



L-Università ta' Malta
Doctoral School

Professional Development Programme for Doctoral Researchers

2021/22



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INTRODUCTION



Welcome to the
2021/22 edition of the
Doctoral School's
Professional Development
Programme for
doctoral researchers

To succeed in your research degree, you will need to develop a wide range of research, professional and transferable skills. These skills will be vital to your future success. Whatever your plans are for when you finish, employers are looking for doctoral graduates to demonstrate a wide range of skills in addition to their subject-specific knowledge. If you wish to find out more about this, we urge you to look up the SEA-EU DOC project in which the Doctoral School is participating.

We recognize that every researcher is unique. You will start your research with a different set of skills and experiences. The Professional Development Programme has been designed to offer resources to help you succeed in your research degree, whether you are full or part-time. We will also be running the Annual Symposium on May 18, 2022 during which you can present your research work-in-progress and listen to what other students are doing as part of their doctoral research. This year's keynote address will be delivered by Prof. André Mazawi (University of British Columbia).

In addition to the Doctoral School's Professional Development Programme, there are a wide range of training and development opportunities you can access. These could include, for example, the subject-specific and advance training available to you from your faculty, department or research group; external training; participation in relevant conference and/or networking events; public engagement activities; relevant work placements or internships; and research seminars.

We expect you to take responsibility for, and participate fully in, your development, and to equip yourself with the necessary skills, techniques, personal qualities and intellectual abilities. You can expect the University of Malta to provide the support you need to achieve this.

On behalf of the Doctoral School team
I welcome you to our workshops and events.

Professor Nicholas Vella
Director of the Doctoral School

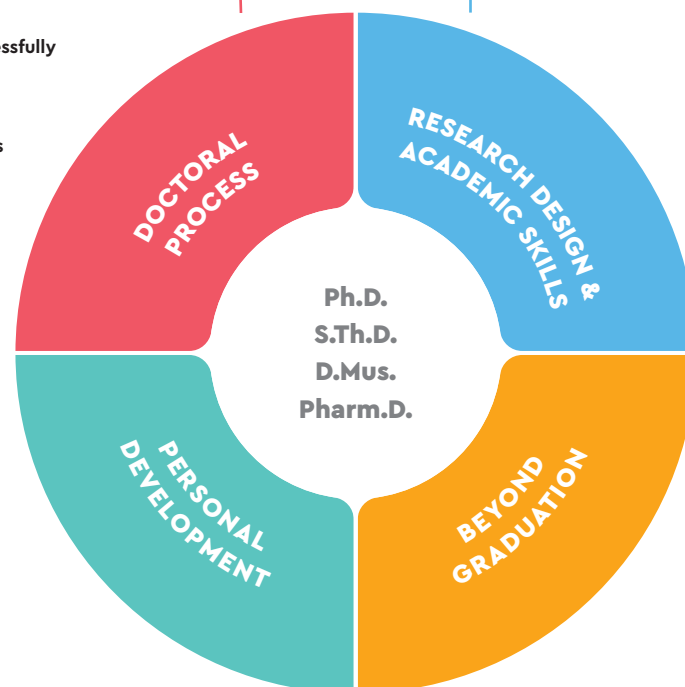


WHAT TRAINING IS RIGHT FOR YOU?

Every graduate research student has different training and development needs depending on previous experience, what stage they are at in their research degree, their specific research project and their plans for the future. Consequently, it is important that you take responsibility for your own development in a way that is appropriate to meet your research and career development needs.

EARLY	DOC6001	Starting on Your Ph.D.
	DOC6017	Managing Your Doctoral Journey Successfully
	DOC6016	Upgrading from M.Phil. to Ph.D. – the Transfer Phase
	DOC6043	Research Integrity and Research Ethics
	DOC6018	Introducing the Library Services to Doctoral Researchers
LATE	DOC6002	Preparing for the Viva

EARLY	DOC6004	Understanding and Developing Assertiveness
	DOC6003	Recognising Stress and Developing Coping Strategies
	DOC6020	Debating with the Media
	DOC6006	Convincing and Debating
	DOC6055	Social Media for Researchers NEW
	DOC6019	Presentation Techniques
MID	DOC6054	Presenting Your Research in 180 Seconds NEW
	DOC6009	Leadership for the 21st Century
	DOC6010	An Introduction to Critical and Creative Thinking
	DOC6036	Dealing with Conflict Situations
	DOC6032	Introduction to Student Mentoring
	DOC6033	Basic Lecturing Skills
	DOC6034	Enhancing Small Group Teaching and Learning
	DOC6035	Basic Research Supervision Skills



EARLY	DOC6005	Articulating the Research Gap in the Doctoral Thesis
	DOC6039	The Literature Review
	DOC6022	Qualitative Methods: an Introduction
	DOC6021	Quantitative Methods: an Introduction
	DOC6023	Approaching Doctoral Research through Mixed Methods
	DOC6048	Validating and Reliability in Quantitative and Qualitative Research
	DOC6040	Understanding Research Philosophy and Approaches to Theory Development
	DOC6046	Introduction to LaTeX: Typesetting Your Thesis or Research Paper
	DOC6042	Machine Learning with Python
	DOC6024	Data Analysis with Python
MID	DOC6049	Statistics for the Humanities and the Social Sciences
	DOC6050	Introduction to Repertory Grid Technique
	DOC6051	An Introduction to NVivo for Qualitative Data Analysis
	DOC6052	Reflections on the Use of Grounded Theory in Qualitative Research
	DOC6015	Presenting research at the Annual Doctoral Symposium
	DOC6026	Getting Published: the Conference Paper
	DOC6027	Getting Published: the Journal Article (Humanities, Education and Law)
	DOC6029	Getting Published: the Journal Article (Life Sciences and Medicine)
	DOC6030	Getting Published: the Journal Article (Architecture and STEM)
	DOC6028	Getting Published: the Journal Article (Social and Behavioural Sciences)
LATE	DOC6053	Getting Published: the Edited Volume NEW
	DOC6025	Getting Published: Preparing the Book Proposal

MID	DOC6011	Communicating Research to Diverse Audiences
	DOC6007	Understanding Intellectual Property (IP)
	DOC6008	Research Impact: Make Yourself Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) Ready
LATE	DOC6038	Employability Skills: Perspectives from Employers
	DOC6013	Writing Effective CVs and Job Application Letter
	DOC6014	Preparing for a Job Interview
	DOC6012	Writing Winning Grant Applications
	DOC6045	An Introduction to Entrepreneurship and Commercialisation of IP

What are transferable skills and why are they important?

Transferable skills are skills which can be useful in a variety of different contexts and roles ensuring that, whatever task or job you are undertaking, you have the ability to succeed. They include things like creativity, problem solving, communication, debating, and organization skills. If your research project did not give you a chance to develop some of these skills, you might find it useful to seek out opportunities to learn about them and how they can be useful in practice. It is worth bearing in mind that future employers will judge you on your skills, experience and CV.

This guide will help you to choose which sessions are more suited to your needs according to where you are in your research career. Each workshop has been labelled as 'early' (i.e., 1st year of full-time study), 'mid' (i.e., 2nd year or having completed the MPhil/PhD transfer) or 'late' stages (i.e., towards the end of your research degree). You are urged to choose workshops after you have discussed your needs and personal development plan with your supervisory team.

How are the workshops organized?

Workshops are grouped into four clusters:

1

DOCTORAL PROCESS
These workshops focus on key stages of your doctoral programme, including the transfer (MPhil/PhD) stage and the viva-voce examination. Workshops also look at how you can develop skills to flourish under pressure.

2

RESEARCH DESIGN & ACADEMIC SKILLS
Effective academic and research skills are key components of a successful research process and go from research design to presenting at conferences and publication.

3

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT
These workshops help you develop personal qualities and approaches, useful strategies, skills and techniques to develop professional skills and present your ideas to good effect.

4

BEYOND GRADUATION
Research suggests that only 25% of doctoral students go on to work in research institutions or universities in Europe. These workshops are designed to help you find out more about post-doctoral career options and to pitch the skills you gained as a doctoral researcher to a range of employers.

Fair use of the Professional Development Programme

There is no limit to the number of workshops you can attend but since some of the training sessions are in high demand and come at a cost to the University, it is important to register only if you are sure you are able to attend the workshop on the day and time advertised. The Doctoral School has a cancellation policy whereby failure to attend more than three workshops without a valid reason for doing so will lead to not being able to attend other Doctoral School workshops in future. Valid reasons for late cancellation or for missing a workshop involve illness and unplanned leave of absence. If you are unable to attend a workshop for unforeseen and exceptional circumstances please send an email to doctoralschool@um.edu.mt.

You are encouraged to participate in the workshops in an active and engaged manner, being considerate of the views and feelings of other students who may hail from disciplines outside your own.

Will I get a certificate for attending the workshops?

No, certificates will not be issued for attendance of workshops. A list of those workshops which you attended will appear on the degree transcript issued by the Registrar's Office.

DOCTORAL PROCESS

DOC6001
STARTING ON YOUR PH.D.*

** This workshop is being offered to students who have not yet completed the transfer from an M.Phil. to a Ph.D. degree.*

Tutor/s	Prof. Nicholas Vella Prof. Ronald Sultana
Duration	3 hours
Occurrence	Semester 1 – am + pm Semester 2 – am + pm
Max. no. of participants	12

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

The Ph.D. (Doctor of Philosophy) degree is the highest academic award that the University of Malta can bestow on its students. It is conferred after a period of systematic and structured research and the successful completion of a thesis and a viva-voce examination. A Ph.D. project has the goal of developing you into an independent researcher capable of improving knowledge in a given field and producing results of the highest quality. The journey leading to the award of a Ph.D. degree is a challenging and meaningful experience. Knowing about the rules, regulations, procedures, milestones, and what is expected of you during this journey should make the journey less daunting than is often anticipated.

