic Development (DCAD)



Durham Centre for Academic Development - DU

Build and improve your digital skills



Digital Skills - DU

About the ChemDraw Package



Using ChemDraw

Find out more and access the University Bill Bryson library here



Durham University Library - DU

Computing and Information Services

Computing and Information Services (CIS) provides the IT tools, services and support that the University needs to maintain its reputation for world-class teaching and research.

From quickly fixing your troublesome tech to long-term strategic projects to improve your digital experience, CIS are here to help you do your best work whether you're working on campus, in the field, or at home. To find out more about the digital platforms and support we have available, head over to [My Digital Durham](#).

My Digital Durham outlines everything you need to know about studying, learning and socialising digitally at Durham, and will be your indispensable guide on everything digital during your first year with us and beyond. [My Digital Durham: Start Guide](#).

Click the link for the CIS Sharepoint site:

[IT News from the central CIS department](#)

News

durhamuniversity.sharepoint.com

You'll find all of the latest news from CIS on this webpage. We also send out a CIS Digest containing the most important news articles, if you want to receive the CIS Digest please subscribe using the form below.

Oracle Learning: How To videos

HR have posted about our new Oracle Learning 'How to' videos and providing links to take you directly to them.

These short videos are designed to help you to get the most out of Oracle Learning as a Learner. We're starting with the first steps in our first two videos: 'How to locate the user guides and sign into Oracle Learning' (Video 1) and 'How to browse the catalog and use the search function' (Video 2).

A new video will be posted on a weekly basis so please access our [SharePoint site](#) here where you will find our How To Videos and user guides.

Quick Links to frequently used platforms



Development Needs Analysis
(DNA)



AppsAnywhere - Redirect



Sign in to Outlook

Libraries

[Libraries and site information guide.](#)

'Academic Complete' subscription

The library is delighted to announce that University Library and Collections has recently subscribed to the 'Academic Complete' ebook Collection, giving staff and students unlimited simultaneous access to over 200,000 additional ebook titles. This includes over 29,000 digital rights management (DRM) free titles and 13,000 non-English language titles.

Coverage is across all subjects and disciplines with books drawn from over 180 academic publishers.

All the individual titles available from Academic Complete can be found by searching [Discover](#) or the [Library Catalogue](#).

If you have any queries, please contact the library [Virtual Enquiry Desk](#).

Research Skills & Techniques

JOINT RESEARCH COUNCILS' SKILLS TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

A. Research Skills and Techniques - to be able to demonstrate:

1. how to recognise and validate problems;
2. original, independent and critical thinking, and how to develop theoretical concepts;
3. a knowledge of recent advances within one's field and in related areas;
4. an understanding of relevant research methodologies and techniques and their appropriate application within one's research field;
5. how to critically analyse and evaluate one's findings and those of others;
6. how to summarise, document, report and reflect on progress.

B. Research Environment - to be able to:

1. show a broad understanding of the context, at the national and international level, in which research takes place;

2. demonstrate awareness of issues relating to the rights of other researchers, of research subjects, and of others who may be affected by the research, *e.g.* confidentiality, ethical issues, attribution, copyright, malpractice, ownership of data and the requirements of the Data Protection Act;
3. demonstrate appreciation of standards of good research practice in their institution and/or discipline;
4. understand relevant health and safety issues and demonstrate responsible working practices;
5. understand the processes for funding and evaluation of research;
6. justify the principles and experimental techniques used in one's own research;
7. understand the process of academic or commercial exploitation of research results;

C. Research Management - to be able to:

1. apply effective project management through the setting of research goals, intermediate milestones and prioritisation of activities;
2. design and execute systems for the acquisition and collation of information through the effective use of appropriate resources and equipment;
3. identify and access appropriate bibliographical resources, archives, and other sources of relevant information;
4. use information technology appropriately for database management, recording and presenting information;

D. Personal Effectiveness - to be able to:

1. demonstrate a willingness and ability to learn and acquire knowledge;
2. be creative, innovative and original in one's approach to research;
3. demonstrate flexibility and open-mindedness;
4. demonstrate self-awareness and the ability to identify own training needs;
5. demonstrate self-discipline, motivation, and thoroughness;
6. recognise boundaries and draw upon/use sources of support as appropriate;
7. show initiative, work independently and be self-reliant;

E. Communication Skills - to be able to:

1. write clearly and in a style appropriate to purpose, *e.g.* progress reports, published documents, thesis;
2. construct coherent arguments and articulate ideas clearly to a range of audiences, formally and informally through a variety of techniques constructively defend research outcomes at seminars and *viva* examination;
3. contribute to promoting the public understanding of one's research field;
5. effectively support the learning of others when involved in teaching, mentoring or demonstrating activities.

