

Professional Development for Research Students

Mike Dodds

Research

~~Research~~

Instead:

professional development

*... aka, everything else you might want
to learn as an RS.*

“But I just want to do research!”

Better professional skills can make you a more effective researcher...

&

Common pitfall for research students to focus on research, to exclusion of everything else.

“But I want to be an academic!”

86% ...of PhD students end up outside academia

&

...academic posts require lots of non-research skills.

professional development plan

Professional Development Plan:

Professional Development Plan for supervisors

Links:

[Share this with your supervisor](#)

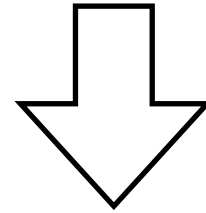
[Book training](#) (Skills Forge)

[Guidance](#)

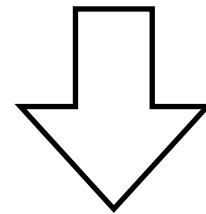
Goal What are the agreed development needs? (e.g. skills development/ career development/ future plans)	Which area of the RDF does this related to (e.g. 'networking' which is part of descriptor B3)	Activity How are you going to achieve this? (e.g. coaching/mentoring/ shadowing/reading/training/ research/conferences)	Support What help do you need and from whom? (e.g. colleague/ supervisor/mentor/ RDT/department/ family and friends)	Measure How will I know I have achieved this? (e.g. achieved goal/ speak knowledgeably about subject/ mastered new technology)	Agreed Review Dates Use realistic deadlines, to allow time for progress to have been made	Supervisor Signature and Date
Short term						
Medium term						
Long-term						

Reflective Statement (to be completed from 2 years onwards)

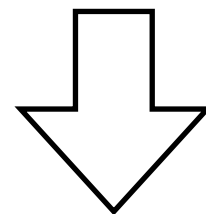
- Work out what your professional development needs



- Discuss with supervisor
- Investigate resources



- Fill in and submit PDP with qualifying dissertation



- Discuss at TAP meeting.

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for supervisors

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Useful skills

- presentation / public speaking
- writing well
- teaching and lecturing
- working with people
- project management
- networking and promoting your ideas.
- writing CVs / job applications
- interview skills

development opportunities *(a few suggestions)*

Department Resources

- Training website: <http://www.cs.york.ac.uk/bos/RSTraining/>
- Watch out for monthly training emails.

YDS

- York Doctoral Symposium:
 - Annual conference for research students
 - Run by research students
 - Best professional development thing in the department!

RDT Courses

- Researcher Development Team (RDT)
- <http://www.york.ac.uk/rdt>
- General research & professional skills
- (Also good for meeting other students)

Employability Tutorial

- Hosted on Yorkshire.
- Lots of advice on how to make yourself more employable.

public speaking

- RDT courses:
 - Making the Most of your Voice.
 - Filmed Presentation.
 - 3 minute thesis competition.
- Research group seminars.
- Workshop talks.
- YDS paper / poster sessions.

writing well

- Writing papers for:
 - Workshops and conferences.
 - YDS.
- CS course: writing a research paper.
- RDT courses: Finishing Your Thesis.
- Blogging about your research.

networking and promoting your ideas

- Research group
- Conferences, workshops and summer schools.
- YDS!
- RDT: 3 minute Thesis and PhD Unconference.
- Blogging, twitter.

job applications and interviews

- RDT courses:
 - CV's & Applications (Academic and non-academic)
 - Interview Skills.
- Practice interviews at careers service.
- Apply for jobs, internships, fellowships, travel money.

project management, working with people

- Research group.
- RDT courses:
 - Managing Your Research Project
 - Creativity and Problem Solving.
- YDS!

teaching

- Postgraduate Teaching Assistant roles.
 - *(not too much though!)*
- Preparing Future Academics.

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