



L-Università ta' Malta
Doctoral School



Professional Development Programme for Doctoral Researchers

2025
2026

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Cover image: a set of Late Neolithic stone figurines found at the funerary complex of the Xagħra Stone Circle, Gozo, c. 3000–2500 BCE. From rough-out to complete, the human representations are thought to represent the cycle of life. Reproduced by permission of the National Museum of Archaeology/Heritage Malta.



Welcome

to the 2025/26 edition of the
Doctoral School's Professional
Development Programme for
doctoral researchers

As a doctoral researcher, you are embarking on a challenging yet rewarding journey that will shape your future career and contribute to the advancement of knowledge in your field. To support you in this endeavour, we are pleased to offer a comprehensive programme of professional development workshops, designed to equip you with the skills, confidence, and networks necessary to excel in your research and beyond.

In today's rapidly evolving academic landscape, doctoral researchers need to possess a diverse range of skills that extend far beyond their core research expertise. From effective communication and collaboration to project management and leadership, the ability to navigate complex challenges and opportunities is essential for success. Our programme is tailored to meet these needs.

The workshops offered in this catalogue have been carefully curated to address the specific needs and interests of doctoral researchers. We have introduced new workshops that

deal with the challenges and opportunities of making responsible use of Generative AI for doctoral research. Whether you are looking to enhance your research design and methodology, develop your writing and publication skills, or explore career opportunities and pathways, our programme has something to offer.

Through this programme, we aim to foster a vibrant and inclusive community of doctoral researchers who can learn from, support, and inspire one another. We believe that by investing in your professional development, we can empower you to make a meaningful impact in your field and contribute to the advancement of knowledge and society. We encourage you to explore the workshops and activities on offer, and to take an active role in shaping your own research journey and career trajectory, useful for your career, even a career outside the world of research and academia. This is the ideal time to grow professionally.

We look forward to supporting you on this journey!

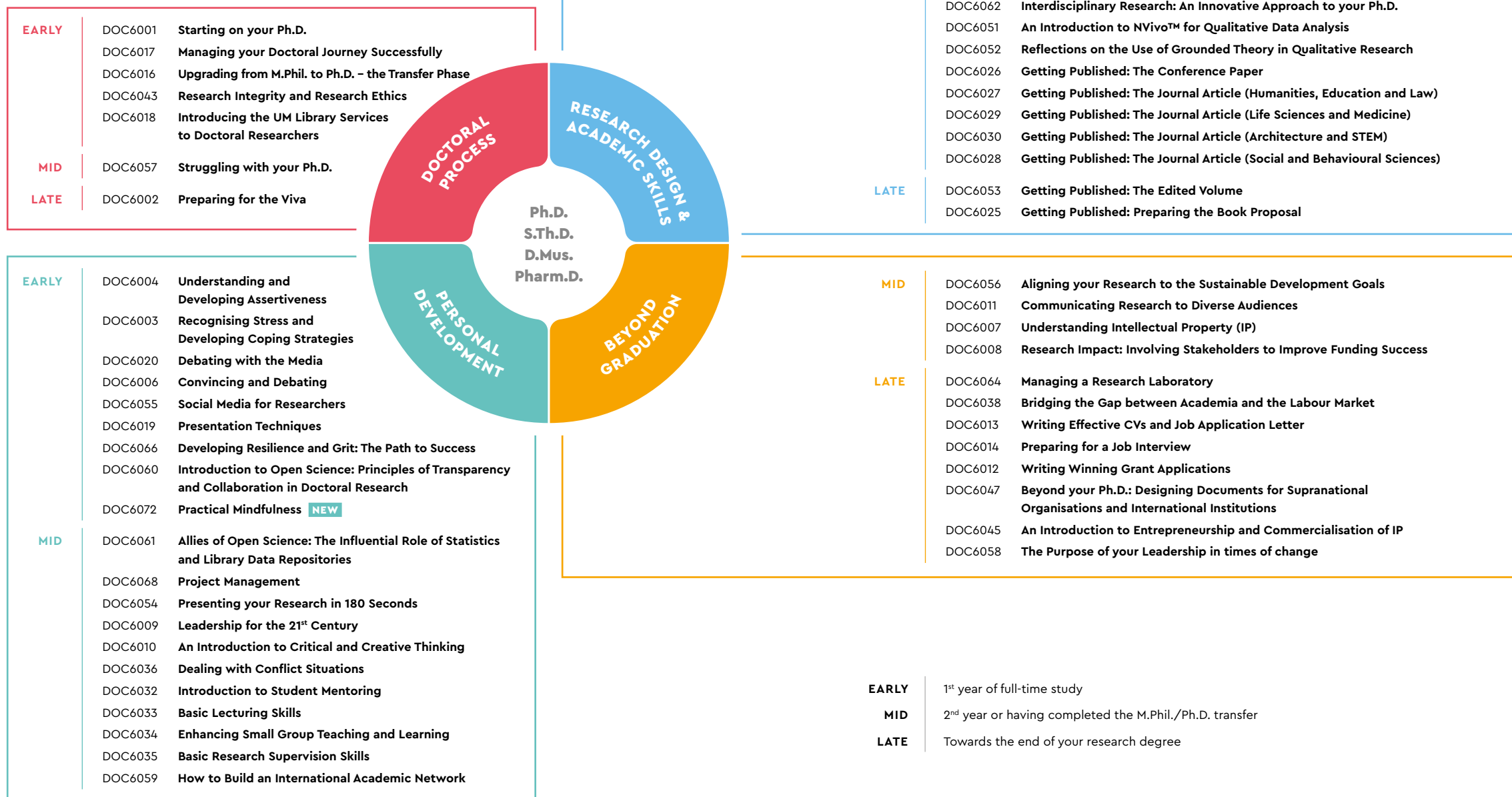
PROF. NICHOLAS VELLA
Outgoing Director (2017–2025),
Doctoral School

PROF. ING. MAURICE APAP
Incoming Director (1 October 2025),
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. If you have commenced your doctoral studies from February 2023 onwards, you must complete 100 hours of training – as mandated by the Ph.D. Regulations (2023). Further details can be found at the end of this booklet.



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 organisation 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 M.Phil./Ph.D. 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 organised?

Workshops are grouped into four clusters:

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | DOCTORAL PROCESS These workshops focus on key stages of your doctoral programme, including the transfer (M.Phil./Ph.D.) 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.

Mode of Delivery Key

| | |
|---|----------|
|  | PHYSICAL |
|  | REMOTE |
|  | HYBRID |

Workshops



| | |
|-----|-----------------------------------|
| 10 | DOCTORAL PROCESS |
| 25 | RESEARCH DESIGN & ACADEMIC SKILLS |
| 73 | PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT |
| 113 | BEYOND GRADUATION |
| 137 | ANNUAL DOCTORAL SYMPOSIUM |

DOC6001

STARTING ON YOUR Ph.D.*

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
- sharing experiences about supervision

DOCTORAL RESEARCHER FEEDBACK

This is a great start to the doctoral programme that answers many questions that a typical student might have at the onset of such a daunting journey.



TUTOR/S

Prof. Ing. Maurice Apap



DURATION

3 hours



OCCURRENCE

Semester 1: AM + PM

Semester 2: AM + PM



MODE OF DELIVERY

AM

PM



MAX. NO. OF
PARTICIPANTS

20

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

PHD



ENTER

[Click here for more information](#)





DOC6017

MANAGING YOUR DOCTORAL JOURNEY SUCCESSFULLY*

POPULAR

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

The Ph.D. journey presents a number of challenges 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. journey. It is open to doctoral researchers at all stages of their Ph.D. but highly recommended to those who are still at the early stages.

OUTCOMES

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

- › define the scope and boundaries of the doctoral journey
- › identify and relate with the challenges
- › understand and manage the milestones
- › better handle different aspects/elements/phases of the journey
- › frame the Ph.D. experience in the right academic context



TUTOR/S

Dr Christian Bonnici

DURATION

3 hours

OCCURRENCE

Semester 1: PM**Semester 2: AM**

MODE OF DELIVERY

AM**PM**

MAX. NO. OF PARTICIPANTS

20

DOCTORAL RESEARCHER FEEDBACK

I liked the fact that the tutor spoke frankly and in an honest way about the hurdles and problems one encounters on this journey.

DOC6016

UPGRADING FROM M.Phil. TO Ph.D. –
THE TRANSFER PHASE*

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 Transfer Assessment Board's 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 Transfer Assessment Board
 - › better informed of the administrative processes involved

DOCTORAL RESEARCHER FEEDBACK

Being well-informed is a vital step on the road to success, and this workshop achieved that very well.



