HOW TO BOOK

Visit www.mpls.ox.ac.uk/training and look for the ‘Course Programme 2021-22’, which is a list of our courses sorted by date. Select the one you want, and booking details are contained on the individual pages. Most of our courses are booked via the Cosy booking system, but some may require application forms and/or deposits. Unless otherwise indicated, all of our courses will be online this term.

KEYS

All: All researchers
PGRs: Postgraduate Researchers
RS: Research Staff
ALL
RESEARCH STAFF ONLY
POSTGRADUATE RESEARCHERS ONLY

Cover: Professor Dame Jocelyn Bell Burnell inadvertently discovered pulsars as a graduate student in radio astronomy at Cambridge, opening up a new branch of astrophysics. She is now a visiting academic at Oxford.
ALL
PODCAST YOUR SCIENCE
14th October 2021 09:30-16:30
In Person

From inception to publication; this practical session delivered by Emily Elias, journalist and producer of the Oxford Sparks podcast series, is a whirlwind tour through the basics of how to share your research in an engaging manner through podcasting. The session will introduce approaches to podcasting, present inspiration from a range of different podcast styles, and take you step-by-step through the basic technical skills of recording, editing and publishing audio files; you’ll have the chance to develop an idea and have a go recording it with support and feedback during the day.

You may also be interested in ‘Interviewing for podcasts’ on page 15

ALL
SCIENTIFIC ENTREPRENEURSHIP
14th October 2021 and every Thursday until 2nd December 2021 14:00-16:30

Success in a start-up business is significantly enhanced with an understanding of key entrepreneurial characteristics and competencies. This weekly, term-long course provides potential science/engineering entrepreneurs with knowledge to help succeed in an entrepreneurial opportunity. Topics include: how creativity, opportunity and feasibility are best evaluated; business strategies for new businesses; achieving success in a new business; financial aspects. At the end of the course students will have skills and confidence to evaluate starting a science – based business. They will become more enterprising in how they approach their work life. The course will consist of lectures accompanied with practical casework and readings. Those who successfully complete this course will be eligible for advanced courses offered in the Hilary and Trinity terms.
ALL

RE-FOCUS, RE-ENERGISE AND BOUNCE FORWARD

15th October 2021 14:00-15:30

This interactive and participatory webinar session aims to provide researchers with the space to focus on themselves, review where they are now and gain a renewed perspective on their next steps and goals. Participants will have the opportunity to reflect on what helps them be at their best, what motivates them and how to bounce ‘forward’ with resiliency in times of uncertainty.

PGRs

YOUR SUCCESSFUL DPHIL

19th October 2021 11:30-14:30
2nd November 2021 11:30-14:30
16th November 2021 11:30-14:30
25th November 2021 11:30-14:30

This session will set you up to make a success of your DPhil. It will familiarise you with University structures, information and resources, and get you thinking about how best to set yourself up now for a successful DPhil. You’ll find out about the context of your DPhil and the support available to you; about how to take control, assess your skills and develop them further; how to approach your supervisory relationship; and how to plan and manage your DPhil project.
RS

OPTIMIZE YOUR TIME AT OXFORD

20th October 2021 12:00-15:00

Congratulations, you have got a research post at Oxford. But, what next? How do you manage your time at Oxford? This session looks at what being a post-doc means, what the opportunities and constraints are. It will also outline the support available to help you make the most of your time at the University. You will hear from the Careers Service, Research Services, the Oxford Research Staff Society, and about Public Engagement & Impact, Research Integrity and Enterprise.
ALL
INTRODUCTION TO PRESENTATION SKILLS
28th October 2021 13:30-17:00

The course will cover the key principles of planning and delivering a successful talk, and help to build your confidence. Each subject area in the MPLS Division has its own specific requirements for research presentations: please note that this course does not seek to address these.

