UNIVERSITY OF
OXFORD

MATHEMATICAL
PHYSICAL AND
LIFE SCIENCES
DIVISION

RESEARCHER TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MPLS Division
Michaelmas Term 2023

MPLS RESEARCHER TRAINING CONTACTS

Dr Justin Hutchence, FHEA he/him
Researcher Training & Development Manager
e: justin.hutchence@mpls.ox.ac.uk
t: +44 (0)1865 282622

Mr James Cunning he/him
Divisional Training Coordinator
e: james.cunning@mpls.ox.ac.uk
t: +44 (0)1865 282589

Dr Michaela Livingstone-Banks she/her
Public and Community Engagement with
Research Manager
e: michaela.livingstone@mpls.ox.ac.uk
t: +44 (0) 1865 282595

Alison Trinder
Project Officer
e: alison.trinder@mpls.ox.ac.uk

Ms Louisa Trevail she/her
Programme Manager MPLS Enterprising Women
t: louisa.trevail@mpls.ox.ac.uk

Hannah Ravenswood they/she
Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Facilitator -
Training and Development
e: hannah.ravenswood@mpls.ox.ac.uk

Dr Catherine Seed she/her
Researcher Training and Development Officer
e: catherine.seed@mpls.ox.ac.uk
t: +44 (0) 1865 282088

Dr Karen Brayshaw she/her
Project Officer Mentoring and Communications
e: karen.brayshaw@mpls.ox.ac.uk
t: +44 (0) 1865 282536

HOW TO BOOK

Visit www.mpls.ox.ac.uk/training and look for the 'Course Booking Trinity Term 2023', 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.

Equality, diversity and inclusion courses are taking place online and bookable via the ED&I training programme: https://www.mpls.ox.ac.uk/equality-diversity-and-inclusion-in-mpls/mpls-ed-i-training-programme

Our courses this term are a mixture of online and in person. Details will be available on the booking pages.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

We also have a range of self-access online resources for DPhil students and research staff. These cover topics such as orientation to the University, Time Management, working with others, Career Development, and many more. You can access them on our website:

www.mpls.ox.ac.uk/training/resourcesfor-researcher-and-career-development

KEYS
RS: research staff, post-docs or early career researchers.
DPhil: DPhil students or post-graduate researchers.
All: All researchers.

 In Person   *Online*

Disclaimer: some courses may be changed from their advertised setting due to unforeseen circumstances.

Cover: This term's cover is inspired by the communications and statistics research of Dr. Patricia Logullo, aiming for greater understanding of research practices and statistics in relation to disease prevention.

2

ALL

BEGINNERS' STATISTICS WITH R 👤

10th October 2023 *09.00-12.00*
17th October 2023 *09.00-12.00*
31st October 2023 *09.00-12.00*
7th November 2023 *09.00-12.00*
14th November 2023 *09.00-12.00*
21st November 2023 *09.00-12.00*
28th November 2023 *09.00-12.00*
5th December 2023 *09.00-12.00*

This course will provide an introduction to statistical inference and basic commands using R. This is most suitable for complete beginners or those requiring foundational statistics refresher. Topics covered include. hypothesis testing, basic statistical testing procedures, linear regression, base R, and introduction to the tidyverse suite of R packages.

ALL

ANTI-RACIST ALLYSHIP 🚌

12th October 2023 *10.00-12.30*

We will look at what it means to be an Anti-Racist Ally, by considering the role that power, privilege (especially white privilege), and white fragility have and to feel confident using bystander interventions when needed.

ALL
PODCAST YOUR SCIENCE 🧍
12th October 2023 09.30-16.30

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 16

ALL
SCIENTIFIC ENTREPRENEURSHIP 🧍
12th October 2023 and every Thursday until 30th November 2023 14.00-16.15

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.

ECRs

OPTIMISE YOUR TIME AT OXFORD 👤

18th October 2023 12.00-14.00

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 outlines 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.

PGRs

YOUR SUCCESSFUL DPHIL

18th October 2023 11.30-14.30 🖥
2nd November 2023 11.30-14.30 🖥
8th November 2023 11.30-14.30 👤
22nd November 2023 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.