TUTOR/S
Prof. Ing. Simon Fabri
Prof. Valerie Sollars



DURATION
3 hours



OCCURRENCE
Semester 1: AM + PM
Semester 2: AM + PM

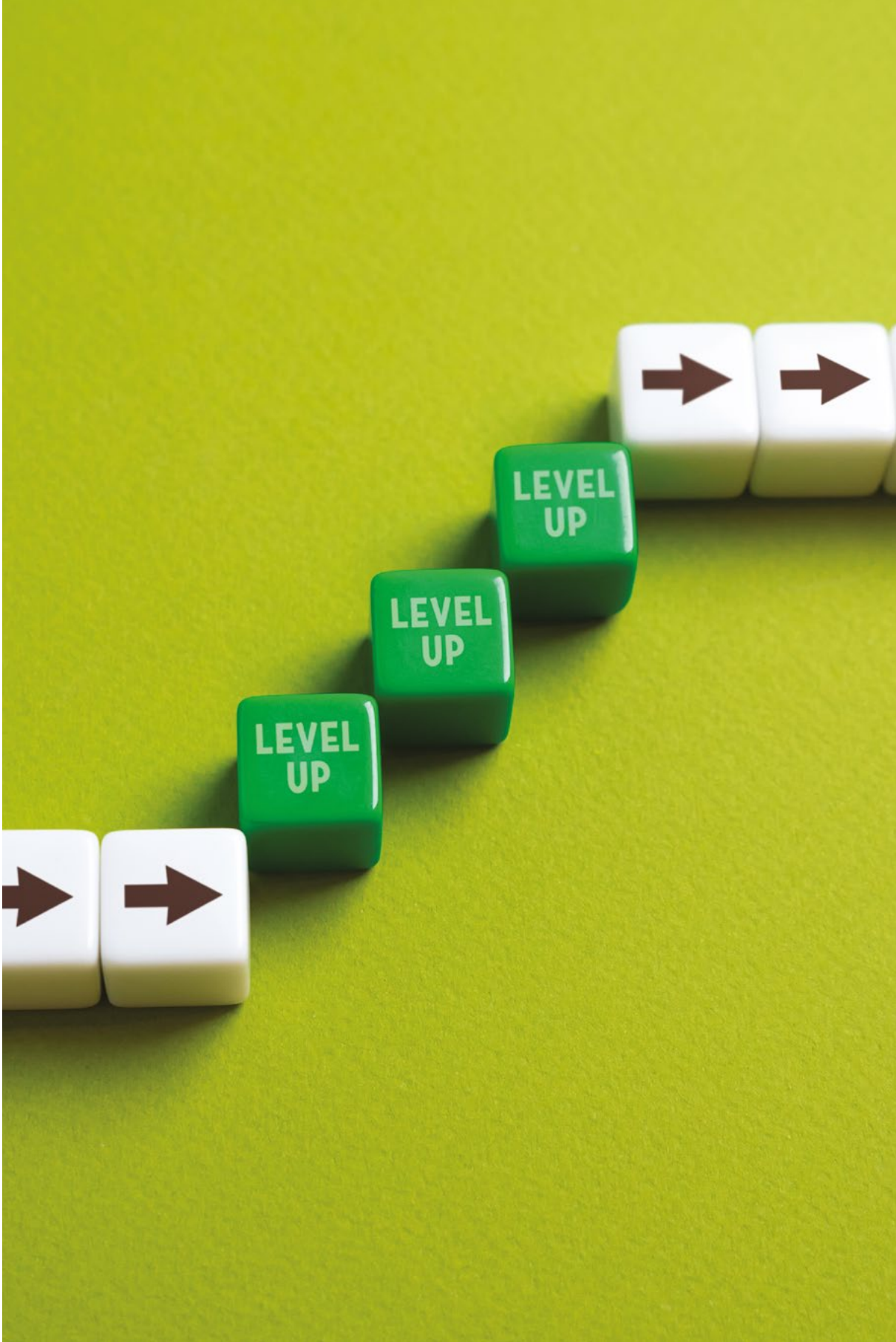


MODE OF DELIVERY
AM 
PM 



MAX. NO. OF PARTICIPANTS
20

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





DOC6043

RESEARCH INTEGRITY AND RESEARCH ETHICS*

This workshop is compulsory under the General Ph.D. Regulations, 2023 and will not count towards the mandatory 100 hours of training required for students who commenced their studies on or after 1 February 2023.

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 and of the respective institutions under whose auspices the researchers carry out their research, as well as sustains trust in their work. 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 is a practical session that gives an overview of the UM research ethics approval process for research projects and a detailed explanation of the research ethics and data protection (REDP) form that all University of Malta (UM) researchers are required to fill in. Part 2 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. Participants will collectively review and discuss a number of case studies on research ethics and research integrity.

OUTCOMES

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

- understand the UM procedures for research ethics clearance and be able to fill in the REDP form required of all UM researchers
- 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

 DOCTORAL RESEARCHER FEEDBACK

Every part of the workshop was useful, as it directly relates to our work as researchers and Ph.D. students. These are important elements we will need to consider or apply at a point in time.



TUTOR/S

Prof. Elisabeth Conrad
Prof. Dennis Mizzi
Prof. Patrick J. Schembri



DURATION

6 hours (2 hours + 4 hours)



OCCURRENCE

Semester 1: AM + PM
Semester 2: AM + PM



MODE OF DELIVERY

AM 
PM  **



MAX. NO. OF
PARTICIPANTS
25

* This workshop is split into two parts – Part 1 and Part 2. Attendance is required in both parts. For Part 2, participants are to attend EITHER the sessions primarily aimed at science- and technology-based disciplines (life sciences, medicine, architecture and STEM) – two 2-hour sessions OR the session primarily aimed at humanities-related disciplines (humanities, education, law, and social and behavioural sciences) – one 4-hour session.

** Students are expected to attend the workshop physically. Those who are unable to and wish to attend online, must send confirmation from their supervisor that they are abroad and will not be able to attend physically at a later date.

DOC6018

INTRODUCING THE UNIVERSITY OF MALTA'S LIBRARY SERVICES TO DOCTORAL RESEARCHERS

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 introduction and practical demonstration of alternative Open Access resources that can be used in conjunction with the resources offered by the Library.

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 RESEARCHER FEEDBACK

It was a good overview of all Library Services!



TUTOR/S

Mr Silvio Cortis
Ms Agata Derkowska
Mr Martin Lochman
Mr Steve Micallef



DURATION

3 hours



OCCURRENCE

Semester 1: AM
Semester 2: PM



MODE OF DELIVERY

AM
PM



MAX. NO. OF PARTICIPANTS

20





DOC6057

STRUGGLING WITH YOUR Ph.D.**POPULAR****BRIEF DESCRIPTION**

Life within a graduate programme is defined by good, bad and ugly days. This workshop will provide opportunities for participants to interact with graduates who have successfully completed their doctoral programme, both locally and abroad, in person or from a distance, full- or part-time. Through such encounters of the successful type, participants will critically reflect on their own doctoral biographies, with a view to co-creating signposts for successful doctoral journeys across multiple realities.

OUTCOMES

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

- identify and name the struggles in the Ph.D. process
- analyse how these struggles are blocking productivity
- apply supervisor's and graduates' wisdom and experiences to address individual as well as common struggles
- explore the possibility of building a support infrastructure which is more permanent and collective library's services, including its provision of workshops



TUTOR/S

Prof. Suzanne Piscopo

DURATION

3 hours

OCCURRENCE

Semester 1: PM**Semester 2: AM**

MODE OF DELIVERY

AM **PM** 

MAX. NO. OF PARTICIPANTS

20**DOCTORAL RESEARCHER FEEDBACK**

Everybody has struggles during their Ph.D. journey and this workshop is very useful to all researchers.

DOC6002

PREPARING FOR THE VIVA*

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

DOCTORAL RESEARCHER FEEDBACK

It was interesting and engaging and explained a lot about the whole Viva process.



TUTOR/S

SEMESTER 1

Prof. Ivan Callus
Prof. Sandro Lanfranco

SEMESTER 2

Prof. Sandro Caruana
Prof. Rosienne Farrugia



DURATION

3 hours



OCCURRENCE

Semester 1: AM
Semester 2: AM + PM



MODE OF DELIVERY

AM

PM



MAX. NO. OF
PARTICIPANTS
20

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





DOC6005

ARTICULATING THE RESEARCH GAP IN THE DOCTORAL THESIS*

POPULAR

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



TUTOR/S

Dr Natalie Schembri

DURATION

6 hours (3 hours + 3 hours)

OCCURRENCE

Semester 1: AM + PM**Semester 2: AM + PM**

MODE OF DELIVERY

AM **PM** MAX. NO. OF
PARTICIPANTS**15**

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



DOCTORAL RESEARCHER FEEDBACK

This workshop was much more useful than I had anticipated. I thought I had already articulated the research gap in the proposal phase. This showed me how to do it in a much better way.

