



REAL TALK

What to Expect when Beginning a PhD

What supervisors say...

You should...

- have deep interest in the subject area
- desire to contribute to knowledge
- be keen to pursue an academic career, be self-motivated, and be able to work independently
- be able to work alone
- be able to act on advice and work collaboratively with others too
- have good written and spoken communication skills

You can expect...

- Personal and intellectual support from interested and knowledgeable supervisors
- Several challenges, both intellectual and managerial
- Some isolation
- Dealing with rejections more often than you would want
- Instability - with money, working hours or location for work.

Link to the blog for the full posts:

<http://tiny.cc/13gwky>

*Developing Intellectual Leadership Team
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Tiffany, Dorottya, Mapenzie & Edmund

“a Masters is like a sprint
- a PhD is like a marathon”



The decision to start a course of PhD study is a big one. It's a commitment involving at least three years, a lot of intellectual work, financial concerns and more besides. But what is life as a PhD student actually like? What should you expect your life for those three years to be like?

To find out more, we spoke to PhD students and staff members from across the Humanities faculty about their experiences.

Here's what we found out...

What makes a good PhD Student?

Endurance

Passion for learning

Independence

Self-motivation

Realistic expectations

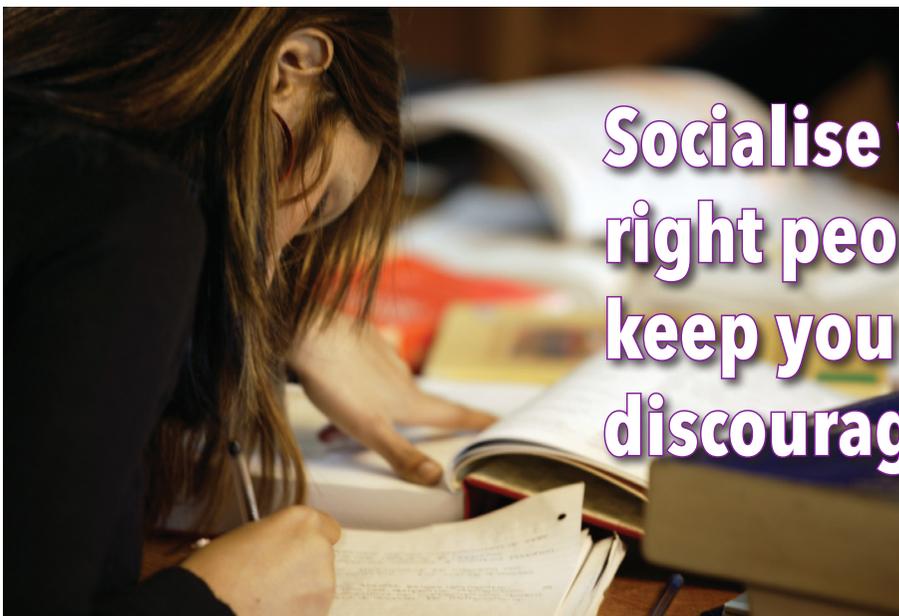
Organisational skills

Time management skills

What will real PhD life be like? *Direct quotes from real students...*

Everything takes longer than you expect. Reading, fieldwork... everything

"Doing a PhD is like managing your own brand. Social engagement is part of the PhD 'job.' You have to go to conferences and network as if you're a businessperson. And that's before we talk about Twitter and 'getting your profile out there'..."



Socialise with the right people - they will keep you going, not discourage you

It's very easy to ask yourself, 'Why can others take this more easily than me?' You ask, 'How am I going to do this? Can I do this?'

It can seem like the only 'ideal candidate' is a 22-year-old, straight out of an MA, who wants an academic career

Be prepared for the first few months especially to be hard - they're mainly to adjust and start your personal and professional development

Sometimes I'm highly productive and sometimes I just wake up not wanting to do anything

It's like being the CEO of your own, one-person company. You have to organise and delegate tasks - but to yourself!

You need to be able to figure out everything yourself

a Masters is like a sprint - a PhD is like a marathon