OUTCOMES

By the end of this workshop, doctoral researchers should:

- ⓧ be able to reflect on the demands of a doctoral research degree
- ⓧ be aware of the University’s administrative and support structures concerning doctoral research
- ⓧ be aware of the relevant regulations, procedures, deadlines, and expectations
- ⓧ be cognisant of ethical considerations
- ⓧ be cognisant of the programme of professional development offered by the Doctoral School for doctoral researchers
- ⓧ have shared experiences about research applications





DOCTORAL PROCESS

DOC6017

MANAGING YOUR DOCTORAL JOURNEY SUCCESSFULLY*

** This workshop is split into two parts – Part 1 and Part 2. Attendance is required in both parts.*

Tutor/s	Dr Christian Bonnici
Duration	6 hours (3 hours + 3 hours)
Occurrence	Semester 1 – pm
Max. no. of participants	12 (min.: 10 applicants per session)

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

The Ph.D. project presents a number of challenges and pitfalls that any doctoral researcher would do well to become aware of and learn how to overcome through a number of different strategies. This workshop aims to provide a number of insights and allows for the sharing of experiences that characterise the Ph.D. project. It is open to doctoral researchers at all stages of their Ph.D.

OUTCOMES

By the end of this workshop, doctoral researchers should be able to:

- ⊗ define the scope of the research project
- ⊗ assess possible opportunities and challenges
- ⊗ use milestone planning to diminish possible pitfalls
- ⊗ better handle different aspects/elements/phases of the project
- ⊗ identify potential stakeholders that may influence the project
- ⊗ frame the Ph.D. experience in the right academic context

DOCTORAL PROCESS

DOC6016

**UPGRADING FROM M.PHIL.
TO PH.D. – THE TRANSFER PHASE***

** This workshop is being offered to students who are looking to transfer from an M.Phil. to a Ph.D. degree.*

Tutor/s	Prof. Simon Fabri Prof. Valerie Sollars
Duration	3 hours
Occurrence	Semester 1 – am + pm Semester 2 – am + pm
Max. no. of participants	12

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Transferring one’s registration from M.Phil. to Ph.D. status is not simply an administrative procedure. This stage of the doctoral journey is a formal assessment and should be considered an opportunity for doctoral candidates to share and discuss the research being undertaken with colleagues and experienced academic members of staff in order to obtain feedback and constructive critical insights. This workshop will focus on the students’ preparations as well as the ad hoc committees’ expectations with regard to documentation and oral presentation.

OUTCOMES

By the end of this workshop, doctoral researchers should be:

- ⦿ aware of salient components which need to be included in the documentation to be submitted for formal assessment
- ⦿ aware of a range of communication skills (written and oral) which can be drawn upon to support and clarify the submitted products
- ⦿ familiar with the criteria used when examining work in progress
- ⦿ more cognisant of the role of the ad hoc committee
- ⦿ better informed of the administrative processes involved





DOCTORAL PROCESS

DOC6043

RESEARCH INTEGRITY AND RESEARCH ETHICS*

* This workshop is split into two parts – Part 1 and Part 2. Attendance is required in both parts. For Part 1, participants are to attend **EITHER** the session primarily aimed at science- and technology-based disciplines (life sciences, medicine, architecture and STEM) **OR** the session primarily aimed at humanities-related disciplines (humanities, education, law, and social and behavioural sciences).

Tutor/s	Prof. Patrick J. Schembri Dr Dennis Mizzi Dr Marie Briguglio
Duration	6 hours (3 hours + 3 hours)
Occurrence	Semester 2 – pm
Max. no. of participants	12

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

The value of academic research lies in its reliability, which in turn depends on the adherence to codes of practice, the integrity and honesty of the researchers carrying it out, the research process itself, and the way results are disseminated. Maintaining the highest standards every step of the way safeguards both the reputation of the researchers as well as the sustained trust in their work and in the respective institutions under whose auspices the researchers carry out their research. This workshop tackles key aspects of research ethics and research integrity.

The sessions will be highly interactive, and participants will be expected to contribute actively to the discussions. Part 1 will cover ethical aspects of supervision, collaboration, authorship, plagiarism, data handling and publication of results with particular focus on science- and technology-based disciplines or humanities-related disciplines. Part 2 is a practical session consisting of two parts: a detailed explanation of the research ethics and data protection (REDP) form that all University of Malta (UM) researchers are required to fill in followed by a session where participants will collectively review and discuss a number of case studies on research ethics and research integrity that refer to the material covered in Part 1.

OUTCOMES

By the end of this workshop, doctoral researchers should be able to:

- define, interpret, and apply the fundamental principles of research integrity as defined in the university's guidelines on research ethics and the *European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity*
- discuss, debate, and solve quandaries relating to research integrity issues
- differentiate between ethical and unethical research and publication practices
- understand the UM procedures for research ethics clearance and be able to fill in the REDP form required of all UM researchers

DOCTORAL PROCESS

DOC6018

INTRODUCING THE LIBRARY SERVICES TO DOCTORAL RESEARCHERS

Tutor/s	Mr Silvio Cortis Ms Agata Derkowska Mr Martin Lochman Ms Kaja Slonina
Duration	3 hours
Occurrence	Semester 1 – am Semester 2 – pm
Max. no. of participants	12

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

The University of Malta library offers a number of services that support doctoral researchers. Its team of service providers supports students in procuring information, and demonstrates ways of planning and searching for literature, gaining access to bibliographic management software, and enhancing research visibility.

Participants will be given a brief overview of the University's library services and an explanation of how to search for academic information using HyDi and how to use the bibliographic management software, RefWorks. An overview of the Open Access Repository (OAR@UM) will then be provided followed by an explanation of how to create a Google Scholar User Profile (GSUP) and how to add publications in it.

OUTCOMES

By the end of this workshop, doctoral researchers should be more aware of:

- ⌕ the library's services, including its provision of workshops
- ⌕ how to access research, including peer-reviewed journal articles and other primary sources of information from subscribed UM online databases
- ⌕ how to manage research outputs
- ⌕ how to share research outputs





DOCTORAL PROCESS

DOC6002

PREPARING FOR THE VIVA*

** This workshop is being offered to students who have successfully completed their transfer from M.Phil. to Ph.D. and to Pharm.D. students.*

Tutor/s	Prof. Ronald Sultana
Duration	3 hours
Occurrence	Semester 1 – am + pm Semester 2 – am + pm
Max. no. of participants	12

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

This workshop sets out to help doctoral researchers prepare for their oral examination. The form and style of viva voce examinations differ depending on the academic discipline involved. They also vary depending on the traditions and rituals associated with different higher education institutions. Nevertheless, while acknowledging this diversity, the workshop will identify the key components common to viva examinations, the expectations that examiners have of doctoral candidates, and the behaviour and responses that are most likely to lead to positive outcomes. The workshop will also provide participants with the opportunity to experience a mock viva, and to benefit from feedback about their performance.

OUTCOMES

By the end of this workshop, doctoral researchers should:

- ⓧ be familiar with the nature of doctoral viva examinations, and traditions underpinning them
- ⓧ understand the expectations that examiners have of candidates sitting the viva
- ⓧ be acquainted with the kinds of questions that are likely to be asked during the viva, including the sequence in which they might occur (e.g. general questions followed by questions on context, methods, analysis and findings, discussion, conclusion/implications)
- ⓧ be able to give a synthesis of the main findings and/or main arguments in a thesis as well as its contribution to knowledge
- ⓧ understand how to respond to questions in ways that do justice to the work invested in the thesis
- ⓧ be aware of different examiner styles and how to respond to them
- ⓧ be able to identify typical errors made by students during a doctoral viva and know how to avoid them
- ⓧ understand the different possible outcomes of a viva and the follow-up to it before graduation

RESEARCH DESIGN & ACADEMIC SKILLS

DOC6005

ARTICULATING THE RESEARCH GAP IN THE DOCTORAL THESIS*

** This workshop is split into two parts – Part 1 and Part 2. Attendance is required in both parts.*

Tutor/s	Dr Natalie Schembri
Duration	6 hours (3 hours + 3 hours)
Occurrence	Semester 1 – am Semester 2 – pm
Max. no. of participants	12

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

The workshop will focus on the research gap as the driving force of the doctoral thesis. It will examine the practicalities of creating and filling the research gap at both macro and micro text levels. It will develop an awareness of the research gap as the underlying rationale of different academic text structures at macro levels; and as the verbalisation of its various aspects at specific points in the text at micro levels. Special attention will be paid to the articulation of aims and research questions. The workshop will initially focus on the analysis of academic texts from various fields. Doctoral researchers will then be guided in applying the skills learnt to their own research projects.

OUTCOMES

By the end of this workshop, doctoral researchers should be able to:

- 🕒 identify parts of an academic text that create a research gap
- 🕒 create a research gap in their own writing both at macro and micro text levels





RESEARCH DESIGN & ACADEMIC SKILLS

DOC6039

THE LITERATURE REVIEW*

** DOC6005 – Articulating the Research Gap in the Doctoral Thesis, is a prerequisite for this workshop.*

This workshop is split into two parts – Part 1 and Part 2. Attendance is required in both parts.

Tutor/s	Dr Natalie Schembri
Duration	6 hours (3 hours + 3 hours)
Occurrence	Semester 1 – pm Semester 2 – am
Max. no. of participants	12

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

This workshop will assume doctoral researchers have an understanding of the rationale behind the literature review and will address aspects of source use and the critiquing of sources in the process of writing up the literature review chapter. It will address issues related to working with source material at sentence and paragraph level and will focus on both the technical and paraphrasing aspects of the use of source material. Particular attention will be paid to the avoidance of plagiarism.