F. Networking and Teamworking - to be able to:

1. develop and maintain co-operative networks and working relationships with supervisors, colleagues and peers, within the institution and the wider research community;
2. understand one's behaviours and impact on others when working in and contributing to the success of formal and informal teams;
3. listen, give and receive feedback and respond perceptively to others.

G. Career Management - to be able to:

1. appreciate the need to and show commitment to continued professional development;
 2. take ownership for and manage one's career progression, set realistic and achievable career goals, and identify and develop ways to improve employability;
 3. demonstrate an insight into the transferable nature of research skills to other work environments and the range of career opportunities within and outside academia;
 4. present one's skills, personal attributes and experiences through effective CVs, applications and interviews.
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Web of Knowledge (WoS)

WoS is a primary database for the retrieval of citations.

Searches can include combinations of author, title, journal, year, article type, institution *etc*, and articles that cite a particular paper can also be found.

To access WoS on campus, go to: <http://wok.mimas.ac.uk/> and click on the "Access Now" button. Off campus, WoS can be accessed by entering your CIS username and password when prompted. This service is also linked from the University Library's web pages at <http://library.dur.ac.uk/record=b2035322~S1>

Scopus

Scopus is another primary database of peer-reviewed literature.

It sometimes finds items missed by WoS, especially if they have been published very recently. It is available on campus at <http://www.scopus.com> and off campus from the Library at <http://library.dur.ac.uk/record=b2882122~S48>

SciFinder Scholar

SciFinder enables searching of the Chemical Abstracts (CAS) Database of the American Chemical Society.

It is accessed through a web browser (currently on-campus only) and searches can be conducted for literature terms (author, title, *etc.*) and/or chemical structure, including functional group interconversions.

In order to access SciFinder, you will need a CAS username and password, which you obtain by registering at the CAS website. In order to register, follow the link from the following Library web page:

http://www.dur.ac.uk/library/password/resources_passwords/passwdata/

Any search that you do can be kept as a "Keep Me Posted" notification, after which you will then be notified of any new CAS entries that match the search criteria.

The University has two licenses that can be used concurrently, so at peak times you may need to wait and retry later. To access SciFinder with a valid username/password, go to: <http://ezphost.dur.ac.uk/login?url=https://scifinder.cas.org>

Reaxys

Reaxys enables searching of the Beilstein and GMELIN databases, covering Organic, Inorganic and Organometallic Chemistry. It is accessed *via* a web browser. No usernames/passwords are needed if you are on-campus. Searches can be conducted for chemical structures and reactions, as well as text items (*e.g.* compound name, keyword, author, CAS number *etc*). A key feature of Reaxys is the presentation of physical data by category, for example enabling the quick retrieval of NMR data, melting points, *etc.*, for a particular compound. Go to:

<http://library.dur.ac.uk/record=b2433905~S1>

Other Resources

Below is a short list of other resources that you may find useful:

PubMed	http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed	Direct links to articles; easy to move around the literature
Google Scholar	http://scholar.google.co.uk/	Good for finding references; less good for moving around the literature
Crossref	http://www.crossref.org/	Find any article by DOI

If you have any problems that need to be raised with the IT Service Desk, please contact them via the [Self Service Portal](#), [Live Chat](#) or [Book an appointment](#), virtual or in person at the Bill Bryson Library.

For unresolved problems or strategic IT matters, contact Prof Mark Wilson (Academic Liaison for IT and Library Services, room CG139, mark.wilson@durham.ac.uk).

Launch of new online career planning programme

The Careers & Enterprise Centre is delighted to offer a new online career planning programme aimed at all Durham students and graduates looking for some guidance to develop their employability and prospects for a fulfilling career - no matter where they are on their career development journey. It covers four pathways that can be completed individually.

Students and graduates can access the programme via our [Student Services Portal](#).