

Research Planning and Management in the GeoSciences

P02394 (20 credits) SEMESTER 1

Course Organiser

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Course Secretary

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Course constituents

All new full-time and part-time GeoSciences Physical Science research postgraduate students (PhD, MPhil and MScR) based in Edinburgh will be registered on the course. The course will not normally count towards the taught credits for MScR students taking a dissertation worth less than 180 credits.

Course aims / Learning Objectives

The aims are for 1st Year GeoSciences Physical Science research postgraduate students to:

1. Develop transferable research skills in time management, scientific writing, data management, fieldwork safety, research ethics and science communication.
2. Gain an understanding of the different research strands within the School.
3. Build a support network for their research in the School of GeoSciences
4. Develop a cohort of research students across the School and help to create a research postgraduate community.

Assessment

100% continuous assessment comprising a research plan to be submitted via Learn by 12 noon on Wednesday 4th December 2019.

The research plan should summarise the student's research project and should specify supervisory arrangements, aims, time planning for the first year, project resources, data management issues, and a brief literature review. The length of the project plan should be between 3000 and 5000 words. All reviews should be submitted in Learn. Specific instructions will be provided as part of the course.

Given sufficient time supervisor/s should be able to provide feedback on a draft of the research plan prior to submission.

The research plan will not be graded, and feedback should be given by the student's supervisor/s rather than the course organiser.

Learn

The course materials, feedback questionnaire and assignment submission will be available through the course Learn pages.

Course Schedule

Please bring along your laptop or tablet. In some sessions you will want to access the internet, take notes or participate in workshop activities.

Date	Topic	Staff	Location
Wednesday 18th September 2019			
09:45 – 10:00	Arrival and introduction	Isla Myers-Smith	Murchison House 1.19
10:00 – 11:30	Mental health and well-being during a PhD	TBA	Murchison House 1.19
10:30 – 11:30	Ethics and your PhD research	Sam Staddon	Murchison House 1.19
11:30 – 11:45	Research plan introduction	Isla Myers-Smith	Murchison House 1.19
11:45 – 12:00	Intro to your RTSG and finances	PGR office	Murchison House 1.19
12:00 – 14:00	LUNCH		
14:00 – 16:00	Managing your PhD and Research Plan	Isla Myers-Smith	Murchison House 1.19
Wednesday 16 October 2019			
10:00 – 12:00	Writing skills to support your PhD <i>(with Research Design in Human Geography)</i>	Mimo Caenepeel (IAD)	Murchison House 1.19
12:00 – 13:00	LUNCH		
13:00 – 15:00	Time management and forward planning <i>(with Research Design in Human Geography)</i>	IAD	Murchison House 1.19
15:00 – 17:00	Version Control and project management	Coding Club	Crew Computer Lab
Wednesday 30th October 2019			
13:00 – 14:00	Intro to the confirmation process	Isla Myers-Smith	Murchison House 1.19
14:00 – 15:00	Top tips for scientific writing - Confirmation reports, proposals, papers and an intro to the peer review and publication/grant funding process	Isla Myers-Smith and upper year PhD students	Murchison House 1.19
15:00 – 17:00	Introduction to Data Visualisation in R	Coding Club	Crew Computer Lab
Wednesday 13th November 2019			
13:00 – 14:30	Creating an online presence – social media and building your ‘brand’	Isla Myers-Smith	Murchison House 1.19
14:30 – 16:00	Guest Speaker – Science communication outside of the Ivory Tower	TBA	Murchison House 1.19
16:00 – 16:30	PhD and your career – ‘Where can your PhD take you?’	Isla Myers-Smith	Murchison House 1.19
16:30 – 17:00	Research plan progress meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Progress review - Compare draft reviews - Peer to peer exchange 	Isla Myers-Smith	Murchison House 1.19

To be scheduled: Fieldwork Health and Safety Session (TBA), Time Management with IAD (November), Intro to Finances in the School (TBA)