OUTCOMES

By the end of this workshop, doctoral researchers should be able to:

- ⦿ distinguish between source material that is peripheral to their topic and material that is strictly relevant and reflect this in the writing up of their literature review
- ⦿ reflect the relevance/significance of source material in their writing and critique previous knowledge on the topic accordingly
- ⦿ cite sources in accordance with the accepted conventions in their field and accepted norms of research integrity

RESEARCH DESIGN & ACADEMIC SKILLS

DOC6022

QUALITATIVE RESEARCH METHODS: AN INTRODUCTION

Tutor/s	Dr Emanuel Said
Duration	3 hours
Occurrence	Semester 1 – pm Semester 2 – am
Max. no. of participants	12

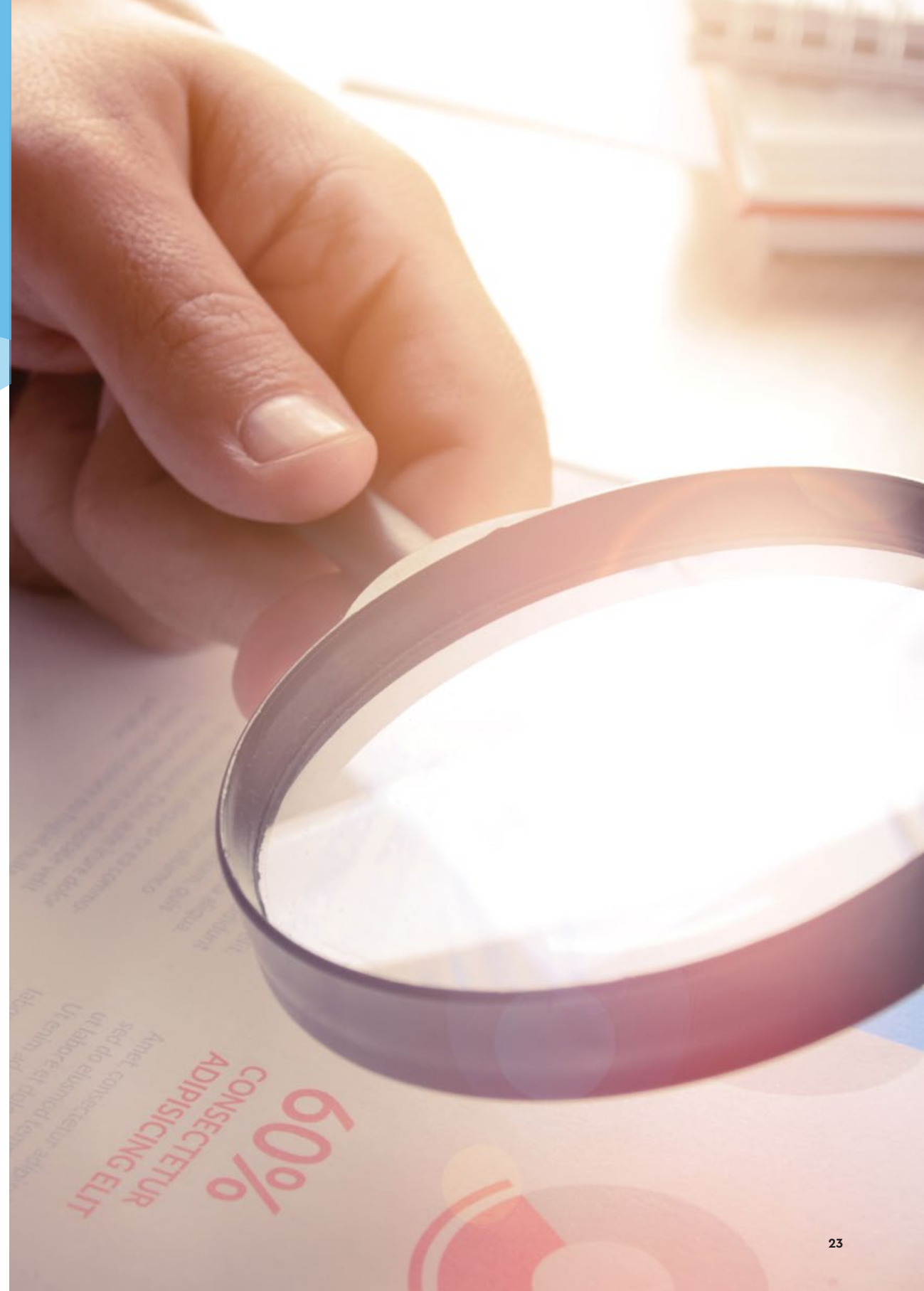
BRIEF DESCRIPTION

This workshop will introduce the principles of qualitative research to candidates in a variety of domains, including organisational and consumer studies. An outline of the research strategy principles of qualitative research will be provided and will be followed by a discussion on the five key traditions of qualitative research in several research contexts: grounded theory, ethnomethodology, narrative studies, ethnography and hermeneutic approaches.

OUTCOMES

By the end of this workshop, doctoral researchers should be able to:

- ④ locate and justify qualitative research across the four different types of research strategies (inductive, deductive, retroductive and abductive)
- ④ distinguish between the five traditions of qualitative research
- ④ envisage the requirements for effective conduct of research in any one of the five traditions of qualitative research
- ④ justify each tradition depending on the nature of the research question
- ④ identify the data basic premises for effective data collection in each of these traditions





RESEARCH DESIGN & ACADEMIC SKILLS

DOC6021

QUANTITATIVE RESEARCH
METHODS: AN INTRODUCTION

Tutor/s	Dr Gianmarco Alberti
Duration	3 hours
Occurrence	Semester 1 – am Semester 2 – pm
Max. no. of participants	12

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Any research, be it framed in the context of hard sciences or social sciences, inescapably has quantitative components. Pursuing research, addressing research questions, and finding meaningful data structures, entail mastering different approaches and techniques that allow researchers to get the most out of their data. This workshop aims at providing participants with a broad picture of quantitative methods and approaches to data analysis. It will put emphasis on ideas rather than calculations, and will provide a demystified view of statistics and, more importantly, of their practical application and interpretation. All the approaches and techniques will be put in context and illustrated by means of practical examples in order to make participants aware consumers, as well as producers, of statistics.

OUTCOMES

By the end of this workshop, doctoral researchers should be:

- more aware of how data are described meaningfully using a range of statistics
- aware of the potential and limitations of each descriptive statistic in the context of their analytical goals
- able to highlight relevant information and specific aspects of data using appropriate charts and tables
- able to develop a background for a critical approach to data analysis and interpretation

RESEARCH DESIGN & ACADEMIC SKILLS

DOC6023

APPROACHING DOCTORAL RESEARCH THROUGH MIXED METHODS*

* Applicants are kindly requested to submit to the tutor an abstract/summary of their thesis ONE MONTH before the workshop through the e-mail address: marie-louise.mangion@um.edu.mt

Tutor/s	Dr Marie-Louise Mangion
Duration	3 hours
Occurrence	Semester 2 – am + pm
Max. no. of participants	12

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

This workshop is intended for doctoral students who are in the early stages of their research. It aims to provide candidates, particularly those undertaking social science research, with an appreciation of the value of employing a diversity of approaches to investigate complex challenges.

The workshop is divided into two parts. The first part will provide doctoral candidates with a foundational understanding of a mixed methods approach. It will focus on the reasons for mixing methods and the contributions mixing methods provide. Participants will be encouraged to reflect on the applicability of a mixed methods approach to their research and the contribution this may make. Approaches to design for mixed methods research will then be discussed. Participants will be alerted to the importance of the philosophical underpinnings of their research, theoretical frameworks and the framing of appropriate justifications for their methodological decisions.

The second part of the workshop will focus on integrating the strategies for analysis. Participants will be encouraged to explore different integrative analysis strategies that may be applied to their own research.

OUTCOMES

By the end of this workshop, doctoral researchers should:

- have a better appreciation of mixed methods
- be able to reflect on the chosen field of research and identified research question(s) and assess whether mixed methods are applicable, and if so which
- be able to identify areas for improvement in the research proposed
- be able to question the philosophical underpinnings, assumptions and theoretical frameworks supporting their research and the implications for research design
- be more aware of the importance of justifications for methodological decisions
- be able to identify what methodological decisions need to be reviewed and further justified
- be alert to the implications that arise for the form, direction, and conclusions of the study
- be able to appreciate different integrative analysis strategies and identify potential ones





RESEARCH DESIGN & ACADEMIC SKILLS

DOC6048

VALIDITY AND RELIABILITY IN QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE RESEARCH

Tutor/s	Prof. Sandra C. Buttigieg
Duration	3 hours
Occurrence	Semester 1 – am Semester 2 – pm
Max. no. of participants	12

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Validity and reliability are two vital concepts in scholarly research. Validity refers to the accuracy of the results and the extent to which an instrument measures what it is supposed to measure. It therefore concerns the strength of the conclusions that are derived from the results. Reliability concerns the trust in the data obtained through an instrument, and therefore the extent to which any measuring tool is free from random error.

Doctoral researchers using both quantitative and qualitative methodologies would need to discuss the validity and reliability of their studies, and therefore of the instruments used in their research processes. During this workshop, participants will be made aware of the distinct philosophies underlying quantitative and qualitative research and their assumptions to ascertain the correct applicability of these concepts.

This workshop will address the key issues of quantitative research, with its assumption of objectivism that embraces realism so as to ensure that the study is valid, reliable, generalizable and reproducible. It will also address validity and reliability in qualitative research, which is based on subjective, interpretive and contextual data, with an emphasis on establishing credibility, transferability, dependability and confirmability. The findings of qualitative research must be convincing, coherent, consistent, relevant and trustworthy if they are to be meaningful.