DOC6039

THE LITERATURE REVIEW*

POPULAR

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
- critically evaluate the use of AI as a literature review aid
- understand the limitations of AI in documenting scholarly source use



TUTOR/S

Dr Natalie Schembri



DURATION

6 hours (3 hours + 3 hours)



OCCURRENCE

Semester 1: AM + PM

Semester 2: AM + PM



MODE OF DELIVERY

AM

PM



MAX. NO. OF PARTICIPANTS

15

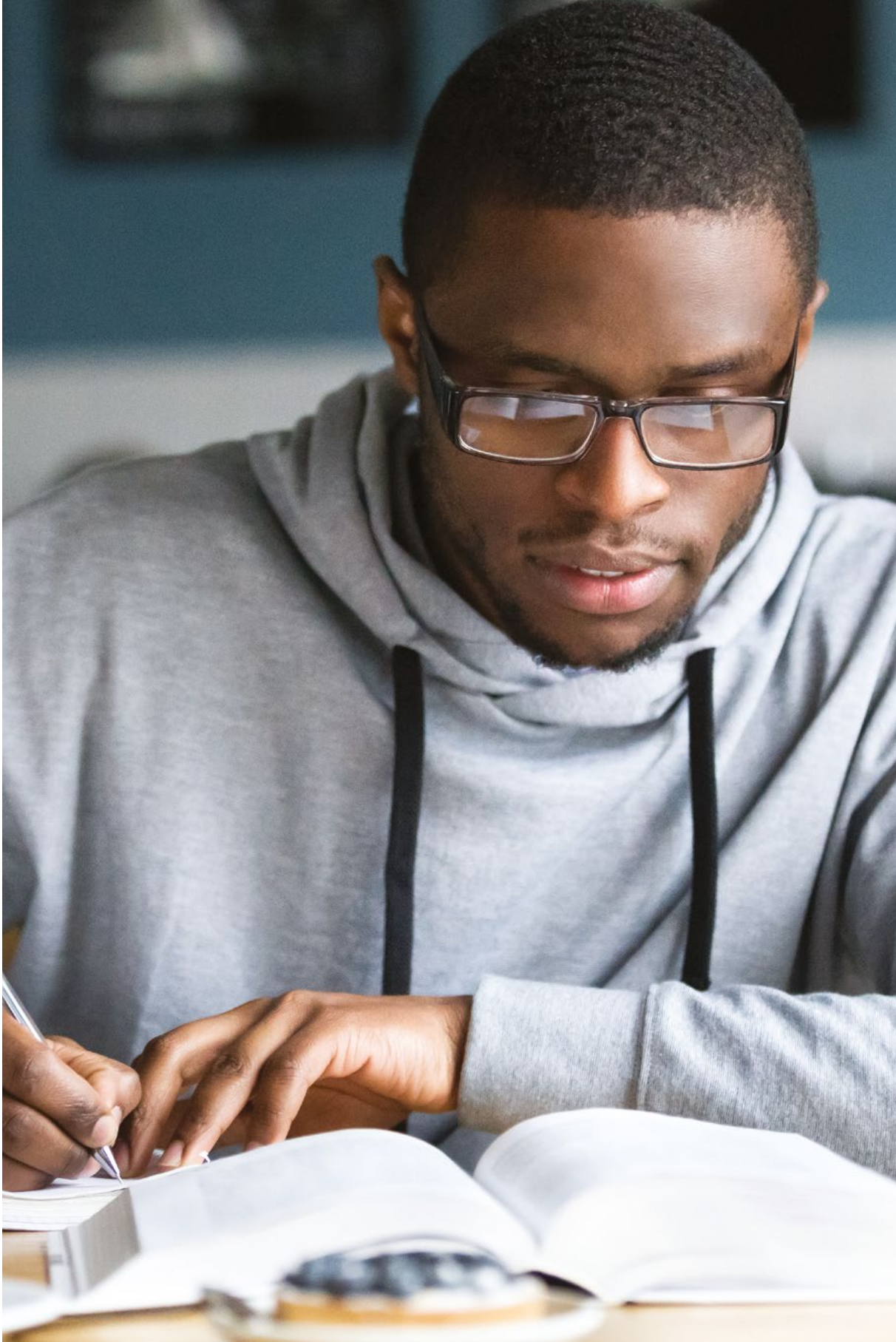
* DOC6005 – Articulating the Research Gap in the Doctoral Thesis, is a prerequisite for this workshop.

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



DOCTORAL RESEARCHER FEEDBACK

The workshop content is incredibly useful and the tutor delivers it very well.



Qualitative Research

Faculties, Institutes, Centres and Schools at the University of Malta offer bespoke study units on this subject. You may wish to follow such study units which are aligned with your research to enhance your skills. You are urged to contact the department which delivers the training to see if the study unit is on offer and whether you are allowed to audit the study unit, against a fee. If you wish to audit study units you will need to contact the Office of the Registrar on marilyn.camilleri@um.edu.mt or +356 2340 2835.

GENERAL

CLS3102, CRM5027, SOC1013, SOC3039

FOCUSED

ANT1004, CLS1114, FME5014, FSD5113,
GDM5045, INS5016, PHL5122, PSY2629,
PSY5702, SHG1035, YTH1019

DOC6022

QUALITATIVE RESEARCH METHODS: AN INTRODUCTION

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

This workshop will introduce the philosophical and epistemological underpinnings of qualitative research, including brief discussions on ontology, epistemology, interpretivism and social constructionism. Current research trends and debates in qualitative research will be presented, together with a brief overview of some popular qualitative methodologies. Candidates will be supported in conceptualising the practical application of the methodologies they are exposed to. The workshop also aims to foster a critical, evaluative stance to qualitative research.

OUTCOMES

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

- › the historical development of diverse qualitative approaches
- › how to locate and justify qualitative research in their chosen research field according to their specific area of study
- › how to formulate appropriate qualitative research questions
- › how to justify their chosen qualitative methodology depending on the nature of the specific study they are undertaking



TUTOR/S

Dr Marta Sant



DURATION

3 hours



OCCURRENCE

Semester 1: PM

Semester 2: AM



MODE OF DELIVERY

AM

PM



MAX. NO. OF
PARTICIPANTS

20



DOCTORAL RESEARCHER FEEDBACK

The workshop was presented well and the content is extremely relevant for qualitative studies.

DOC6021

QUANTITATIVE RESEARCH METHODS:
AN INTRODUCTION

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

DOCTORAL RESEARCHER FEEDBACK

The tutor does a fantastic job at introducing quantitative research in a comprehensive yet easily understood manner, with plenty of helpful and relatable examples sprinkled in.



TUTOR/S
Dr Gianmarco Alberti



DURATION
3 hours



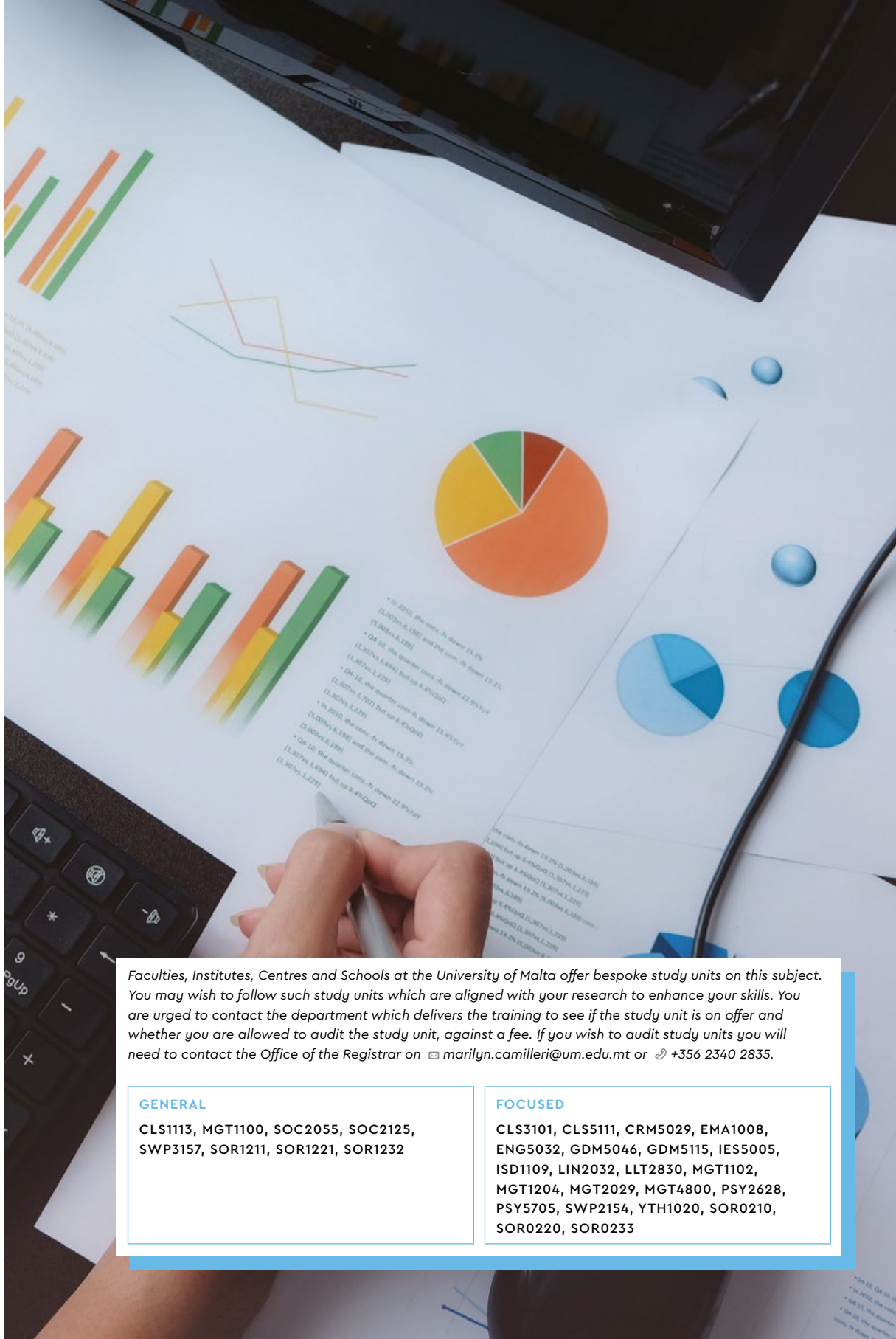
OCCURRENCE
Semester 1: AM
Semester 2: PM



MODE OF DELIVERY
AM
PM



MAX. NO. OF
PARTICIPANTS
20



Faculties, Institutes, Centres and Schools at the University of Malta offer bespoke study units on this subject. You may wish to follow such study units which are aligned with your research to enhance your skills. You are urged to contact the department which delivers the training to see if the study unit is on offer and whether you are allowed to audit the study unit, against a fee. If you wish to audit study units you will need to contact the Office of the Registrar on marilyn.camilleri@um.edu.mt or +356 2340 2835.