ALL

INTERSECTIONAL ALLYSHIP 🖥

19th October 2023 *10.00-12.30*

We will look at what intersectionality is and how it plays out in our everyday lives and we will consider how many of us intersect and what that means for building an inclusive society. We will look at how power and privilege play their part and identify ways in which we can use both to support one another.

ALL

INTRODUCTION TO PRESENTATION SKILLS 👤

25th October 2023 *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

GETTING STARTED WITH PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT WITH RESEARCH 👤

26th October 2023 *10.00-11.00*

Engagement describes the ways in which we can share our research and its value by interacting with wider public audiences, generating mutual benefit.

In this introductory session tailored to those new to engagement, 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, and provide tips on getting started and where to get support.

ALL

RESEARCH DATA MANAGEMENT 👤

1st November 2023 *12.30-14.00*

Research data is often at the heart of scientific projects, it's what you spend hours in the lab generating or in the field collecting. It forms the basis of your analysis and underpins your arguments in papers and theses. But how often do you consider how you're managing this vital resource? Is your data secure and backed up? How can you demonstrate its integrity if challenged? Could your research make a greater impact by sharing data? What happens to your hard-won data when your project ends? Research Data Management (RDM) considers these questions and more. In this session we introduce RDM and the practical skill of developing Data Management Plans to manage your own data successfully.

DPhil
SeedWISE

1st November 2023 **14.00-17.00**
7th November 2023 **16.00-17.30**
14th November 2023 **16.00-17.30**
21st November 2023 **16.00-17.30**
28th November 2023 **16.00-17.30**
5th December 2023 **14.00-17.00**

SeedWISE is tailored specifically for women DPhil students who are working in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

Women are being urged to pursue careers in STEM subjects, where they often excel, but face a huge disparity in achieving success and leadership roles. SeedWISE has been developed to help address this challenge, bringing together women DPhil students from different STEM disciplines at the University of Oxford to meet with women working in industry and commerce, who face similar challenges. We work closely with industry to build mutual relationships, which aims to benefit women both working and studying in STEM roles.

ALL
COACHING SKILLS FOR LEADERS
2nd November 2023 **09.30-13.00**

Coaching is a highly impactful approach to people development and can support individuals to identify goals, gain insights into challenges, consider options and plan actions. Coaching skills are a valuable asset to leaders and managers and can be useful in a range of workplace conversations, such as feedback, delegation and career development reviews. This workshop will introduce key coaching concepts, approaches and skills. We will explore when and how coaching skills can be used to support effective leadership and management practice. Participants will take part in a practice coaching conversation using real-life examples, topics and challenges.

ALL
PITCHING FOR FUNDING 👤
9th November 2023 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
GET THAT GRANT 👤
9th November 2023 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. You will hear advice and tips from an experienced grant winner from an MPLS department.

ALL

TELLING STORIES THAT MATTER. COMMUNICATING YOUR RESEARCH THROUGH STORY ⚤

9th November 2023 10.00-16.00

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
- Structure
- Conflict
- Description

Apply these storytelling and narrative skills to working in the science:

- 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.

ALL

SCIENTIFIC WRITING: CORE SKILLS ⚤

14th November 2023 09.30-17.00

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

CULTIVATING RESILIENCE AND SELF-CARE FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS 🖥

14th November 2023 *10.30-11.30*

What does it mean to be resilient, what does self-care really mean and how can we best support ourselves and others?

ALL

STRESS REDUCTION TECHNIQUES IN RESEARCH 👤

14th November 2023 *09.30-12.30*

Embarking on the pursuit of new knowledge through doctoral training poses an array of challenges and demands that can often lead to stress. This course addresses these challenges by focusing on enhancing self-care strategies both within and around the research process. The workshop places particular emphasis on cultivating self-compassion among PhD researchers, providing you with tools to navigate your doctoral journey with resilience.

ALL

BEING AN EFFECTIVE BYSTANDER 🖥

15th November 2023 *10.30-11.30*

What does it mean to be an effective bystander? How do we best challenge behaviours and practices which disadvantage staff and students, particularly those from minority and/or marginalised groups?