OUTCOMES

By the end of this workshop, doctoral researchers should be able to:

- ⓧ define and explain the importance of validity, reliability, falsifiability, generalizability, and reproducibility in quantitative research
- ⓧ identify ways to examine validity and reliability in quantitative research
- ⓧ define validity and reliability in qualitative research
- ⓧ list strategies to improve validity and reliability in qualitative research

RESEARCH DESIGN & ACADEMIC SKILLS

DOC6040

UNDERSTANDING RESEARCH PHILOSOPHY AND APPROACHES TO THEORY DEVELOPMENT

Tutor/s	Prof. Sandra C. Buttigieg
Duration	3 hours
Occurrence	Semester 1 – am Semester 2 – pm
Max. no. of participants	12

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

This workshop will assist doctoral researchers in planning their research in relation to their research question/s. Participants are advised to reflect on the philosophical assumptions and issues underlying their choice of research paradigm, design, methodology, data collection techniques and analysis procedures. This is a crucial step that should be taken early in the research journey to enable doctoral researchers to comfortably explain their choices and therefore adequately answer their research question/s.

OUTCOMES

By the end of this workshop, doctoral researchers should be able to:

- 🕒 define ontology, epistemology and axiology, and explain their relevance to research;
- 🕒 understand the main research paradigms;
- 🕒 explain the relevance of philosophical positions;
- 🕒 distinguish between deductive, inductive and abductive approaches to theory development.





RESEARCH DESIGN & ACADEMIC SKILLS

DOC6046

INTRODUCTION TO LATEX: TYPESETTING YOUR THESIS OR RESEARCH PAPER*

** This workshop is split into two parts – Part 1
and Part 2. Attendance is required in both parts.*

Tutor/s	Prof. Gordon Pace
Duration	6 hours (3 hours + 3 hours)
Occurrence	Semester 1 – am Semester 2 – pm
Max. no. of participants	12

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

This workshop (the slides and content of which were prepared by Mr Luke Collins) introduces LaTeX (pronounced Lay-tek). LaTeX is the most prevalent document preparation system for academic writing in the mathematical and scientific fields. Advantages of using LaTeX over more common systems, such as Word or LibreOffice, include the high typographical quality of the documents, the longevity of the document format, the clear separation of concerns of the content of the document and the formatting, the lightweight nature of the software, requiring only a plain-text editor, and the fact that LaTeX is free software (libre). Learning even the basics of LaTeX will allow researchers to produce high-quality, academic documents faster and more efficiently. In some areas where equations play an important role, such as computer science, mathematics, statistics, and physics, LaTeX is the de facto default document typesetting system for scientific publications. However, it may also be used in many other areas, as highlighted by the many academic texts (books, posters, slides, theses, etc.) typeset with LaTeX.

OUTCOMES

By the end of this workshop, doctoral researchers should have learnt about the LaTeX commands to:

- ✎ write up a basic LaTeX document
- ✎ compile a LaTeX document into a PDF
- ✎ format text in LaTeX
- ✎ Create ordered (numbered) and unordered (bullets) lists
- ✎ Use Tables and Figures environments
- ✎ Typeset beautiful mathematical formulas
- ✎ Create automatic bibliographies and indices
- ✎ Use popular LaTeX packages
- ✎ Use the University of Malta Dissertation/Thesis LaTeX template (https://github.com/jp-um/university_of_malta_LaTeX_dissertation_template)

RESEARCH DESIGN & ACADEMIC SKILLS

DOC6042

MACHINE LEARNING WITH PYTHON*

* DOC6024 – Data Analysis with Python, or proven experience in Python programming is a prerequisite for this workshop. This workshop is split into two parts – Part 1 and Part 2. Attendance is required in both parts.

Tutor/s	Prof. Matthew Montebello
Duration	6 hours (3 hours + 3 hours)
Occurrence	Semester 1 – pm Semester 2 – am
Max. no. of participants	12

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Machine learning is the science of training algorithms to learn from data without the use of rules or analytic approaches. The vast amount of data gathered from sources varying from sensors and instrumentation to healthcare, social media and finance often require automated processing in a timely manner to extract information useful for decision-making. In this workshop, doctoral researchers will get the opportunity to “look under the hood” and understand the basics of typical machine learning algorithms related to regression, classification and clustering using Python.

OUTCOMES

By the end of this workshop, doctoral researchers should be able to:

- ④ fit a model to data using regression techniques
- ④ understand the basic mathematical foundations of supervised and unsupervised machine learning algorithms
- ④ train a neural network to perform classification
- ④ use unsupervised learning techniques to cluster data
- ④ use Python machine learning libraries, such as keras and scikit-learn





RESEARCH DESIGN & ACADEMIC SKILLS

DOC6024

DATA ANALYSIS WITH PYTHON*

** This workshop is split into two parts – Part 1 and Part 2. Attendance is required in both parts.*

Tutor/s	Prof. Matthew Montebello
Duration	6 hours (3 hours + 3 hours)
Occurrence	Semester 1 – pm Semester 2 – am
Max. no. of participants	12

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Most doctoral researchers generate or measure data in their research which they would like to analyse, process and visualise. Python is one of the easiest and widely-used programming languages which allows reading and writing from files, and plotting data in very few lines of code. It is open-source (free) and runs on any operating system. This workshop will assume no prior experience with programming whatsoever, and will guide researchers to write their first Python script, process basic datasets, and visualise the data.

OUTCOMES

By the end of this workshop, doctoral researchers should be able to:

- ⌕ write a basic script in Python
- ⌕ make use of standard libraries, such as NumPy, pandas and matplotlib
- ⌕ make use of basic data structures
- ⌕ perform numerical operations on data
- ⌕ read and write data to and from a file
- ⌕ visualise data using several plots

RESEARCH DESIGN & ACADEMIC SKILLS

DOC6049

STATISTICAL METHODS FOR THE HUMANITIES AND THE SOCIAL SCIENCES*

** This workshop runs over three consecutive weeks and is split into different parts as follows: week 1 (3 + 3 + 1 hours), week 2 (2 hours), week 3 (4 + 3 + 2 hours). Attendance is required for all parts.*

This is a bring-your-laptop workshop. Since there is a practical component, your laptop will need to have R and RStudio installed. Prior to the workshop, participants will be given clear instructions on how to install this software and what additional libraries they will need. All software used is freely available and/or open-source.

Tutor/s	Prof. Albert Gatt Prof. Patrizia Paggio
Duration	18 hours (over three weeks)
Occurrence	Semester 2 – pm
Max. no. of participants	12

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Statistical methods are an important part of the researcher's toolbox, especially in cases where research is empirically grounded, and necessitates the description, interpretation and/or modelling of significant amounts of data. Recently, scholars in the humanities and social sciences – such as linguists, historians, archaeologists, literary theorists and practitioners in the burgeoning field of Digital Humanities – have turned increasingly to quantitative methods, to complement more established methods in these fields.

This workshop focuses on how statistical methods can be used to make sense of data. It does not assume prior knowledge of statistics but seeks to give doctoral researchers a good overview of the following:

1. Organising data, identifying variables, and describing the trends they exhibit;
2. Constructing statistical models (especially the class of models subsumed under the heading of 'Generalised Linear Models'), evaluating them and using them to make predictions;
3. Understanding the concept of statistical significance and the logic of hypothesis-testing.

As well as introducing the above topics and discussing their theoretical underpinnings, an important aim of the workshop is to develop practical skills for data analysis. To this end, the workshop will also introduce the R language and associated packages for statistical analysis.

Sessions will be divided into theoretical and practical components. Participants will be strongly encouraged to bring their own data for use during the practical sessions. Prior to the workshop, participants will be asked to give a brief description of their research, as well as the type of data they are working with. This will help the tutors develop the practical sessions to be maximally useful to participants.



OUTCOMES

By the end of this workshop, doctoral researchers should:

- ⌚ distinguish types of variables and formulate empirical, testable hypotheses
- ⌚ identify the right statistical methods to apply to address specific research questions using different kinds of data
- ⌚ construct statistical models to address hypotheses or explore trends in large datasets
- ⌚ write simple R scripts for data analysis and visualisation of data
- ⌚ interpret statistical data
- ⌚ evaluate reports of empirical findings.

RESEARCH DESIGN & ACADEMIC SKILLS

DOC6050

INTRODUCTION TO THE REPERTORY GRID TECHNIQUE*

** This is a bring-your-laptop workshop.
The software can be downloaded for free
from www.idiogrid.com/order_24.html*

Tutor/s	Dr Emanuel Said
Duration	3 hours
Occurrence	Semester 1 – am Semester 2 – pm
Max. no. of participants	12

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

The workshop introduces the principles of Repertory Grid as a versatile method that is gaining widespread popularity among mixed methods research strategies. The programme covers a comprehensive approach starting from the principles of mixed methods down to the choice of Repertory Grid by relating to the nature of the research question and the method's implications on sampling, data collection, analysis and interpretation of results.

OUTCOMES

By the end of this workshop, doctoral researchers should:

- ⦿ locate repertory grid across the ontological continuum of research
- ⦿ differentiate between the different types of mixed methods research strategies and justify repertory grid as the method of choice with respect to specific research questions
- ⦿ plan and conduct repertory grid data collection in a diversity of organizational and social settings relying on the Personal Construct theory
- ⦿ analyse qualitative data collected through a repertory grid approach using Idiogrid™ software to bring out principal components from individual grids both separately and collectively
- ⦿ plan and implement precautions to maximize the robustness of the repertory grid method

RESEARCH DESIGN & ACADEMIC SKILLS

DOC6051
INTRODUCTION TO NVIVO™
FOR QUALITATIVE DATA
ANALYSIS*

**This is a bring-your-laptop workshop. The software can be downloaded for a 14-day trial period from www.qsrinternational.com. A student licence can be purchased from the University of Malta IT Services.*

Tutor/s	Dr Emanuel Said
Duration	3 hours
Occurrence	Semester 1 – am Semester 2 – pm
Max. no. of participants	12

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Qualitative data analysis can be a very daunting task without the help of any analysis software. NVivo™ is a software application that simplifies qualitative data analysis, supporting text, multimedia, pictures, and PDFs; open-ended surveys from Excel and Survey Monkey among the many more data formats. NVivo™ supports a range of inductive and deductive methods for qualitative data analysis such as thematic and content analysis, within and cross-case analysis and many more. The workshop covers the key steps involved in qualitative data analysis using QSR NVivo™ starting with data types and the creation of an NVivo™ project, the uploading of data, data coding, code categorizations, query building and interpretation of output from queries. No prerequisite knowledge of NVivo™ is required.