GENERAL

CLS1113, MGT1100, SOC2055, SOC2125,
SWP3157, SOR1211, SOR1221, SOR1232

FOCUSED

CLS3101, CLS5111, CRM5029, EMA1008,
ENG5032, GDM5046, GDM5115, IES5005,
ISD1109, LIN2032, LLT2830, MGT1102,
MGT1204, MGT2029, MGT4800, PSY2628,
PSY5705, SWP2154, YTH1020, SOR0210,
SOR0220, SOR0233

DOC6023

APPROACHING DOCTORAL RESEARCH THROUGH MIXED METHODS*

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

DOCTORAL RESEARCHER FEEDBACK

It was useful to appreciate these methods and their philosophical underpinnings.



TUTOR/S

Dr Marie-Louise Mangion

DURATION

3 hours

OCCURRENCE

Semester 2: AM + PM

MODE OF DELIVERY

AM**PM**

MAX. NO. OF PARTICIPANTS

20

* 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

Faculties, Institutes, Centres and Schools at the University of Malta offer bespoke study units on this subject. You may wish to follow such study units which are aligned with your research to enhance your skills. You are urged to contact the department which delivers the training to see if the study unit is on offer and whether you are allowed to audit the study unit, against a fee. If you wish to audit study units you will need to contact the Office of the Registrar on marilyn.camilleri@um.edu.mt or +356 2340 2835.

GENERAL

BEN5004, IOT5004

FOCUSED

FME5014, GEO2015, SPI1101, SPI5604, TTC2108

VALIDITY AND RELIABILITY IN QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE RESEARCH

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, generalisable 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, generalisability, 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

DOCTORAL RESEARCHER FEEDBACK

The tutor was very knowledgeable and accessible.



TUTOR/S

Prof. Sandra C. Buttigieg



DURATION

3 hours



OCCURRENCE

Semester 1: AM

Semester 2: PM



MODE OF DELIVERY

AM 

PM 



MAX. NO. OF PARTICIPANTS

20





DOC6040

UNDERSTANDING RESEARCH PHILOSOPHY AND APPROACHES TO THEORY DEVELOPMENT

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.



TUTOR/S

Prof. Sandra C. Buttigieg

DURATION

3 hours

OCCURRENCE

Semester 1: AM**Semester 2: PM**

MODE OF DELIVERY

AM**PM**MAX. NO. OF
PARTICIPANTS**20**

DOCTORAL RESEARCHER FEEDBACK

It is a fundamental workshop, especially at the beginning of the research journey.

INTRODUCTION TO LaTeX: TYPESETTING
YOUR THESIS OR RESEARCH PAPER*

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://tinyurl.com/3p37z29r>

DOCTORAL RESEARCHER FEEDBACK

The workshop is pitched at the right level. The tutor is very approachable and supportive, and the notes are easy to follow.



TUTOR/S
Prof. Gordon Pace



DURATION
6 hours (3 hours + 3 hours)



OCCURRENCE
Semester 1: AM
Semester 2: PM



MODE OF DELIVERY
AM
PM



MAX. NO. OF
PARTICIPANTS
20

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

Faculties, Institutes, Centres and Schools at the University of Malta offer bespoke study units on this subject. You may wish to follow such study units which are aligned with your research to enhance your skills. You are urged to contact the department which delivers the training to see if the study unit is on offer and whether you are allowed to audit the study unit, against a fee. If you wish to audit study units you will need to contact the Office of the Registrar on marilyn.camilleri@um.edu.mt or +356 2340 2835.

GENERAL
DGP0982

Functional and Structural Characterisation of
Two Novel PP2A Isoforms

Project brief

Aims & objectives

Protein phosphatase 2A (PP2A) is a key serine/threonine phosphatase involved in various physiological processes and signalling pathways. Prior research (Grech et al., 2016) identified two novel isoforms of the PP2A catalytic subunit (PP2Ac) in chronic myeloid leukaemia, resulting from the exon skipping of exon 2 (PP2AcΔ2) and exon 5 (PP2AcΔ5), respectively. This PhD project aims to study their biophysical, structural, and functional properties, identify their presence across different cell lines including breast and colorectal cancers, and evaluate their potential as diagnostic and prognostic biomarkers.

Methodology

Tools & protocols

- Molecular cloning
- Protein expression optimisation in *Pichia pastoris*
- Protein purification
- Protein expression using RT-qPCR and
- Protein expression using Western



Relative expression of PP2AcΔ2 (pink) and PP2AcΔ5 (blue) was determined via RT-qPCR. PP2AcΔ2 showed significantly higher expression in some cell lines compared to PP2AcΔ5. Figure 10 shows the relative expression of PP2AcΔ2 and PP2AcΔ5 across different cell lines.

Acknowledgements

This project was funded by the P. Faculty of Medicine & Doctoral Research Scholarship. M. funded by the P.

DOC6063

COMMUNICATING RESEARCH:
A CONFERENCE POSTER*

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

For a researcher, it is essential to effectively share findings and evidence with diverse audiences through various channels. A conference poster is one such method for disseminating research findings in a conference setting. This workshop provides a brief overview of how to create and present a research poster, successfully communicating study objectives, methods, findings, and implications

OUTCOMES

By the end of this workshop, doctoral researchers should:

- Understand the purpose of a conference poster;
- Identify suitable content for a poster;
- Assess design elements (such as: Navigation, Images, Arrangement, Size, White Space, Colours and Fonts/Type Size and Consistency);
- Use of applications to create a poster;
- How to present your poster.



TUTOR/S

Dr Belinda Gambin



DURATION

3 hours



OCCURRENCE

Semester 1: AM

Semester 2: PM



MODE OF DELIVERY

AM

PM

MAX. NO. OF
PARTICIPANTS

16

* The participants shall be asked to provide text (circa 200–300 words) and 3–5 related images (charts, tables, maps, photos etc) in relation to their research (therefore information that they would like to use within a conference poster).¹ This word document (not PDF) needs to be uploaded onto the workshop's VLE portal one week before the event.



DOCTORAL RESEARCHER FEEDBACK

I did not know where to start before the workshop and I managed to create a poster afterwards.

DOC6067

USING R FOR DATA PROCESSING

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

R is a free software for data processing and statistical analysis that is quickly becoming the standard in many fields, to the extent that the use of “click and select” software in manuscripts may lead to bad evaluations. R also has a major advantage over “click and select” statistical packages: as a programming language, it allows the efficient pre-processing of data from raw text formats to formats that allow statistical testing. This allows having an integrated workflow from raw data to statistical testing in one environment without losing time by doing pre-processing for each individual data file. In fact, many journals require documentation of the data-processing workflow, for which R has the markdown feature. Moreover, many new statistical techniques tend to get implemented first in R and tutorials require R knowledge for them to be carried out efficiently.

This workshop is intended to provide basic knowledge on the use of R. It is intended for doctoral students who do understand the basics of data processing and statistical testing but are not familiar with R. Students are encouraged to bring their own data to see how R can make their workflow more efficient.

OUTCOMES

By the end of this workshop, doctoral researchers should:

- Perform basic data pre-processing procedures in R
- Perform statistical tests in R
- Follow tutorials on new methods based on R
- Generate publication-ready documentation of data processing



TUTOR/S

Prof. Holger Mitterer



DURATION

6 hours (3 hours + 3 hours)



OCCURRENCE

Semester 1: PM

Semester 2: AM



MODE OF DELIVERY

AM

PM +



MAX. NO. OF PARTICIPANTS

15





Generate

Prompt: _____

DOC6069

RESPONSIBLE ACADEMIC RESEARCH AND WRITING USING GENERATIVE AI*

NEW

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

This workshop equips doctoral students with the knowledge and skills to leverage Generative AI in their academic research and writing. Participants will explore AI-powered tools for literature reviews, references management, academic writing, and research dissemination while addressing ethical considerations, academic integrity, and limitations. The session includes practical demonstrations, hands-on activities, and discussions on integrating AI responsibly into their Ph.D. journey. The workshop subscribes to the European Research Area's Living Guidelines on the Responsible Use of Generative AI in Research adopted by the University of Malta.