ALL
PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT WITH RESEARCH 101
28th October 2021 09:30-12:30
30th November 2021 13:00-16:00

Engagement describes the many ways that we can share our research and its value by interacting with wider public audiences, generating mutual benefit. We look at what public engagement is and some of the reasons why you might want to do it. We’ll highlight the multitude of different approaches you can take, including real examples from the University and further afield. We’ll provide tips on getting started and where to get support.

ALL
TELLING STORIES THAT MATTER: COMMUNICATING YOUR RESEARCH THROUGH STORY
4th November 2021 10:00-13:00

Discover what elements of storytelling and narrative can be used to enhance a profession in the sciences. Craft compelling and moving stories from your experiences as a scientist using these key story elements: character, conflict, structure, metaphor and description. Apply these storytelling and narrative skills to working in the sciences: communicating research to a range of audiences (including publics, media and funding bodies); enhancing presentation skills; telling scientific stories across a range of media. Robert Holtom is a professional storyteller and consultant who has worked with a range of organisations to help them refine and hone their stories for a variety of audiences.

You may also be interested in ‘Putting stories to work’ on page 16
ALL

SCIENTIFIC WRITING: GETTING YOUR PAPER PUBLISHED

SESSION 1 9th November 2021 09:30-12:30
SESSION 2 16th November 2021 09:30-12:30
SESSION 3 23rd November 2021 09:30-12:30

This course will look at the aspects you need to consider when constructing your paper; demystify peer reviewed journals by giving insider insights from science journal editors; and show you what they really want. You will learn how to choose the best journal for your work, negotiate the peer review process and deal with reviewer comments. The course will cover: why publish and how that affects how you publish; the structure of a paper; what to include in the title and abstract; open access; impact metrics and citations; ways to get published more quickly; publicising your paper once it is published.

ALL

PITCHING FOR FUNDING

10th November 2021 09:30-13:00

Those with money need to know about you and why they should place their investment in you and your venture. This may be a pitch for research funds, a pitch in an enterprise competition or a presentation asking for an R&D budget. Pitching for funding is a skill that is much needed for the next career step. This interactive course will use your research as a starting point but feel free to come with a business venture idea too.
RS
WRITING SUCCESSFUL RESEARCH PROPOSALS
10th November 2021 14:00-17:00

External research funding is a crucial part of the research profile of universities and is a major issue for academic staff. The key factors in developing successful proposals will be identified as will the requirements of specific research councils.

ALL
METHODS FOR TWO-WAY INTERACTIVE PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT
11th November 2021 09:30-12:30

In this introductory session you will explore how to introduce opportunities to transform your public engagement into a rich, two-way, interactive experience. Dialogue and debate are valuable approaches to move beyond communication. It can provide the means to make any informative activity more engaging for those taking part. The session will highlight examples, practical tips and provide the opportunity for you to start to develop your own ideas and plans.
**ALL**

**DEALING WITH THE IMPOSTER SYNDROME**

*12th November 2021 14:00-15:30*

Ever walked into a meeting and questioned your right to be there? Have you ever taken on a new job and then you felt you weren’t really the right person for it? For many people this is a common life experience and one which can be quite debilitating if left unchecked. This session focuses in identifying the implications for yourself and your work environment of the set of related behaviours that are often referred to under the title of ‘imposter syndrome’.

**ALL**

**OXFORD SPARKS SCIENCE COMMUNICATION MASTERCLASS**

*18th November 2021 09:30-12:30*

*24th November 2021 09:30-12:30*

Do you want to share your research with the wider public? Want to try making online videos but not sure where to start? Online videos are a great way of showing what science research is, who does it and why it matters, and has the potential to reach audiences around the world.

Oxford Sparks, the University’s digital science engagement programme has been crafting high quality science communication since 2012.

We are inviting early career science researchers to take part in a new online masterclass to learn the essential elements of high quality science communication.

What’s more, those who attend the masterclass will be eligible to apply for the Oxford Sparks Ambassadors scheme that will provide hands-on training and support to create your own online videos that will be shared from Oxford Sparks.

This is a fantastic opportunity for those with little to no experience to develop understanding, skills and confidence of what makes high quality science communication that reaches, appeals to and is accessible to public audiences.