OUTCOMES

By the end of this workshop, doctoral researchers should:

- ⓧ locate the diverse features and capabilities of NVivo™ Qualitative Data Analysis Software (CAQDAS)
- ⓧ understand the nature of the different data types that call for qualitative analysis and how NVivo™ can help in this process
- ⓧ undertake coding on text data using NVivo™ to create a structure of nodes
- ⓧ keep memos and a journal during NVivo™ work
- ⓧ build and conduct queries using NVivo™’s query generating capabilities
- ⓧ understand the output of NVivo™ queries
- ⓧ construct models from coded data
- ⓧ create other forms of data analysis output such as word clouds and cluster analysis
- ⓧ understand the limitations of NVivo™ software as well as the precautions analysts need to adopt during the use of NVivo™





RESEARCH DESIGN & ACADEMIC SKILLS

DOC6052

REFLECTIONS ON THE USE OF GROUNDED THEORY IN QUALITATIVE RESEARCH

Tutor/s	Dr Emanuel Said
Duration	3 hours
Occurrence	Semester 1 – pm Semester 2 – am
Max. no. of participants	12

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Selecting an appropriate research method is one of the most critical challenges presented to doctoral researchers. This workshop introduces the principles of Grounded Theory (GT) as one of the traditions of interpretive and qualitative inquiry that offers a reliable and credible product. The workshop is of particular interest to researchers of social studies as it is suitable for the investigation of complex multifaceted phenomena. It is also well equipped to explore socially related issues. The workshop takes a comprehensive approach and covers the principles of Grounded Theory, the implications on sampling, data collection, and coding and interpretation of results.

OUTCOMES

By the end of this workshop, doctoral researchers should:

- ⦿ locate Grounded Theory across the ontological continuum in organizational studies
- ⦿ formulate a suitable Grounded Theory method in addressing the requirements of specific research questions
- ⦿ classify the different types of data that can be collected for a Grounded Theory study;
- ⦿ appraise and choose sampling approaches that lend themselves to effective Grounded Theory studies
- ⦿ plan and conduct Grounded Theory data collection in a diversity of settings
- ⦿ analyse qualitative data collected through a Grounded Theory approach
- ⦿ assess theoretical saturation and implement associated data collection and analysis steps
- ⦿ plan and implement precautions to maximize the robustness of the Grounded Theory method

RESEARCH DESIGN & ACADEMIC SKILLS

DOC6015

ANNUAL DOCTORAL SYMPOSIUM*

** Participants are invited to register for the Doctoral Symposium, **ONLY** if they are to present their work. Invitations to attend will be open at a later date.*

*Applicants are kindly requested to submit to the Doctoral School a 250-word abstract **2 months before the Symposium** through the following e-mail address: doctoralschool@um.edu.mt*

The Doctoral School is organising a Doctoral Symposium. The goal of the Doctoral Symposium is to provide doctoral researchers with the opportunity to present and discuss their research in a forum with fellow doctoral researchers and academics.

In exhibiting their work, doctoral researchers will be able to garner independent and constructive feedback while also practising and enhancing their communication skills.

Each presentation will be approximately 15 minutes long and an additional 5 minutes will be allotted for discussion.

This year's keynote address on doctoral supervision will be delivered by Prof. André Mazawi, University of British Columbia, Canada.





RESEARCH DESIGN & ACADEMIC SKILLS

DOC6026

GETTING PUBLISHED: THE CONFERENCE PAPER*

** Applicants are kindly requested to submit to the tutor an abstract relating to their research ONE MONTH before the workshop through the e-mail address: belinda.gambin@um.edu.mt*

Tutor/s	Dr Belinda Gambin
Duration	3 hours
Occurrence	Semester 1 – pm Semester 2 – am
Max. no. of participants	12

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Conference participation is an important element of the doctoral experience. Such an event enables researchers to showcase their research, exchange ideas and knowledge, and network with other members in their field. This workshop will focus on the whole process: from conference selection, the call for papers and abstract preparation, through to delivery (if accepted) and finally publication of the proceedings.

OUTCOMES

By the end of this workshop, doctoral researchers should be able to:

- describe the different event types: seminar, workshop, symposium and conference (national vs international)
- understand the practical requirements for selecting an event, preparing a conference paper and subsequently publishing the paper
- approach academic conference participation more effectively

RESEARCH DESIGN & ACADEMIC SKILLS

DOC6027

GETTING PUBLISHED:
THE JOURNAL ARTICLE

Humanities, Education and Law

Tutor/s	Prof. Maria Attard
Duration	3 hours
Occurrence	Semester 1 – am Semester 2 – pm
Max. no. of participants	12

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

This workshop will deal with the process of preparing articles for publication, in particular negotiating the peer review process, which is the basis for all credible published work. The workshop will be organised along four broad research domains and will be led by University of Malta academics who are actively involved in journal editing in their respective fields.

OUTCOMES

By the end of this workshop, doctoral researchers should:

- be more aware of how to approach the publication process systematically
- have greater insight into the needs of readers and reviewers
- be aware of skills required to write journal articles
- be aware of the processes involved in dealing with the peer review process
- understand the purpose of each section in a research paper
- understand how online platforms have changed how research papers are discovered and read





RESEARCH DESIGN & ACADEMIC SKILLS

DOC6029

GETTING PUBLISHED: THE JOURNAL ARTICLE

Life Sciences and Medicine

Tutor/s

Prof. Giuseppe di Giovanni

Duration

3 hours

Occurrence

Semester 2 – pm

Max. no. of
participants

12

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

This workshop will deal with the process of preparing articles for publication, in particular negotiating the peer review process, which is the basis for all credible published work. The workshop will be organised along four broad research domains and will be led by University of Malta academics who are actively involved in journal editing in their respective fields.

OUTCOMES

By the end of this workshop, doctoral researchers should:

- ⦿ be aware of how to approach the publication process systematically
- ⦿ have insight into the needs of readers and reviewers
- ⦿ be more aware of skills required to write journal articles
- ⦿ be aware of the processes involved in dealing with the peer review process
- ⦿ understand the purpose of each section in a research paper
- ⦿ understand how online platforms have changed how research papers are discovered and read

RESEARCH DESIGN & ACADEMIC SKILLS

DOC6030

GETTING PUBLISHED: THE JOURNAL ARTICLE

Architecture and STEM

Tutor/s	Prof. Cristiana Sebu
Duration	3 hours
Occurrence	Semester 2 – am
Max. no. of participants	12

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

This workshop will deal with the process of preparing articles for publication, in particular negotiating the peer review process, which is the basis for all credible published work. The workshop will be organised along four broad research domains and will be led by University of Malta academics who are actively involved in journal editing in their respective fields.

OUTCOMES

By the end of this workshop, doctoral researchers should:

- ⌕ be more aware of how to approach the publication process systematically
- ⌕ have greater insight into the needs of readers and reviewers
- ⌕ be aware of skills required to write journal articles
- ⌕ be aware of the processes involved in dealing with the peer review process
- ⌕ understand the purpose of each section in a research paper
- ⌕ understand how online platforms have changed how research papers are discovered and read





RESEARCH DESIGN & ACADEMIC SKILLS

DOC6028

GETTING PUBLISHED: THE JOURNAL ARTICLE

Social and Behavioural Sciences

Tutor/s	Prof. Jean-Paul Baldacchino
Duration	3 hours
Occurrence	Semester 1 – pm Semester 2 – am
Max. no. of participants	12

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

This workshop will deal with the process of preparing articles for publication, in particular negotiating the peer review process, which is the basis for all credible published work. The workshop will be organised along four broad research domains and will be led by University of Malta academics who are actively involved in journal editing in their respective fields.

OUTCOMES

By the end of this workshop, doctoral researchers should:

- ⌚ be aware of how to approach the publication process systematically
- ⌚ have insight into the needs of readers and reviewers
- ⌚ be more aware of skills required to write journal articles
- ⌚ be aware of the processes involved in dealing with the peer review process
- ⌚ understand the purpose of each section in a research paper
- ⌚ understand how online platforms have changed how research papers are discovered and read

RESEARCH DESIGN & ACADEMIC SKILLS

DOC6053

GETTING PUBLISHED THROUGH EDITED VOLUMES

NEW

Tutor/s	Prof. Peter Mayo
Duration	3 hours
Occurrence	Semester 1 – am Semester 2 – pm
Max. no. of participants	12

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

This webinar will introduce doctoral students to issues concerning publication of their research in edited academic journals and books. It will focus on different requirements of an edited journal issue and an edited book. There is a hierarchy of value attached to these publications. How to edit volumes and what to look for from contributors are issues which will be explored. What purpose does the edited volume serve? How to choose the invited contributors? Suggestions regarding how to improve one's chances in getting published internationally will be made and explored.