OUTCOMES

By the end of this workshop, doctoral researchers should:

- Understand the role of Generative AI: explain how generative AI can assist in academic research and writing.
- Enhance literature reviews: utilise AI tools for efficient literature searches, summarisation, and citation management.
- Improve academic writing: apply AI-assisted writing techniques for drafting, refining, and formatting research papers.
- Ensure ethical and responsible use: recognise the ethical implications, limitations, and biases of AI in research.
- Develop AI-enhanced workflows: integrate AI tools effectively into their research process while maintaining academic integrity.



TUTOR/S

Prof. Matthew Montebello

DURATION

3 hours

OCCURRENCE

Semester 1: PM**Semester 2: AM**

MODE OF DELIVERY

AM **PM** MAX. NO. OF
PARTICIPANTS**20**** Use of laptops is mandatory*

LEVERAGING GENERATIVE AI FOR DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION*

NEW

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

This workshop equips participants with the knowledge and skills to leverage Generative AI (GenAI) in the analysis phases of qualitative and quantitative research. Participants will explore AI-powered tools for data processing, statistical analysis, thematic coding, sentiment analysis, and data visualisation. The session includes practical demonstrations, hands-on exercises, and discussions on how to responsibly integrate AI into research while addressing ethical considerations, biases, and academic integrity. Participants will also gain insights into how Gen AI can assist in summarisation and pattern identification, enhancing the efficiency and accuracy of their research processes. The workshop subscribes to the European Research Area's Living Guidelines on the Responsible Use of Generative AI in Research adopted by the University of Malta.

OUTCOMES

By the end of this workshop, doctoral researchers should:

- Utilise AI tools for data analysis, including statistical computations, visualisation (e.g., charts, graphs), and thematic coding in both qualitative and quantitative research.
- Apply Gen AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Gemini) to create custom Python scripts for statistical analysis and graphical visualisations of research data.
- Employ AI-enhanced qualitative analysis software (e.g., QInsights, NVivo, MaxQDA) to conduct thematic analysis, generate visual representations (e.g., word clouds, thematic maps), and identify patterns in qualitative data.
- Integrate AI-powered techniques into their research workflow while ensuring ethical compliance, recognising potential biases, and maintaining academic integrity.



TUTOR/S
Prof. Leonard Busuttli



DURATION
3 hours



OCCURRENCE
Semester 1: AM
Semester 2: PM



MODE OF DELIVERY
AM
PM



MAX. NO. OF PARTICIPANTS
20

* Participants should bring their laptops. Hands-on scenarios will be included but attendees will be encouraged to employ the GenAI tools introduced to their own area of specialisation.





DOC6071

FRAMEWORK ANALYSIS*

NEW

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Framework analysis methods are structured approaches forming part of a broad school of analysis methods termed thematic analysis or qualitative content analysis. Framework analysis was originally developed by Ritchie and Spencer (1994) for large-scale applied policy research as a tool to assess policies and procedures from study participants who are themselves policy targets, hence having the valuable potential for actionable outcomes. Other strengths of framework analysis include its systematic nature, its use in theory development, and its versatility on account of its use across research paradigms and the continuum of data transformation. These strengths account for the popularity of this analytic tool in various applied research fields including in education, health, and social sciences.

The key feature of framework analysis is a matrix-based analytical framework which enables both within- and cross-case analysis. This workshop will outline the stages involved in developing and applying this framework. It will discuss the strengths and limitations of framework analysis in relation to other qualitative analysis methods. Framework analysis essentially involves textual data analysis, but is distinct from Braun and Clarke (2021)'s thematic analysis method, although researcher self-reflexivity can feature in both analytic methods. The workshop will cover the key differences between these two data analysis approaches, and will also engage students in a discussion on the crucial role of researcher self-reflexivity in relation to setting research questions, developing theory, and analysing data. Students will be exposed to practical examples of framework analysis and critical reflexivity.

Although framework analysis is not aligned with a particular philosophy of science stance, its ontological position adheres most closely to critical realism. This workshop will outline the central tenets of critical realism, and engage students in a discussion on the justification of the alignment between critical realism and framework analysis.

OUTCOMES

By the end of this workshop, doctoral researchers should:

- be cognisant of the strengths and limitations of framework analysis
- assess the alignment between different philosophy of science stances and framework analysis
- be able to construct and apply a matrix-based analytic framework
- critically evaluate how their personhood, worldviews, and perceptions influence the research process



TUTOR/S

Dr Claire Casha



DURATION

3 hours



OCCURRENCE

Semester 1: PM

Semester 2: AM



MODE OF DELIVERY

AM

PM



MAX. NO. OF PARTICIPANTS

20

** This workshop is aimed at mixed methods and qualitative researchers in education, health sciences, and social sciences.*

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Dan kors prattiku maħsub għal riċerkaturi li jixtiequ jtejbju l-ħiliet komunikattivi u jrabbu l-kunfidenza jittkellmu fil-pubbliku bil-Malti. Matulu niħarrġu fil-preżentazzjoni orali tar-riċerka akkademika bil-Malti billi (a) nittrattaw l-għażla tal-kelma, kwistjonijiet terminoloġiċi, elementi grammatikali, u r-riżorsi lingwistiċi ewlenin tal-Malti, u (b) insinnu l-ghodod stilistiċi u retorici ħalli nkunu f'qagħda li naqsmu r-riċerka f'kuntesti u ma' udjenzi differenti b'mod effettiv.

OUTCOMES

Sa tniem il-kors l-istudenti jkunu:

- tħarrġu fil-preżentazzjoni orali tal-kontenut akkademiku bil-Malti;
- għarfu distinzjonijiet importanti bejn il-Malti miktub u mihaddet, u kif ittaħdit akkademiku jvarja minn kuntest għal ieħor;
- tgħallmu bir-riżorsi lessikali u grammatikali essenzjali għall-komunikazzjoni effettiva.



TUTOR/S

Prof. Michael Spagnol
Prof. Adrian Grima



DURATION

6 hours (3 hours + 3 hours)



OCCURRENCE

Semester 1: AM
Semester 2: PM



MODE OF DELIVERY

AM 
PM 



MAX. NO. OF PARTICIPANTS
25

 DOCTORAL RESEARCHER FEEDBACK

Wieħed mill-aħjar workshops. L-ewwel darba li ħsibtu kif nista nikkomunika r-riċerka tiegħi bil-Malti.





DOC6062

INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH: AN INNOVATIVE APPROACH TO YOUR Ph.D.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Interdisciplinary scholarship is the most fascinating path to challenging the status quo. While doctoral research is traditionally conducted within the established boundaries of a given discipline, interdisciplinary research crosses boundaries, questions conventional thinking and communicates diversity of ideas across disciplinary frameworks. Interdisciplinary research can take place between disciplines that are quite close together or disciplines that are dissimilar from one another.

There are challenges to understanding what it means to undertake doctoral research in an interdisciplinary environment. Beyond engaging in the thinking of another field of study, the doctoral researcher fosters an understanding of innovative approaches typically located within mainstream scholarship. The workshop offers an opportunity for active learning, and the areas exemplified are as multifaceted as the research interests of the doctoral researchers.

OUTCOMES

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

- › develop a questioning mind to challenge personal beliefs and conventional thinking
- › foster interpersonal communication across disciplines without imposing personal views onto the conversation
- › engage in flexible strategies and research methods from a variety of areas of scholarship
- › collaborate with peers from a range of disciplines on journal articles and conference presentations.

 DOCTORAL RESEARCHER FEEDBACK

It gave me a new perspective on interdisciplinarity.



TUTOR/S

**Prof. Frances
Camilleri-Cassar**



DURATION

3 hours



OCCURRENCE

**Semester 1: AM
Semester 2: AM**



MODE OF DELIVERY

AM 



**MAX. NO. OF
PARTICIPANTS
20**

INTRODUCTION TO NVivo™ FOR QUALITATIVE DATA ANALYSIS*

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 categorisations, 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™

DOCTORAL RESEARCHER FEEDBACK

Excellent tutor – knows the programme and very kind in answering queries.



TUTOR/S
Prof. Emanuel Said



DURATION
3 hours



OCCURRENCE
Semester 1: AM
Semester 2: PM



MODE OF DELIVERY
AM
PM



MAX. NO. OF PARTICIPANTS
20

** 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.*



Faculties, Institutes, Centres and Schools at the University of Malta offer bespoke study units on this subject. You may wish to follow such study units which are aligned with your research to enhance your skills. You are urged to contact the department which delivers the training to see if the study unit is on offer and whether you are allowed to audit the study unit, against a fee. If you wish to audit study units you will need to contact the Office of the Registrar on marilyn.camilleri@um.edu.mt or +356 2340 2835.

GENERAL
CLS3102, SOC3039



DOC6052

REFLECTIONS ON THE USE OF GROUNDED THEORY IN QUALITATIVE RESEARCH

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 organisational 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 maximise the robustness of the Grounded Theory method



DOCTORAL RESEARCHER FEEDBACK

The tutor was excellent at engaging students on the topic with real life examples and made Grounded Theory feel not just doable, but an interesting and insightful methodology!