![GroWISE logo] Gro WISE

ALL

GroWISE: ACADEMIA OF THE FUTURE - UNLOCKING THE POWER OF ENTERPRISE 🖥

15th November 2023 *12.30-14.00*

Sharing her experiences from both her academic position and from founding and spinning out multiple companies, Dr Angela J. Russell (she/her) Professor of Medicinal Chemistry, illustrates a vision for the future of academic research and the increasing vital importance of enterprise and entrepreneurship skills.

ALL

NEGOTIATION & INFLUENCING SKILLS 🚶

15th November 2023 *09.30-17.00*

This workshop aims to help build confidence and skills for those who wish to influence and achieve mutually beneficial goals with their peers, managers and stakeholders. The ability to influence others is a significant skill in any walk of life. This workshop will explore the impact of our communication preferences on others when seeking to influence. By also understanding the thinking process that underlies people's decision making, we can use learnable skills to help people say 'yes' to us. The aim is always to influence others to the right decision, not just the decision we may want.

ALL

THESIS AND REPORT WRITING 🧍

16th November 2023 *09.30-13.00*

This course covers methods of managing and controlling the process of thesis and report writing, as well as meeting deadlines. It also discusses the principles and practice of high-quality scholarly writing.

ALL

PITCHING YOURSELF 🧍

16th November 2023 *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.

RS

INNOVATION LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME 👤🖥️

20th November 2023 *10.00-13.00*
22nd November 2023 *10.00-14.00*
24th November 2023 *10.00-13.00*
27th November 2023 *Left free for group meetings at a mutually agreed time*
29th November 2023 *10.00-16.00*

This 5-module core course provides a blend of online materials, presentations and small group discussion sessions, and aims to give new lecturers, associate professors and senior independent research fellows enhanced skills and confidence in innovation leadership, managing stakeholders and teams, communication and more. Please note there will be some small group working in the period between the 2 blocks.

ALL

SUPPORTING NEURODIVERGENT STAFF 🖥️

20th November 2023 *10.00-12.30*

We will consider the whole neurodivergent umbrella and identify some practical ways in which we can better support our staff who fall under this umbrella. This session will be led by and informed by people with lived experience.

ALL
TIME MANAGEMENT 🖥

21st November 2023 *14.00-16.30*

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.

ALL
INTERVIEWING FOR PODCASTS 🖥

23rd November 2023 *09.30-12.30*

You are behind the mic, ready to record your first podcast ... but wait! What do you ask? This hands-on training session helps you navigate the world of podcast interviews. The session will cover preparing for interviews, creating a question line, finding your authentic voice and active listening.

Participants will be paired up and asked to conduct short interviews with a fellow participant which will be recorded over Zoom. As a group we'll listen back to them and workshop the interviews for constructive feedback.

This course is aimed at anyone looking at working on interviewing skills as a presenter but is also useful to those asked to be a guest on a podcast.

ALL
SCIENTIFIC WRITING
GETTING YOUR
PAPER PUBLISHED 🏃

27th November 2023 09.00-17.00

This course will look at the aspects you need to consider when constructing your paper, 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.

PGRs
VIVA PREPARATION
AND PRACTICE 🏃

28th November 2022 10.00-13.00

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.

Gro WISE

ALL

GroWISE: SQUIGGLY CAREERS - NAVIGATING THE ROADS LESS TRAVELLED 🖥

29th November 2023 *12.00-14.00*

A squiggly career is a career that isn't defined by climbing a ladder but is fluid and can take many different paths. With Dr Sheen Gurrib, we explore how to embrace the new and exciting career paths that will characterise the future of work.

ALL

IDEAS TO ACTION: EFFECTIVE PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT 🖥

29th November 2023 *13.00-16.00*

Ready to bring your engagement idea to life? This 3-hour session is tailored to those looking to explore evidence-based strategies for designing activities/events, apply for PER funding, or get practical tips for organising an activity.

