



Student Transitions: Example of transitions practice

Title: The Complete Researcher

Transition(s) the practice supports:

This practice aims to support PhD students transition ‘into’, ‘through’ and ‘out of’ their postgraduate studies. It is aimed at students from all disciplinary backgrounds, acknowledging the distinctiveness of the arts and sciences in relation to disciplinary practices and identities.

Abstract:

The Complete Researcher programme is a series of 1 day workshops that has been specifically developed to support PhD students’ transition ‘into’, ‘through’ and ‘out of’ their postgraduate studies. The programme has been running since 2012 and provides an intervention at levels one, two and three of the doctoral journey. The programme is provided by the University’s Organisational & Professional Development (OPD) unit and articulates with other development opportunities aimed at the university’s PG community, including writing workshops and teaching development opportunities, etc.

Description:

The workshop programme comprises three distinct interventions: the PhD Launch Pad (year 1), Making Progress in your PhD (year 2) and Finish Up, Move On (year 3); all workshops have been mapped to the Vitae Researcher Development Framework. Each workshop provides opportunities for networking, with individual workshops offering learning tools, specific Vitae resources, as well as expert guest speakers such as academics and careers advisers. Although separate sessions are run for both Science and Arts, allowance for collaborative or interdisciplinary projects are always accommodated. On average there are 13 participants per individual workshop (i.e. 78 PGRs annually, across the full programme). Evaluation of the programme demonstrates that the extent to which the workshops meet individual training requirements scores a rating of 4.4 (on a scale where 1=not at all, 5=completely).

More detailed information on the individual workshops can be found on the programme flyer: <http://uod.ac.uk/24OjuJh>

Participant Quotes

PhD Launchpad

I gained an insight into the student/supervisor relationship...what is expected from both parties. Helped to organise my thoughts and become more focussed. Seeing that others are in similar situations.

The entire course. It gave me a good over view of what is a PhD, what it involves, what is expected of me and the structure and strategies that would help me towards achieving my goal.

The time management section was particularly relevant, in order to help me keep on track with my progress. Also, the networking resources that were spoken about will be useful.

Making Progress in Your PhD

The course as a whole was well structured and offered both practical advice and supportive description of being in 2nd year of the PhD, across disciplines. Pinning down the argument of the thesis was extremely helpful, in addition to suggestions and methods for making writing part of the everyday process of the PhD.

The explanation of the mechanics of the regulations and requirements pertaining to the PhD course was extremely useful and, in my case at least, removed some of the dread. The exercise of distilling the thesis down to one sentence was also very, very useful.

Finish Up, Move On

Every part of the course was beneficial to me and a good reason for attending the course. I liked all about it, talking how to structure your thesis and what to think about before writing, what is expected in your viva and why there is a viva, how to network and why to network, and looking at the future and what you want from your career. It was a great overview about everything!

This was a very helpful workshop and I would like to thank those who have had input to this and have made an effort to arrange it. Most PhD students will find this very helpful, amidst there desperately busy final year schedule

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