TUTOR/S

Prof. Valerie Visanich



DURATION

3 hours



OCCURRENCE

Semester 1: PM

Semester 2: AM



MODE OF DELIVERY

AM



PM



MAX. NO. OF
PARTICIPANTS

20

DOC6026

GETTING PUBLISHED: THE CONFERENCE PAPER*

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

DOCTORAL RESEARCHER FEEDBACK

It is useful and practical, especially for those who lack experience or do not feel confident enough in participating in conferences



TUTOR/S

Dr Belinda Gambin



DURATION

3 hours



OCCURRENCE

Semester 1: AM

Semester 2: PM



MODE OF DELIVERY

AM

PM



MAX. NO. OF PARTICIPANTS

20

* 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





DOC6027

GETTING PUBLISHED: THE JOURNAL ARTICLE

HUMANITIES, EDUCATION AND LAW

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



DOCTORAL RESEARCHER FEEDBACK

The tutor was very forthcoming and generous in sharing her experience as both a researcher and a journal editor. We got to see the realities of academic publishing, including common challenges and what editors look for. Such knowledge is extremely valuable, especially for someone new to the process.



TUTOR/S

Prof. Maria Attard



DURATION

3 hours



OCCURRENCE

Semester 1: AM

Semester 2: PM



MODE OF DELIVERY

AM

PM



MAX. NO. OF PARTICIPANTS

20

GETTING PUBLISHED: THE JOURNAL ARTICLE

LIFE SCIENCES AND MEDICINE

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. This workshop will shed light on the importance of ethical practices and considerations, emphasizing the value of integrity, transparency, and fairness throughout the publishing process. Through the interactive session, case studies, and discussions, participants will gain a comprehensive understanding of the publishing process and ethical challenges faced by authors and publishers, and explore practical solutions. 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:

- 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
- understand authorship rights and responsibilities
- understand how to address issues of plagiarism, ghostwriting, and attribution



TUTOR/S

Prof. Neville Vassallo

DURATION

3 hours

OCCURRENCE

Semester 1: AM**Semester 2: PM**

MODE OF DELIVERY

AM **PM** 

MAX. NO. OF PARTICIPANTS

20

DOC6030

GETTING PUBLISHED: THE JOURNAL ARTICLE

ARCHITECTURE AND STEM

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



TUTOR/S

SEMESTER 1

Prof. Ing. Daniel Micallef

SEMESTER 2

Prof. Cristiana Sebu

DURATION

3 hours

OCCURRENCE

Semester 1: AM**Semester 2: AM**

MODE OF DELIVERY

Semester 1: **Semester 2:** 

MAX. NO. OF PARTICIPANTS

20

DOC6028

GETTING PUBLISHED: THE JOURNAL ARTICLE

SOCIAL AND BEHAVIOURAL SCIENCES

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

DOCTORAL RESEARCHER FEEDBACK

It enhances your knowledge about writing and publishing journal articles, especially if you have not published many before.



TUTOR/S

Prof. Holger Mitterer



DURATION

3 hours



OCCURRENCE

Semester 1: PM

Semester 2: AM



MODE OF DELIVERY

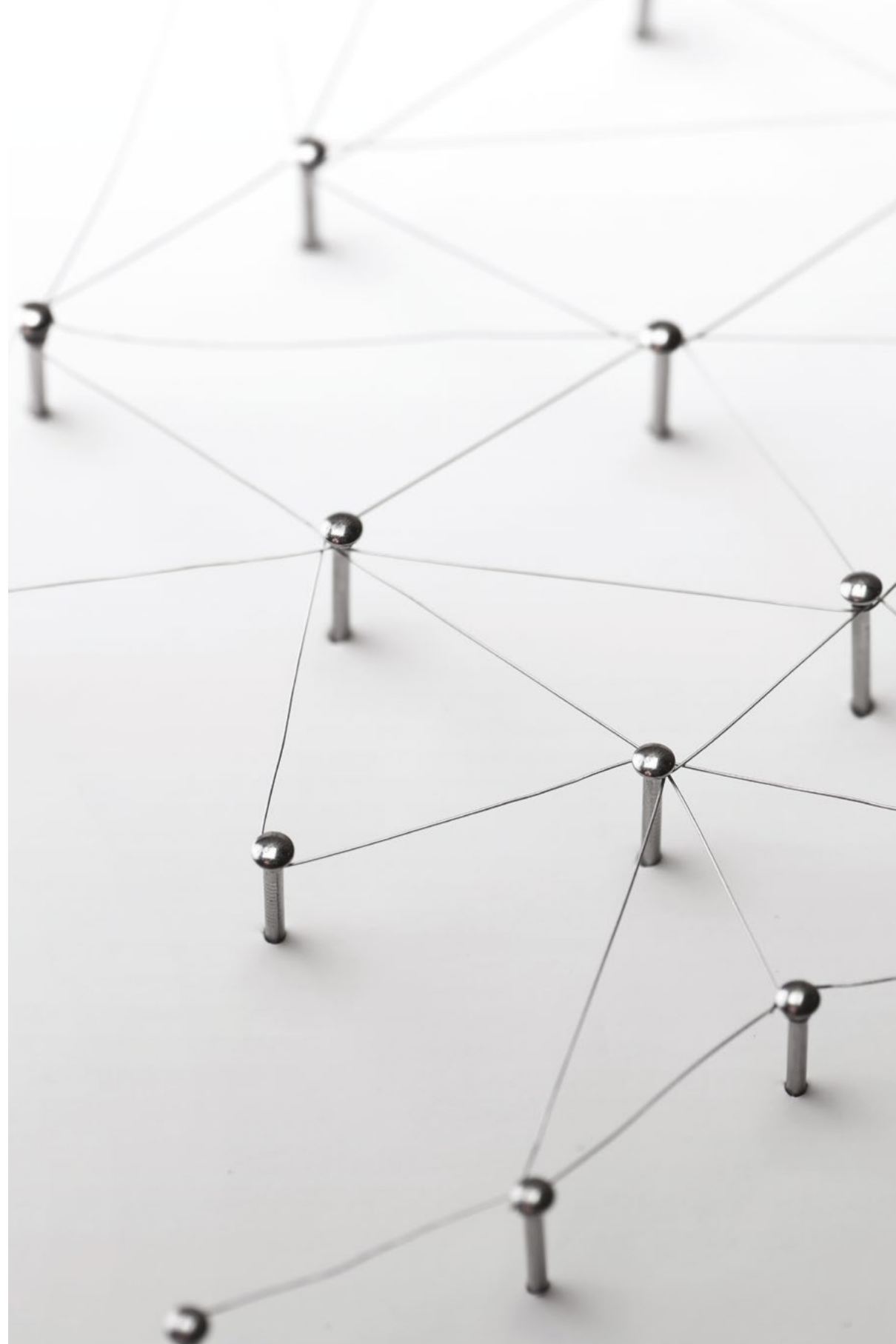
AM 

PM 



MAX. NO. OF
PARTICIPANTS

20



DOC6053

GETTING PUBLISHED: THE EDITED VOLUME

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

This workshop 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 does one 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:

- 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
- to tweak or edit a paper to connect with the purview of the specific edited journal and connect with the debates it carries forward
- distinguish between publishing in an edited journal or book and how to do both (which goes first)
- 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
- know what to do with published research for wider dissemination (in an edited book or journal)
- distinguish between journals



TUTOR/S

Prof. Godfrey Baldacchino

DURATION

3 hours

OCCURRENCE

Semester 1: AM**Semester 2: PM**

MODE OF DELIVERY

AM **PM** 

MAX. NO. OF PARTICIPANTS

20

DOC6025

GETTING PUBLISHED: PREPARING THE BOOK PROPOSAL*

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



TUTOR/S

Prof. Ivan Callus



DURATION

6 hours (3 hours + 3 hours)



OCCURRENCE

Semester 1: PM



MODE OF DELIVERY

PM



MAX. NO. OF PARTICIPANTS

10

**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*





DOC6004

UNDERSTANDING AND DEVELOPING ASSERTIVENESS

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



TUTOR/S

Dr Natalie Kenely



DURATION

3 hours



OCCURRENCE

Semester 1: PM

Semester 2: AM



MODE OF DELIVERY

AM

PM



MAX. NO. OF PARTICIPANTS

20



DOCTORAL RESEARCHER FEEDBACK

It was an excellent eye-opener and very motivating. It also helps set expectations and modus operandi before things get wrong.

DOC6003

RECOGNISING STRESS AND
DEVELOPING COPING STRATEGIES

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

DOCTORAL RESEARCHER FEEDBACK

As the tutor is a Ph.D. student herself, she was very understanding and connected with us in a personal way. The exercises given were eye-opening and very helpful.



TUTOR/S
Ms Anthea D'Amico



DURATION
3 hours



OCCURRENCE
Semester 1: AM
Semester 2: PM



MODE OF DELIVERY
AM 
PM 



MAX. NO. OF
PARTICIPANTS
20



Faculties, Institutes, Centres and Schools at the University of Malta offer bespoke study units on this subject. You may wish to follow such study units which are aligned with your research to enhance your skills. You are urged to contact the department which delivers the training to see if the study unit is on offer and whether you are allowed to audit the study unit, against a fee. If you wish to audit study units you will need to contact the Office of the Registrar on marilyn.camilleri@um.edu.mt or +356 2340 2835.