ALL
PUTTING STORIES TO WORK 🖥

30th November 2023 *10.00-13.00*

This session builds on the introductory workshop (Telling Stories that Matter, p.10) 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.

ALL
VIRTUAL PODCASTING HELP-DESK 🖥

7th December 2023
All day half hour slots available

Book a half hour session of individual coaching and feedback on your podcasting work, from technical tips to journalistic insight in to editing and identifying stories. Contact training@mpls.ox.ac.uk to book your slot.

MPLS MICHAELMAS TERM TRAINING TIMETABLE

EVENT	TIME	DATE
Beginners' Statistics with R	09.00-12.00	10/10
Anti-racist Allyship	10.00-12.30	12/10
Podcast your science	09.30-16.30	12/10
Scientific Entrepreneurship	14.00-16.15	12/10
Beginners' Statistics with R	09.00-12.00	17/10
Optimise your time at Oxford	12.00-14.00	18/10
Your successful Dphil	11.30-14.30	18/10
Intersectional allyship	10.00-12.30	19/10
Scientific Entrepreneurship	14.00-16.30	19/10
Introductory Presentation Skills	13.30-17.00	25/10
Getting Started with Public Engagement with Research	10.00-11.00	26/10
Scientific Entrepreneurship	14.00-16.30	26/10
Beginners' Statistics with R	09.00-12.00	31/10
Research Data Management	12.30-14.00	1/11
SeedWISE 1	14.00-17.00	1/11
Coaching skills	09.30-13.00	2/11
Your successful Dphil	11.30-14.30	2/11
Scientific Entrepreneurship	14.00-16.30	2/11
Beginners' Statistics with R	09.00-12.00	7/11
SeedWISE 2	16.00-17.30	7/11
Your successful Dphil	11.30-14.30	8/11
Pitching for funding	09.30-13.00	9/11
Telling stories that matter: communicating your research through story	10:00-16:00	9/11
Scientific Entrepreneurship	14.00-16.30	9/11
Get that grant	14.00-17.00	9/11
Scientific Writing: core skills	09.30-17.00	14/11
Beginners' Statistics with R	09.00-12.00	14/11
Cultivating resilience and self-care for ourselves and others	10.30-11.30	14/11
SeedWISE 3	16.00-17.30	14/11
Stress Reduction Techniques	09:30-12:30	14/11
Being an effective bystander	10.30-11.30	15/11
GroWISE: Academia of the future	12.30-14.00	15/11
Negotiation & Influencing Skills	09.30-17.00	15/11
Thesis and Report Writing	09.30-13.30	16/11
Pitching yourself	09.30-13.00	16/11
Scientific Entrepreneurship	14.00-16.30	16/11
Innovation Leadership Programme	10.00-13.00	20/11
Supporting neurodivergent staff	10.00-12.30	20/11
Beginners' Statistics with R	09.00-12.00	21/11
SeedWISE 4	16.00-17.30	21/11
Time Management	14.00-16.30	21/11
Innovation Leadership Programme	10.00-14.00	22/11
Your successful Dphil	11.30-14.30	22/11
Interviewing for podcasts	09:30-12:30	23/11
Scientific Entrepreneurship	14.00-16.30	23/11
Innovation Leadership Programme	10.00-13.00	24/11
Innovation Leadership Programme	TBC	27/11
Scientific Writing:Getting your Paper Published	09.00-17.00	27/11
Beginners' Statistics with R	09.00-12.00	28/11
SeedWISE 5	16.00-17.30	28/11
Viva Practice and preparation	10.00-13.00	28/11
Innovation Leadership Programme	10.00-16.00	29/11
GroWISE: Squiggly Careers	12.00-14.00	29/11
Ideas to Action: Effective Public Engagement with Research	13:00-16:00	29/11
Putting Stories to Work	10:00-13:00	30/11
Scientific Entrepreneurship	14.00-16.30	30/11
Beginners' Statistics with R	09.00-12.00	5/12
SeedWISE 6	14.00-17.00	5/12
Virtual Podcasting Help-desk	All Day	7/12

ALL DPHIL RESEARCH STAFF