*Full details: www.mpls.ox.ac.uk/public-engagement/oxford-sparks-science-communication-academy-register-now-deadline-12-november*
PGRs

VIVA PREPARATION AND PRACTICE
17th November 2021 10:00-15:00

This participative workshop provides doctoral students in the third year and above with information about the viva, guidance on planning a pro-active approach to it, and opportunities to practice. The course will look at the rules and expectations of the viva exam and identify and practise practical ways to prepare.

ALL

TIME MANAGEMENT
23rd November 2021 09:30-11:30

An essential skill for researchers. Issues covered will include work-life balance, planning, prioritising, the need to differentiate between importance and urgency, and using a range of strategies and time-saving ideas.

Average Evaluation
Score across all courses
2020-2021 8.6/10
ALL

SCIENTIFIC WRITING: CORE SKILLS

23rd November 2021 09:00-17:00

This one-day course provides a sound grounding in the core skills needed to produce accurate and effective scientific writing. The course will include:

- critique of readability in relevant papers;
- use of tenses in academic papers;
- writing with impact;
- concise writing;
- grammar and proofreading;
- scientific table and chart technique.
ALL
PITCHING YOURSELF
24th November 2021 09:30-13:00

“Make the most of every opportunity” is often stated as key to a successful career but how can we make the most of those opportunities? Using your research as a starting point, this interactive course will get you practising a series of pitches with your peers, interspersed with expert tips and tricks and personalised feedback. The aim is to hook the audience in, whether it is about your research or a new business venture.

ALL
INTERVIEWING FOR PODCASTS
25th November 2021 09:30-12:30

This is a hands on session designed to help you work on your skills as a podcast host when it comes to asking questions. The session will cover preparing for interviews, creating a question line, and active listening.

You might also be interested in Podcast your science on page 3
ALL
PUTTING STORIES TO WORK
2nd December 2021 10:00-13:00

This session builds on the introductory workshop (Telling Stories that Matter, p.7) and introduces new elements of great storytelling including metaphor, clarity and message. This highly interactive workshop will be based around an example of writing an explainer or news article for the wider, non-specialist public website.

It is highly recommended that you will have already attended the introductory workshop, or equivalent introductory workshops on storytelling. Brief reading material will be provided to ensure you are up to date with the fundamentals of storytelling that are the basis of this workshop.
STORYTELLING AND NARRATIVE SKILLS: ONE TO ONE COACHING

17th November 2020 13:00-17:00

OPEN TO ATTENDEES OF ‘TELLING STORIES THAT MATTER’ WORKSHOPS IN FIRST INSTANCE: Book a half hour session of individual coaching and feedback on your presentation/storytelling work, whether you want to develop a story for an event, practice a presentation, craft/edit a piece of written/filmed work (e.g. blog, article, vlog, video) and/or develop public speaking skills.

RisingWISE
DEVELOPING ENTERPRISING WOMEN IN STEM

21st January 14:00-19:00 online
22nd January 09:00-17:00 online
12th February 09:00-17:00 online
5th March 09:00-17:00 online
25th March 14:00-19:00 in-person
26th March 09:00-21:00 in-person

A very successful programme run jointly with Cambridge, bringing enterprising women together at weekends to:

• inspire and strengthen the Oxbridge WISE network,
• improve early-careers researchers’ (ECR) knowledge and understanding of how research works within industry, explore the different mindsets and learn how their skills could apply to industry,
• create a space for ECRs to meet other women who are already working within industry, breaking down barriers which may lead to more women taking up internships and secondments within industry and/or collaborative R&D.
• offer mentoring and leadership skills development opportunities to women in industry,
• and help participants to develop their confidence, learning techniques to apply these skills and attributes in their own working environments.

Applications open in November.

More information: www.mpls.ox.ac.uk/risingwise

Expressions of interest: mpls.enterprise@mpls.ox.ac.uk
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<td>Podcast your science</td>
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