

MY EXPERIENCE AS A PHD STUDENT

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DISCLAIMER #1

All PhD student's cases
are incredibly diverse.

It means that taking my experience as a
lesson can not help or even harm.



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DISCLAIMER #2

I still consider myself as a
new PhD student :)

So, it is a bit difficult to talk about “experience”



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CONTEXT

- **2nd** year PhD student at UPF
- **PhD topic:** Knowledge Integrity in the Generative AI Era
- **Research Group:** Web Science and Social Computing
- **Collaborations:** Wikimedia Foundation
- **Experience before PhD:**
 - 5+ years as a Data Scientist in industry
 - MSc. in Data Science at UCU (Ukraine)
- **Teaching:** Computer Organization, Data mining



RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- Approach to work organization (very personal)
 - My main tools are Google Calendar and Notion for the Kanban board, daily notes, and Spanish classes.
 - Use all benefits as a student: Azure credits, Grammarly, Github Pro, IDE licenses, Copilot, etc.
- Avoiding introvert paradise
 - Coming to the office helps a lot (both for research and mental health).
 - Being initiative is better than waiting for guidance.
 - Making new connections and collaborations is a goal.
- Workload roller coaster
 - For me, it is OK when I don't have any progress this week. That is also OK that sometimes I have to work more. I rely on my motivation and deadlines.
 - Learn how to fail. It is difficult when the project timeline is 6+ months.



TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- **Enjoy the process**

- It is a great opportunity to improve teaching, guiding, and interpersonal skills.
 - It is important to successfully “select” the course to teach.

- **Optimize your time**

- Develop materials and procedures that will reduce efforts for the next year: Slides, Kahoots, Automated grading, etc.
 - Be aware that you don't have to do everything that people are asking you to do.

- **Teaching feedback**

- There are too many factors that influence student feedback. In case it is not satisfying -> don't take it personally.



LIFE EXPERIENCE

- **Enjoy Barcelona**

- Multiple fantastic festivals like La Merce. Great food, nice weather (not August), lovely people. Don't forget to have a break from work and explore.
- Be careful, as thieves are virtuosos here

- **Do paperwork on time**

- Be prepared to do a lot of paperwork completely yourself. Save drafts, and take notes as it may help on the next iterations. Do everything in advance.
- US visa tip: do it outside of Spain (Poland, Serbia, etc.)

- **My personal ToDo list:**

- Buy private insurance if possible
- Socialize and go to the beach more
- Learn the language



THANK YOU!

LET'S STAY IN TOUCH ;)
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