**MPLS Graduate Project Initiation Pack: Training courses and other activities to support core skills development**

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| **Core skill and standard** | **Training courses available** | **Other suggested activity** |
| Writing  1. Able to write a thesis to a good standard  2. Coherent, purposeful, structured, critical writing  3. (In later years) Able to write to the standard of lead author on journal article / funding application | MPLS Division:  Scientific Writing Core Skills: <https://www.mpls.ox.ac.uk/training/course-programme-for-graduate-students/scientific-writing-core-skills>  Scientific Writing: Getting your Paper Published: <https://www.mpls.ox.ac.uk/training/course-programme-for-graduate-students/scientific-writing-getting-your-paper-published> | Make sure you write something for your supervisor early |
| Research Ethics and Integrity  Able to design, carry out, and report on research to meet the ethical and integrity standards of the discipline (s) | MPLS Division:  Discipline specific online courses: <https://weblearn.ox.ac.uk/portal/site/:skills:ricourses>  Research Integrity: <https://www.mpls.ox.ac.uk/training/course-programme-for-graduate-students/research-integrity> | Work through the relevant online course a section at a time and reflect on how the content relates to your research context. Discuss this with your supervisor / colleagues. |
| Owning a Successful DPhil / Managing your Supervisor  Actively taking responsibility for the success of your DPhil | MPLS Division:  Foundations for a Successful DPhil: <https://www.mpls.ox.ac.uk/training/course-programme-for-graduate-students/foundations-for-a-successful-dphil>  Managing your Supervisory Relationship: <https://www.mpls.ox.ac.uk/training/course-programme-for-graduate-students/foundations-for-a-successful-dphil>  One to one sessions: <https://www.mpls.ox.ac.uk/training/course-programme-for-graduate-students/coaching-sessions> | The graduate committee in your department will organise sessions about this kind of topic. Please contact them or your gradate secretary for details. |
| **Core skill and standard** | **Training courses available** | **Other suggested activity** |
| Presentation skills  Able to communicate scientific ideas effectively within your discipline and engage with questions in a variety of contexts | MPLS Division:  <https://www.mpls.ox.ac.uk/training/course-programme-for-graduate-students/presentation-skills-for-beginners> | Take opportunities to make presentations to small group to build up your confidence step by step  Practice with friends and colleagues before a presentation and get feedback |
| Managing your DPhil project  Able to devise and maintain a comprehensive and up to date plan for completing your DPhil on time | MPLS Division:  Foundations for a Successful DPhil: <https://www.mpls.ox.ac.uk/training/course-programme-for-graduate-students/foundations-for-a-successful-dphil>  How to Plan your PhD: (video) : <https://www.mpls.ox.ac.uk/training/course-programme-for-graduate-students/how-to-plan-your-phd> |  |
| Completing your DPhil / Writing your Thesis and Viva Preparation  Viva preparation  Able to complete a D.Phil that meets the requirements of the University’s examinations procedures  (See guidelines for examiners: <https://www.mpls.ox.ac.uk/study/additionalinformation/examinations-for-higher-degrees> and  <https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/guidance/graduate/progression?wssl=1>  Understand the formal requirements and purpose of the viva  Understand the formal processes and possible outcomes  Able to employ strategies to prepare effectively | MPLS Division:  Thesis and Report Writing: https://www.mpls.ox.ac.uk/training/course-programme-for-graduate-students/thesis-and-report-writing  Completing your DPhil: <https://www.mpls.ox.ac.uk/training/course-programme-for-graduate-students/completing-your-dphil>  Viva Preparation: <https://www.mpls.ox.ac.uk/training/course-programme-for-graduate-students/viva-preparation-and-practice> | Take opportunities to practice with peers and your supervisor and get feedback |

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| **Core skill and standard** | **Training courses available** | **Other suggested activity** |
| Career development  1. Have an awareness of the need to consider careers early in the DPhil  2. Think and plan for the career at appropriate times during the DPhil | See the Careers Service: <http://www.careers.ox.ac.uk/> | Ideally these sessions will be delivered by your department. During year one you will find it useful to look ahead and consider your career as part of your DPhil plan.  During your penultimate year you should be thinking and planning actively for your career. |

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| **Discipline and individual specific skill and standard** | **Training courses available** | **Other suggested activity** |
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| **Core skill and standard** | **Training courses available** | **Other suggested activity** |
| Research Basics  You will have the essential skills and training you need to be able to make timely progress in your discipline and department | MPLS Division:  Introduction to Research Data Management: <https://www.mpls.ox.ac.uk/training/course-programme-for-graduate-students/introduction-to-research-data-management>  Departments and supervisors will provide information, resources and training on the skills that are needed to meet the research standards required. These might include, but are not limited to:  Keeping lab books  Finance – for example for field work  Research Data Storage and Management  Technical skills  Understanding the importance of doing reproducible / repeatable research  How to make your research useful  The scientific method  Good laboratory practice  Lab safety  Basic Statistics  Statistical analysis  Programming  Health and safety |  |