OUTCOMES

By the end of this workshop, doctoral researchers should be able to:

- Learn how to frame their research for either a local or, most importantly, an international readership of an edited volume;
- If the guest editor or book editor, how to choose the right personnel for the research;
- How to tweak or edit a paper to connect with the purview of the specific edited journal and connect with the debates it carries forward;
- How to distinguish between publishing in an edited journal or book and how to do both (which goes first);
- How to attach value to different kinds of edited publications – peer reviewed edited special issues of journals, solicited book chapters, authored, co-authored chapters in edited books, editing volumes;
- What to do with published research for wider dissemination (in an edited book or journal);
- To distinguish between journals;
- Using your own research in volumes you yourself edit, journals or books. For edited volumes on the bases of indexes (e.g. web of science, social science citation index, etc).



RESEARCH DESIGN & ACADEMIC SKILLS

DOC6025

GETTING PUBLISHED: PREPARING THE BOOK PROPOSAL*

* This workshop is split into two parts – Part 1 and Part 2. Attendance is required in both parts.

Registration for this workshop is only open to candidates who are in their final year of studies. Applicants are kindly requested to submit to the tutor an abstract/summary of their theses ONE MONTH before the workshop, through the e-mail address: ivan.callus@um.edu.mt

Tutor/s	Prof. Ivan Callus
Duration	6 hours (3 hours + 3 hours)
Occurrence	Semester 1 – pm
Max. no. of participants	10

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

This workshop is intended for doctoral students who are in the final stages of their research or who may have recently submitted their thesis for examination.

The workshop is spread over two sessions. The first part of Session 1 provides an overview of current and changing trends in academic publishing in the United Kingdom, the United States, Europe and Malta. It moves on to consider the place of the scholarly book, or monograph, within contemporary academia.

Publishers' expectations concerning a book proposal will then be discussed and workshop participants helped to identify those aspects of their thesis that they might need to revise as they go about adapting it to a form appropriate to the academic book. Participants will be alerted to the timeline management required when preparing a book manuscript, and will be advised about the importance of fair, credible and effective pitching of their project.

An important aspect of the workshop is close analysis of different book proposal forms across various academic publishers and presses, and the factors to bear in mind when filling in one of these forms. Matters of good practice and professional ethics within academic publishing will also be discussed.

Session 2 will take place three weeks after Session 1, allowing participants to have prepared a draft book proposal document in the meantime. Feedback on the proposals submitted will be provided, with areas for improvement identified and addressed.

OUTCOMES

By the end of this workshop, doctoral researchers should be:

- more informed about realities of academic publishing across a range of contexts, particularly relating to monographs and critical collections
- able to identify the ways in which their thesis will need to be adapted for consideration as a monograph, in view of the different genre expectations concerning the doctoral thesis and the academic book
- better placed to assess the appeal and viability of any book project that might emerge from the doctoral thesis
- better placed to assess the ways in which the project can be effectively pitched to publishers
- aware of aspects of timeline management that need to be borne in mind when drawing up a book proposal
- aware of the factors to bear in mind when filling out the different parts of an academic publisher's book proposal form
- able to identify aspects of broader research (beyond the thesis) that might need to feature in the book proposal to make it appealing for publishers
- able to put together solid book proposals for a single-authored volume and for an edited collection of essays
- aware of forms of good and ethical practice in book publishing





PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

DOC6004

UNDERSTANDING AND DEVELOPING ASSERTIVENESS

Tutor/s	Dr Natalie Kenely
Duration	3 hours
Occurrence	Semester 1 – pm
Max. no. of participants	12

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Assertiveness is respecting yourself, being clear about what you want and taking responsibility for it, while at the same time respecting others. It is a skill, and as such can be practised and learnt. An assertive person can communicate well, and can deal well with different personalities, in different situations. A certain amount of self-confidence is basic to assertiveness.

OUTCOMES

By the end of this workshop, doctoral researchers should be able to:

- 🕒 describe assertive, non-assertive and aggressive behaviours
- 🕒 distinguish between these behaviours when observed in different contexts
- 🕒 recognise verbal and non-verbal features of these behaviours
- 🕒 apply verbal and non-verbal features in becoming more assertive
- 🕒 demonstrate self-confidence and the ability to communicate assertively

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

DOC6003

RECOGNISING STRESS
AND DEVELOPING
COPING STRATEGIES

Tutor/s	Ms Sharon Martinelli Ms Niamh Donoghue
Duration	3 hours
Occurrence	Semester 1 – am Semester 2 – pm
Max. no. of participants	12

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

The doctoral journey is not an easy one. Academic stress experienced by doctoral researchers is often not given its due attention. Evidence suggests that stress may hinder the performance and efficiency of individuals on a personal and professional level. Stressors, the perception, the reaction, and coping mechanisms constitute a personal journey. The aim of this workshop is to provide a safe space to explore, identify and share experiences of stress and coping techniques to support all participants through their doctoral journey.

OUTCOMES

By the end of this workshop, doctoral researchers should:

- ⌕ be able to distinguish between pressure and stress
- ⌕ be able to identify the impact of stress on health and wellbeing
- ⌕ be able to recognise doctoral researchers' stress and coping mechanisms
- ⌕ be able to explore different practical coping techniques
- ⌕ have shared effectively through conversation





PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

DOC6020
DEBATING WITH THE MEDIA*

Tutor/s	Rev. Dr Joseph Borg
Duration	6 hours (3 hours + 3 hours)
Occurrence	Semester 2 – am
Max. no. of participants	10

** This workshop is split into two parts – Part 1 and Part 2. Attendance is required in both parts. Applicants are kindly requested to submit a short paragraph highlighting their expectations from this workshop and their experience associated with broadcasting or printing media. This feedback should be sent to the tutor on: joseph.borg@um.edu.mt, ONE WEEK prior to the workshop.*

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Writing for the media is radically different from writing an academic piece. In a similar manner, speaking on the radio or on TV and addressing academic gatherings require very different skills. Researchers do their utmost to be precise, base their conclusions on solid information, and refrain from rendering matters trivial or sensational. The media, on the other hand, does not harbour such ‘scruples’ many times. Also whereas an academic audience listens with attention, media audiences are not as attentive.

In a world dominated by the media, it helps a researcher to also be a savvy media user. Given the right skills, researchers can use the media sagely to increase the impact of their work, increase visibility, influence policy (if this is part of the scope of their research), give back to society and attract others to research. The aim of this workshop, which will consist of both a theoretical and a practical element, is to help instil in participants the necessary skills to communicate effectively and efficiently with the broadcasting and print media, and with the media audience.

OUTCOMES

By the end of this workshop, doctoral researchers should be increasingly:

- aware of their message
- cognisant of their medium
- conscious of their audience
- familiar with different kinds of interviews for print and broadcasting
- equipped to handle different situations, including the phone-in format

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

DOC6006

CONVINCING AND DEBATING

Tutor/s	Prof. Andrew Azzopardi
Duration	3 hours
Occurrence	Semester 1 – pm Semester 2 – am
Max. no. of participants	12

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Debating is a fundamental part of everyday life. Our ability to discuss lies at the heart of a democratic and open-minded society. Added to this, to be critical is central in the life of any scholar. Structured and well-thought-out strategies in expressing oneself have the potential to unpack one's scholarly competencies and expertise. This workshop will help candidates develop and exercise debating skills. More importantly it will help stimulate the critical thinking of our up and coming scholars by shaking candidates free from time-honoured and conventional opinions.

OUTCOMES

By the end of this workshop, doctoral researchers should:

- ⌚ be familiar with the major themes related to convincing
- ⌚ be familiar with the major themes related to debating
- ⌚ understand the value of critical thinking
- ⌚ understand how they can benefit from critical thinking in the cultivation of analytical discourse
- ⌚ have improved their analytical abilities in philosophical work
- ⌚ have improved their critical abilities in philosophical work
- ⌚ have developed a more acute awareness of how to approach a debate and convince
- ⌚ have developed practical skills on how to improve communicability





PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

DOC6055

SOCIAL MEDIA FOR RESEARCHERS

NEW

Tutor/s	Dr Alex Grech
Duration	3 hours
Occurrence	Semester 1 – am Semester 2 – pm
Max. no. of participants	12

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

The workshop maps how social media can be integrated into different facets of a scholarly activity. The primary purpose is to help researchers navigate and use social media in a meaningful and strategic manner. The workshop will introduce the key characteristics of social media platforms and explore ways in which social media can be used: to communicate strategically online; to publicise scholarly work; to build and nurture an online network; for academic research and the curation of information; for public engagement. Attention will be given to managing the dark side of social media and how a professional identity can be maintained in the age of the attention economy.

The workshop will be delivered in an iterative manner. Participants will be encouraged to discuss specific areas of research interest within the context of the workshop topics.

OUTCOMES

By the end of this workshop, doctoral researchers should be able to:

- Practical insights on the platforms to use for researchers
- Dealing with online information overload
- Conducting online research using social media platforms
- Communicating strategically

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

DOC6019
PRESENTATION TECHNIQUES*

* This workshop is split into two parts – Part 1 and Part 2. Attendance is required in both parts.

Tutor/s	Prof. Ġorġ Mallia
Duration	6 hours (3 hours + 3 hours)
Occurrence	Semester 2 – pm
Max. no. of participants	12

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

This workshop will outline the skills needed to maximise personal communications and present messages efficiently and coherently. The different elements needed for maximising personal communications will be delved into and will include verbal and non-verbal communications, presentation media (when to use presentation media, what to use, and how), and the various preparatory phases needed for creating presentations. Participants will be asked to prepare a ten-minute presentation, preferably related to an element of their research, and to deliver it in front of the group during the following workshop session. Each presentation will be peer and tutor analysed so that each participant receives individual feedback on his/her performance.