GENERAL

MKS5615

FOCUSED

ELP1101, ELP1102

DOC6020

DEBATING WITH THE MEDIA*

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



TUTOR/S

Rev. Dr Joseph Borg



DURATION

6 hours (3 hours + 3 hours)



OCCURRENCE

Semester 2: AM



MODE OF DELIVERY

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.

DOC6006

CONVINCING AND DEBATING

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

DOCTORAL RESEARCHER FEEDBACK

The tutor held our attention for the entire session by constantly engaging us.



TUTOR/S

Dr Dominic Garcia



DURATION

3 hours



OCCURRENCE

Semester 1: PM



MODE OF DELIVERY

AM

PM



MAX. NO. OF PARTICIPANTS

20

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GENERAL

ELP1101, ELP1102



DOC6055

SOCIAL MEDIA FOR RESEARCHERS

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



TUTOR/S

Prof. Alex Grech



DURATION

3 hours



OCCURRENCE

Semester 1: AM



MODE OF DELIVERY

AM 



MAX. NO. OF PARTICIPANTS

20

DOC6019

PRESENTATION TECHNIQUES*

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

DOCTORAL RESEARCHER FEEDBACK

Through his knowledge and experience, the tutor provided us with a comprehensive overview of the various aspects to consider when presenting our work. The workshop also allotted time for us students to present in front of the class during a peer-review session.



TUTOR/S

Prof. Ġorġ Mallia



DURATION

6 hours (3 hours + 3 hours)



OCCURRENCE

Semester 2: PM



MODE OF DELIVERY

PM



MAX. NO. OF PARTICIPANTS

20

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

Faculties, Institutes, Centres and Schools at the University of Malta offer bespoke study units on this subject. You may wish to follow such study units which are aligned with your research to enhance your skills. You are urged to contact the department which delivers the training to see if the study unit is on offer and whether you are allowed to audit the study unit, against a fee. If you wish to audit study units you will need to contact the Office of the Registrar on marilyn.camilleri@um.edu.mt or +356 2340 2835.

GENERAL

CST1192, DGP0107, ELP1020, ENR3007, PSY1658, SCI3503



DOC6066

DEVELOPING RESILIENCE AND GRIT: THE PATH TO SUCCESS

NEW

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

The ability to withstand pressure, bounce back from setbacks and persevere through challenges are critical strengths in navigating what is often described as a long and difficult journey of Ph.D. studies. This workshop will enable participants to develop these strengths by understanding the concepts of 'resilience' and 'grit'. It will also provide practical tools for building resources and implementing strategies for mastering these two important aspects of wellbeing and success.

OUTCOMES

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

- › Understand the concepts of resilience and grit
- › Describe the relationship between the two concepts
- › Gain awareness of personal challenges and strengths in relation to grit and resilience
- › Learn practical tools and effective strategies for developing resilience and grit



TUTOR/S

Dr Claudia Psaila



DURATION

3 hours



OCCURRENCE

Semester 1: AM

Semester 2: PM



MODE OF DELIVERY

AM 

PM 



MAX. NO. OF
PARTICIPANTS

25



DOCTORAL RESEARCHER FEEDBACK

It provided a safe space where we could all be vulnerable about our struggles.

DOC6060

INTRODUCTION TO OPEN SCIENCE: PRINCIPLES OF TRANSPARENCY AND COLLABORATION IN DOCTORAL RESEARCH

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Open Science is increasingly becoming a standard practice in the international scientific community. It is breaking down barriers and transforming the way we conduct research, collaborate, and forge connections of knowledge across traditionally distinct disciplines such as the humanities and science subjects, and doing so mainly by sharing the data that supports research, while following certain protocols.

This workshop offers doctoral students an exploratory gateway to critically engage with the principles of Open Science and evaluate the relevance of open scientific practices in their field of studies. Students from diverse disciplines are encouraged to attend in order to build a multidisciplinary learning setting. In this introductory workshop, we will discuss the revolutionary concepts and principles that are transforming the research landscape through Open Science. We will explore various key concepts - such as open access, open data, open source, and open collaboration - and understand both their importance and challenges in driving scientific progress. Workshop time will be delivered in ways that foster interactive discussions, case studies, and hands-on activities in order to provide a solid foundation in Open Science principles. The workshop will be delivered by academics who have been actively engaging and building their expertise as Open Science ambassadors for the University of Malta.

OUTCOMES

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

- › better understand the fundamental concepts and principles of Open Science
- › recognise the benefits of practicing Open Science in research projects
- › explore various open access publishing models and their impact
- › learn about open data practices and the importance of data sharing
- › discover tools and resources to enhance collaboration and transparency in research
- › gain insights into the ethical and legal considerations, and challenges associated with Open Science
- › build a network of like-minded researchers and engage in discussions about Open Science practices.



TUTOR/S

Prof. Ritienne Gauci
Prof. Adam Gauci



DURATION

3 hours



OCCURRENCE

Semester 1: AM
Semester 2: PM



MODE OF DELIVERY

AM 
PM 



MAX. NO. OF PARTICIPANTS
20



DOCTORAL RESEARCHER FEEDBACK

It really makes you aware of the fact that open science is almost like a philosophical orientation towards research and that one needs to discern when and how to apply it. This was a real workshop, meaning we learnt by 'doing' almost exclusively. Working in pairs served to get to know some other doctoral researchers. The delivery was very inspiring – the genuine passion for this concept was evident. I felt that the tutors embodied the principles of open science in the way they interacted with us (early career researchers).



DOC6072

PRACTICAL MINDFULNESS

NEW

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Mindfulness is all about awareness. Awareness is about gaining greater clarity, peace and understanding – thus reducing suffering. Suffering is quite a broad term and we will have the chance to go into what suffering means and the different forms it takes. When we speak about mindfulness, we have to also mention its partner meditation, and this too takes many forms – for some it's walking, it's being in nature, it's giving loved ones undivided attention – there are many ways to be personally and collectively mindful. In this workshop we will be approaching mindfulness as a holistic and thus practical, everyday practice. In fact, it will become second nature – and this is how it works in all areas of your life. Once mindfulness becomes as natural as breathing then life transforms, shifts – you will start to perceive and relate to things differently. When it comes to studies and University life, mindfulness helps with this and also the integration and balance of the other areas of your life at the same time – it creates that pause between action and reaction. I feel that this is a vital aspect for Doctoral students who have to give so much energy and time to their studies, perhaps neglecting other areas of their life which may be equally important to them – these tools and practices will allow them to view things within perspective and also be able to prioritize in a different way.

OUTCOMES

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

- › putting theory into practice – bringing mindfulness in as a way of life, as a shift in perspective enumerate various - more formal as well as informal – strategies for building networks
- › understanding that we can do everything mindfully and the shifts that come from doing so
- › a greater appreciation for the small things in life.



TUTOR/S

Dr Ruth Bezzina

DURATION

3 hours

OCCURRENCE

Semester 1: AM**Semester 2: PM**

MODE OF DELIVERY

AM**PM**

MAX. NO. OF PARTICIPANTS

15

DOC6061

ALLIES OF OPEN SCIENCE: THE INFLUENTIAL ROLE OF STATISTICS AND LIBRARY REPOSITORIES*

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Open science is the key to unlocking new horizons of discovery and meaningful research. In today's academic landscape, embracing open science practices has become essential, with statistical tools, raw research data and library repositories playing a crucial role in this transformation. In this advanced workshop, we delve deeper into the Open Science ecosystem, focusing on its practical applications in the multidisciplinary field of statistical data and in the use of institutional and data repositories. Participants will explore the benefits of open science, learn about open research data and open-source software, and discover strategies for incorporating open science practices into their research workflow. Participants will also gain practical skills for utilising these library data repositories effectively. Attendees will investigate the procedures involved in managing, retrieving, and storing research data within the data repository of the UM Library. They will examine the handling of research data (including statistics) in relation to UM's research data repository. This exploration of Library repositories will enable participants to improve their research efficiency, accuracy, and accessibility, ultimately resulting in better outcomes. The workshop will consist of interactive sessions, practical exercises, and group discussions to facilitate active learning and knowledge sharing. The workshop is delivered by an interdisciplinary group of academics and Library staff, who have been actively engaged and building their expertise as Open Science ambassadors for the University of Malta. Attendance to the introductory workshop *Introduction to Open Science: Embracing principles of transparency and collaboration in doctoral research* is recommended prior to taking this advanced module.