OUTCOMES

By the end of this workshop, doctoral researchers should be able to:

- Ⓢ better understand how to give presentations that convey the message intended by the presenter
- Ⓢ be more aware of the nuances of non-verbal communications
- Ⓢ maximise the use of voice and body language as means of communications
- Ⓢ evaluate audiences and their needs, to then apply these to communication solutions
- Ⓢ discern what media will aid personal communications





PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

DOC6054
**PRESENTING YOUR
RESEARCH IN 180 SECONDS***



Tutor/s	Dr Nicole Bugeja
Duration	6 hours (3 hours + 3 hours)
Occurrence	Semester 1 – am Semester 2 – pm
Max. no. of participants	12

** This workshop is being offered to students who have successfully completed their transfer from M.Phil. to Ph.D. and to Pharm.D. students.*

The workshop is split into two parts – Part 1 and Part 2. Attendance is required in both parts.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

The sessions will train doctoral candidates in public speaking skills specifically focused on the presentation of academic research in three minutes. The sessions will look at the preparation stage of a presentation, the actual delivery, and the aftermath of a public appearance. Aspects of these sessions include, among others, training in posture alignment, breathing, control of chest voice, articulation, projection, speaking flow, and improvisation

OUTCOMES

By the end of this workshop, doctoral researchers should be able to:

- Recognise the preferred approach with which to prepare a presentation;
- Deliver an optimal presentation of one’s research to the general public within a limited timeframe;
- Follow-up and network with one’s audience after the presentation;
- Apply learnt public speaking techniques independently and within a group context.

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

DOC6009

LEADERSHIP FOR THE 21st CENTURY

Tutor/s	Prof. Christopher Bezzina
Duration	3 hours
Occurrence	Semester 1 – pm Semester 2 – am
Max. no. of participants	12

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

The aim of this introductory workshop is to engage participants personally and collectively with the notion of leadership and what it means to be a leader in today's world. It does so by exploring a number of areas, namely the self, positive leadership, sustainability and context. The focus is on developing a model that helps us look at the importance behind character, presence and connections, and the impact these have on us. It will help participants engage and critically reflect on their own existing leadership and professional relationships and the impact these have on their performance and that of others. This introductory workshop is aimed at setting the scene for other workshops where the importance behind leadership traits, one's personal philosophy and style of leadership, and leadership skills among others, will be explored.

OUTCOMES

By the end of this workshop, doctoral researchers should be able to:

- ④ understand themselves more deeply through engagement with a model of leadership that is more inclusive
- ④ critique rapport with others and situations in the different institutions that we form part of
- ④ relate to the dynamic relationship between leadership, people and context





PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

DOC6010

AN INTRODUCTION TO CRITICAL AND CREATIVE THINKING

Tutor/s	Dr Margaret Mangion
Duration	3 hours
Occurrence	Semester 1 – pm Semester 2 – am
Max. no. of participants	12

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Critical and creative thinking are often manifested in the different interpretations of information presented to doctoral researchers throughout the progression of their doctoral studies. The introductory workshop aims to motivate doctoral researchers to adopt an increasingly critical and creative outlook while undertaking their studies with the intention of adding value to the quality of the work carried out.

OUTCOMES

By the end of this workshop, doctoral researchers should be able to:

- adopt a more critical outlook
- apply creative thinking tools to organise their thoughts
- apply creative thinking methods to their reflective thinking

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

DOC6036

DEALING WITH CONFLICT SITUATIONS

Tutor/s	Prof. Gordon Sammut
Duration	3 hours
Occurrence	Semester 1 – pm Semester 2 – am
Max. no. of participants	12

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Conflict is a pervasive aspect of human existence. This workshop will introduce participants to the psychological underpinnings of conflict that are rooted in human evolution and will provide candidates with a skill-set to identify, understand and negotiate conflict situations. Through recreating a series of landmark psychological experiments, participants will experience natural occurrences of conflict. They will then be able to observe and try out different conflict resolution strategies in an attempt to overcome a relational impasse. Participants will also be provided with the opportunity to evaluate strategies in light of the fact that conflict manifests itself in situations involving competing interests.

OUTCOMES

By the end of this workshop, doctoral researchers should have:

- ④ acquired skills to identify conflict situations from the start
- ④ developed an understanding of how positioning may help de-escalate or aggravate a situation of conflict
- ④ attained reflective skills for negotiating solutions
- ④ tried out different techniques to overcome an impasse





PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

DOC6032

INTRODUCTION TO
STUDENT MENTORING

Tutor/s	Dr Sandro Lanfranco
Duration	3 hours
Occurrence	Semester 1 – am Semester 2 – pm
Max. no. of participants	12

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

This interactive workshop aims to introduce participants to the process of mentoring other students through a series of hypothetical 'situations' that may arise. These will include mentoring of individuals and small groups. Situations requiring sensitivity to cultural or behavioural diversity will also be introduced. The importance of the mentor as a role model, research guide and general advisor will be tackled.

OUTCOMES

By the end of this workshop, doctoral researchers should:

- have acquired knowledge of the most frequent situations that are likely to arise during interaction with students
- have become more aware of how to interact effectively and sensitively with students, including under difficult circumstances
- have attained knowledge about the role of the mentor
- have acquired knowledge about the limitations of the role of the mentor

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

DOC6033

BASIC LECTURING SKILLS

Tutor/s	Mr James Cilia
Duration	3 hours
Occurrence	Semester 1 – am Semester 2 – pm
Max. no. of participants	12

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

This workshop is intended for doctoral students who would like to develop basic skills in lecturing large groups. The first part of the workshop focuses on the lecture as a legitimate teaching strategy and on different types of lectures (such as formal paper-reading lectures, discussion-based lectures and demonstration lectures). The second part of the workshop focuses on educational strategies to enhance the lecture including activating prior knowledge, capturing attention and emphasising important points, using multimedia and technology effectively, making concepts meaningful through examples and using questions to promote critical thinking. The workshop also includes a short demonstration of the instructional technologies in a lecture theatre.

OUTCOMES

By the end of this workshop, doctoral researchers should be able to:

- ⌚ recognise the advantages and disadvantages of large group teaching
- ⌚ describe the steps involved in planning and developing an effective lecture
- ⌚ identify strategies to increase interaction and learning during a lecture





PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

DOC6034

ENHANCING SMALL GROUP
TEACHING AND LEARNING

Tutor/s	Dr Gillian Martin
Duration	3 hours
Occurrence	Semester 1 – pm Semester 2 – am
Max. no. of participants	12

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

The workshop will delve into 'learning-by-doing' with the aim of demonstrating its effectiveness as an active learning experience. The groups will be introduced to a variety of hands-on techniques, and will be invited to reflect on the benefits of small group teaching, learning and cognition as a social and cultural process, and on power dynamics, authority and trust.

OUTCOMES

By the end of this workshop, doctoral researchers should be able to:

- identify the advantages of small group teaching and learning
- describe the key requirements in planning and facilitating a session using inquiry-based learning
- discuss the importance of power, authority and social and cultural context in the learning environment

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

DOC6035

BASIC RESEARCH
SUPERVISION SKILLS

Tutor/s	Prof. Ing. Glenn Cassar
Duration	3 hours
Occurrence	Semester 1 – pm Semester 2 – am
Max. no. of participants	12

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

This workshop is intended for doctoral students involved in supervising undergraduate research. Supervising research requires supporting students, providing guidance to ensure that students get the most out of their project, helping them manage project outcomes and deadlines, and ensuring that they have the necessary resources. This workshop will present general skills, applicable to all fields of study, including the development of student research proposals and corresponding outcomes, meeting ethical and safety standards, and communication strategies. This workshop will also provide a practical toolkit to improve the students' learning experience throughout their research work via effective supervision as opposed to intensely prescriptive mentoring approaches. Participants will also be able to share their supervision practices with their peers, allowing for members to improve the effectiveness of the supervision they provide with the consequence that the supervised students can make the most of the learning opportunities presented by a research project.

OUTCOMES

By the end of this workshop, doctoral researchers should:

- ⓧ have become aware of their responsibilities when undertaking a supervisory role (including the need to ascertain project feasibility and the availability of resources/funding, as well as the need to procure knowledge and training if required)
- ⓧ know what procedures need to be followed for projects involving ethical and safety issues
- ⓧ have become aware of the necessary skills to plan and manage a project to completion
- ⓧ be able to devise a communication and meeting strategy suitable for the particular student
- ⓧ have acquired knowledge on how to motivate and guide students in their research
- ⓧ have become more aware of the importance of prioritising student learning over obtaining the best possible project outcomes
- ⓧ have become more aware of how to support students who struggle and/or fall behind during their project
- ⓧ have attained knowledge on how to make best use of the time available/allocated to each research student





BEYOND GRADUATION

DOC6011

COMMUNICATING RESEARCH
TO DIVERSE AUDIENCES

Tutor/s	Dr Edward Duca Ms Daniela Quacinella
Duration	3 hours
Occurrence	Semester 1 – am Semester 2 – pm
Max. no. of participants	12

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Would you like to improve your public speaking skills? Would you like to engage citizens further with your research? This workshop will provide you with tips on how to give short talks and how to communicate ideas to different audiences, among others. It will help you develop how you think about your audience (who they are, their motivations, and how to give an impactful experience). It will also provide you with tools such as how to build a narrative, jargon busting, use of questions, gripping introductions, signposting and correct use of body language. The skills learnt in this workshop will not only be useful during your doctoral journey but can also be applied throughout your career.

OUTCOMES

By the end of this workshop, doctoral researchers should:

- ⌚ become aware of the theory behind public speaking
- ⌚ improve communication skills
- ⌚ learn how to speak to different audiences

BEYOND GRADUATION

DOC6007

UNDERSTANDING INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY (IP)*

* This workshop is split into two parts – Part 1 and Part 2. Attendance is required in both parts.

Tutor/s	Dr Ruth Vella Falzon Dr Ing. Anton Bartolo
Duration	6 hours (3 hours + 3 hours)
Occurrence	Semester 1 – am
Max. no. of participants	12

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Intellectual Property (IP) is a term frequently bandied about without much understanding of its meaning and implications. The concept of IP is crucial to the existence of universities and their academic programmes, yet even here the awareness and understanding is often lacking. The aim of this workshop is to give the doctoral researcher an understanding of IP, explain the legal basis around IP Rights (IPR) and discuss practical applications of IP and IPR within and outside universities.

OUTCOMES

By the end of this workshop, doctoral researchers should be able to:

- understand the meaning of intellectual property
- understand the value of intellectual property
- appreciate intellectual property rights and their legal basis
- understand IP and IPR in practical situations (plagiarism, journal submission agreements and the copyright obligations and implications therein, studies involving data owned by a third party, confidentiality, embargo, publication vs protection of IP, publications and IP in collaboration and contract research projects)





BEYOND GRADUATION

DOC6008

RESEARCH IMPACT: MAKE YOURSELF RESPONSIBLE RESEARCH AND INNOVATION (RRI) READY

Tutor/s	Dr Edward Duca Ms Daniela Quacinella Guest speaker
Duration	3 hours
Occurrence	Semester 1 – pm Semester 2 – am
Max. no. of participants	12

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Most funding opportunities for doctoral researchers (such as the EU Horizon 2020 programme) aim to embed RRI (Responsible Research and Innovation) in research and research institutions. Incorporating the concept is essential to receive funding

RRI is based on the principle that society should be involved in every step of the research process. This helps ensure a greater commitment to addressing societal needs, an understanding of stakeholders' needs and role in the research, reflection on the impact that today's decisions may have in future, and increased transparency and openness in the research and innovation processes. Critical awareness and a sense of social responsibility are also considered necessary skills in RRI.

This workshop will break down the concept of RRI into a series of tools and processes that will allow doctoral researchers to put RRI ideas into practice and become "RRI ready". By engaging in group activities and mapping exercises, the workshop will encourage researchers to critically reflect on how RRI can be practically implemented in their own domain and context, and demonstrate how RRI can be incorporated in grant proposals to increase funding success.

OUTCOMES

By the end of this workshop, doctoral researchers should be able to:

- understand the concept of RRI
- understand its implications on the researcher's work
- creatively incorporate the concept of RRI into their own work
- change their research process and writing in the hope of increasing grant application/project writing success

BEYOND GRADUATION

DOC6038

BRIDGING THE GAP
BETWEEN ACADEMIA AND
THE LABOUR MARKET*

* This workshop is being offered to students who have successfully completed their transfer from M.Phil. to Ph.D. and to Pharm.D. students.

Tutor/s	Dr Anne Marie Thake Guest speaker
Duration	3 hours
Occurrence	Semester 1 – pm Semester 2 – am
Max. no. of participants	10

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

This session is intended for doctoral students who are in the final stages of their research. The workshop aims to provide doctoral students with an understanding of the relationship between the research environment and the labour market. It will create an awareness of the skills required in the world beyond academia. Students will gain insights into employers' perspectives. A guest speaker (from either public or private organisations) will be invited to give their own perspectives on what they are looking for in future talent.

OUTCOMES

By the end of the workshop, doctoral researchers should be able to:

- Familiarise themselves with labour market requirements
- Appreciate the importance of soft skills for employers
- Be aware of what institutional actors are looking for in future talent
- Assess their own interpersonal skills





BEYOND GRADUATION

DOC6013
WRITING EFFECTIVE CVs
AND JOB APPLICATION LETTERS

Tutor/s	Dr Karen Cacciattolo
Duration	3 hours
Occurrence	Semester 1 – am Semester 2 – pm
Max. no. of participants	10

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

This workshop will delve into three types of CVs, namely the academic type, the competency type, and the chronological type, depending on the job one would like to apply for. It will offer an explanation and also encourage discussion on what should and should not be included in a CV, and on how to present a sound job application letter. There will be group and individual case studies wherein the participants will be presented with sample job application letters and CVs, and will have to identify the type of CV presented as well as which CV and job application letter are the most attractive and likely to lead the 'applicant' to be called for an interview. One of the case studies will involve participants drafting a letter of application and a CV, which will be assessed during the workshop by their peers in line with the criteria presented during the workshop.

OUTCOMES

By the end of this workshop, doctoral researchers should:

- be equipped with the necessary tools to draw up their own job application letter and CV in an appropriate, clear and presentable manner in accordance with the type of job they would like to apply for

BEYOND GRADUATION

DOC6014

PREPARING FOR
A JOB INTERVIEW

Tutor/s	Dr Karen Cacciattolo
Duration	3 hours
Occurrence	Semester 1 – pm Semester 2 – am
Max. no. of participants	10

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

The workshop will outline what to prepare before the interview as well as what to do and what to avoid on the day of the job interview. Sample interview questions and answers will be discussed as well as questions the interviewee should ask the panel during the interview. A couple of simulated academic interviews will take place in which participants will be asked to take on various roles. The participants will also have the opportunity to offer their views and discuss the outcome of the simulated interviews.

OUTCOMES

By the end of this workshop, doctoral researchers should:

- be equipped with skills to prepare for a job interview
- understand better how to react to and answer interview questions
- understand better what questions to ask the interviewing panel





BEYOND GRADUATION

DOC6012

WRITING WINNING GRANT APPLICATIONS

Tutor/s	Ms Lili Kankaya Guest speaker
Duration	3 hours
Occurrence	Semester 1 – pm Semester 2 – am
Max. no. of participants	12

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Are you new to the funding scene? How should a proposal be written? Who are evaluators and what do they look out for? How do you structure a winning consortium? These questions, plus many more, will be addressed during this workshop. The model used will be *Horizon Europe*, however, the methodology may be applied to any type of funding application.

OUTCOMES

By the end of this workshop, doctoral researchers should be able to:

- 🕒 navigate the participant portal
- 🕒 search for calls matching their area of research
- 🕒 build a winning consortium
- 🕒 write a proposal with salient points in mind
- 🕒 write a funding application in line with an evaluator's expectations
- 🕒 read and analyse evaluation summary reports

BEYOND GRADUATION

DOC6045

AN INTRODUCTION TO ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND THE COMMERCIALISATION OF IP*

** This workshop is taking place between 8.30 a.m. and 5 p.m. The use of mobile phones and laptops is not permitted during this workshop except during break periods.*

Tutor/s	Prof. Russell Smith Prof. Juanito Camilleri
Duration	Full day*
Occurrence	Semester 1
Max. no. of participants	8

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

This workshop is the first day of *EBI5001 Introduction to Entrepreneurship*. An intensive introduction to key concepts of entrepreneurship and the commercialisation of IP will be given. This opportunity is important for doctoral researchers with respect to career planning. An explanation of other training and services that can be accessed by doctoral students from the Centre for Entrepreneurship and Business Incubation will also be provided.

OUTCOMES

By the end of this workshop, doctoral researchers should have an understanding of:

- 🕒 the harmonious duality of research and entrepreneurship
- 🕒 the key concepts of enterprise and entrepreneurship
- 🕒 the key concepts of intellectual property (IP) including how to protect it and how to commercialise it



OTHER SUPPORT

As a graduate student at the University of Malta there are a wide range of resources available to support your development, in addition to the Doctoral School's Professional Development Programme. Resources that might be of particular interest to graduate research students are outlined below. You are welcome to come and visit us at the office of the Doctoral School if you have any queries or further support needs.

Faculty-based subject specific or advanced development opportunities

In addition to the general research methods and transferable skills development available through the Doctoral School, your faculty/institute/centre/school or department may have subject specific and advanced training. Please check the offer (taught sessions, seminars, workshops, etc) in your respective faculty/institute/centre/school.

The University Library

In addition to the introductory workshop to the services provided by the University library, workshops and training sessions are held to help and guide students in their research endeavours. These include workshops related to the use of bibliographic management software (RefWorks), databases, and publication in peer-reviewed journals.

➤ www.um.edu.mt/library/workshops

IT Training

The University's IT Services often deliver workshops related to the use of licensed software. Although these sessions are not tailored specifically for research students, they will be of relevance to those studying for research degrees.

➤ www.um.edu.mt/itservices/training

Centre for English Language Proficiency (CELP)

CELP promotes English language proficiency amongst students, in particular those whose first language is not English, helping them to succeed in achieving their research degree.

➤ www.um.edu.mt/celp

Research Support Services Directorate (RSSD)

RSSD provides comprehensive support on all aspects of undertaking excellent research, from obtaining funding to carrying out experimental work.

➤ www.um.edu.mt/rssd

Knowledge Transfer Office (KTO)

KTO is there to assist research students on matters concerning copyright, intellectual property, and commercializing research.

➤ www.um.edu.mt/kto

Centre for Entrepreneurship and Business Incubation (CEBI)

CEBI educates and supports graduates in the creation of successful knowledge-based and knowledge-intensive business ventures.

➤ www.um.edu.mt/cebi

USEFUL CONTACTS

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INTERNAL LINKS

Doctoral School

➤ www.um.edu.mt/doctoralschool

Doctoral School Facebook page

➤ www.facebook.com/umdocschool

Office of the Registrar

➤ www.um.edu.mt/registrar

University Library

➤ www.um.edu.mt/library

Kunsill Studenti Universitari (KSU – University Students' Council)

➤ www.ksu.org.mt

EXTERNAL LINKS

Malta Council for Science and Technology

➤ www.mcst.gov.mt

Malta Enterprise

➤ www.maltaenterprise.com

Vitae – professional career development for researchers


➤ www.vitae.ac.uk

DOCPRO – the professional profile of PhD holders

➤ www.mydocpro.org/en

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