OUTCOMES

- By the end of this workshop, doctoral researchers should be more aware of:
- › better understand the concept and significance of open science in the wide context of data (including statistics)
 - › familiarise themselves with open data and open-source statistical software
 - › learn about the concept of library repositories and their role in open science
 - › explore different types of research outputs that can be deposited in library repositories and learn how to effectively search and access research materials in library repositories
 - › understand strategies adopted by the UM library for data repositories and open access platform for data and publication sharing
 - › discuss the importance of metadata and data management plans in the context of library repositories



TUTOR/S

Dr Fiona Sammut
Ms Raelene Church



DURATION

3 hours



OCCURRENCE

Semester 1: PM
Semester 2: AM



MODE OF DELIVERY

AM

PM



MAX. NO. OF PARTICIPANTS

20

** DOC6060 – Introduction to Open Science: Principles of Transparency and Collaboration in Doctoral Research, is a prerequisite for this workshop.*





DOC6068

PROJECT MANAGEMENT

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

The workshop is designed to empower doctoral students and early stage researchers with essential project management skills. Effective project management is critical for successfully navigating complex research projects, ensuring timely completion, and maximising the impact of academic work. This workshop provides a comprehensive introduction to key project management concepts, practical tools, and techniques that doctoral students and early stage researchers can apply to their research projects.

OUTCOMES

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

- Understand Fundamental Project Management Concepts
 - Identify the stages of the project lifecycle and the role of a project manager
- Develop Comprehensive Project Plans
 - Define project scope and objectives clearly
 - Create and utilise a Work Breakdown Structure
 - Develop project timelines using Gantt Charts
- Stakeholder analysis and Communication planning
 - Engage effectively with stakeholders
- Monitor and Control Project Progress
 - Milestone planning and checking



TUTOR/S

Ms Maria Grima Calleja

DURATION

6 hours (3 hours + 3 hours)

OCCURRENCE

Semester 1: AM**Semester 2: PM**

MODE OF DELIVERY

AM**PM**

MAX. NO. OF PARTICIPANTS

20

DOCTORAL RESEARCHER FEEDBACK

I think that most students would gain useful know-how in managing their Ph.D. research project.

DOC6054

PRESENTING YOUR RESEARCH IN 180 SECONDS*

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



TUTOR/S
Dr Anthony Galea



DURATION
6 hours (2 hours +
2 hours + 2 hours)



OCCURRENCE
Semester 1: AM
Semester 2: AM



MODE OF DELIVERY
AM



MAX. NO. OF
PARTICIPANTS
20

** 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 three parts – Part 1, Part 2 and Part 3. Attendance is required in all three parts. The third part is open to a general audience – all students (even those who are not registered) are welcome to attend to watch the delivery of the presentations. An email will be sent with further details at a later date.





DOC6009

LEADERSHIP FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

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:

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

 DOCTORAL RESEARCHER FEEDBACK

Insightful and significant to doctoral students.



TUTOR/S

Prof. Christopher Bezzina



DURATION

3 hours



OCCURRENCE

Semester 1: PM

Semester 2: AM



MODE OF DELIVERY

AM 

PM 



MAX. NO. OF PARTICIPANTS

20

DOC6010

AN INTRODUCTION TO CRITICAL AND CREATIVE THINKING

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

DOCTORAL RESEARCHER FEEDBACK

I found this workshop extremely useful and the tutor's knowledge and approach made it even more beneficial. Keep it up.



TUTOR/S
Prof. Margaret Mangion



DURATION
3 hours



OCCURRENCE
Semester 1: PM
Semester 2: AM



MODE OF DELIVERY
AM 
PM 



MAX. NO. OF PARTICIPANTS
20





DOC6036

DEALING WITH CONFLICT SITUATIONS

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:

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



TUTOR/S

Prof. Gordon Sammut

DURATION

3 hours

OCCURRENCE

Semester 2: AM

MODE OF DELIVERY

AM 

MAX. NO. OF PARTICIPANTS

20

DOC6032

INTRODUCTION TO STUDENT MENTORING

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



TUTOR/S

Prof. Sandro Lanfranco



DURATION

3 hours



OCCURRENCE

Semester 1: AM

Semester 2: PM



MODE OF DELIVERY

AM

PM



MAX. NO. OF PARTICIPANTS

20

DOCTORAL RESEARCHER FEEDBACK

Best workshop attended so far, extremely practical.





DOC6033

BASIC LECTURING SKILLS

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

DOCTORAL RESEARCHER FEEDBACK

If anyone wishes to enter the world of academia, lecturing and presenting, this workshop is definitely a must.



TUTOR/S

Dr James Cilia



DURATION

3 hours



OCCURRENCE

Semester 1: AM

Semester 2: PM



MODE OF DELIVERY

AM

PM



MAX. NO. OF PARTICIPANTS

20

DOC6034

ENHANCING SMALL GROUP
TEACHING AND LEARNING

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



TUTOR/S
Dr Noel Buttigieg



DURATION
3 hours



OCCURRENCE
Semester 1: PM
Semester 2: AM



MODE OF DELIVERY
AM 
PM 



MAX. NO. OF
PARTICIPANTS
20





DOC6035

BASIC RESEARCH SUPERVISION SKILLS

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



TUTOR/S

Prof. Ing. Glenn Cassar

DURATION

3 hours

OCCURRENCE

Semester 2: AM

MODE OF DELIVERY

AM 

MAX. NO. OF PARTICIPANTS

20

DOC6059

HOW TO BUILD AN INTERNATIONAL ACADEMIC NETWORK

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Academic research is an international endeavour *par excellence* and the process of internationalisation has only accelerated in recent years. Young scholars' future prospects in no small measure depend on their ability to successfully build and maintain a network of research contacts at the international level. This workshop discusses various types of benefits of international academic/professional networks and different strategies for building them.

OUTCOMES

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

- › explain what an international academic network is and why such networks are important for teaching, research and publishing
- › enumerate various – more formal as well as informal – strategies for building networks
- › discuss which methods may work better depending on their individual situation
- › critically evaluate the importance of joining international networks for the advancement of academic carriers.



TUTOR/S

Prof. Anna Khakee



DURATION

3 hours



OCCURRENCE

Semester 1: PM

Semester 2: AM



MODE OF DELIVERY

AM



PM



MAX. NO. OF PARTICIPANTS

20



DOC6056

ALIGNING YOUR RESEARCH TO THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

In 2015, 193 countries at the United Nations General Assembly agreed on the adoption of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) thus determining an agenda to develop a global partnership to eradicate poverty, reduce inequality, improve health and education and promote peace and prosperity for humans and the planet by 2030. This long-term agenda is dependent on the commitment of the current generation to future generations ... a commitment that transcends any current national political and cultural context. The SDGs are a call for global, national and local collaboration of governments, the private sector and civil society to achieve the targets set by addressing the root causes of problems that have plagued humanity and the planet.

The resetting of current lifestyles and definitions of progress is dependent on the development of a new paradigm of policy making, social interactions and technologies. Doctoral research is adopting ever increasing leading roles in addressing the SDGs through the engagement of scholars with specialised skills from various disciplines on the various facets of sustainability.

OUTCOMES

By the end of this workshop, doctoral researchers should:

- › question the current paradigms of development
- › develop an interdisciplinary world view of sustainability and critically examine the SDGs' role in developing this view
- › identify the challenges inherent in the implementation of the SDGs and ways of how they can be addressed
- › discuss issues concerning sustainability from different disciplinary perspectives;
- › critique unsustainable actions and ethical issues inherent in the SDGs
- › identify ways of how their line of research can effectively contribute to the achievement of certain SDG targets.

DOCTORAL RESEARCHER FEEDBACK

In the current global paradigm, this information is important to researchers in all disciplines.



TUTOR/S

Prof. Mark Mifsud
Prof. Paul Pace
Dr Ćensu Caruana



DURATION

3 hours



OCCURRENCE

Semester 1: AM
Semester 2: PM



MODE OF DELIVERY

AM 
PM 



MAX. NO. OF
 PARTICIPANTS

10

DOC6011

COMMUNICATING RESEARCH TO DIVERSE AUDIENCES

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



TUTOR/S

Dr Edward Duca



DURATION

3 hours



OCCURRENCE

Semester 1: AM

Semester 2: PM



MODE OF DELIVERY

AM



PM



MAX. NO. OF
PARTICIPANTS

20

 DOCTORAL RESEARCHER FEEDBACK

It was engaging and encouraged participation.





DOC6007

UNDERSTANDING INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY (IP)*

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)



TUTOR/S

Dr Ruth Vella Falzon
Dr Ing. Anton Bartolo
Ing. Michelle Cortis



DURATION

6 hours (3 hours + 3 hours)



OCCURRENCE

Semester 1: AM



MODE OF DELIVERY

AM



MAX. NO. OF
PARTICIPANTS

20

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

RESEARCH IMPACT: INVOLVING STAKEHOLDERS TO IMPROVE FUNDING SUCCESS

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Most funding opportunities for doctoral researchers (such as the EU Horizon Europe programme) aim to embed societal engagement and involvement in research and research institutions. Incorporating the concept is essential to receive funding.

To maximise societal impact, 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 research, reflection on the impact that today's decisions may have in the 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 Horizon Europe impact pathways.

This workshop will help participants improve the impact sections of EU funding applications. A series of tools and processes will be used to allow doctoral researchers to develop ideas tailored to their own research into practice and improve their societal impact. By engaging in group activities and mapping exercises, the workshop will encourage researchers to critically reflect on how these concepts can be practically implemented in their own research, and demonstrate how they can be incorporated in grant proposals to increase funding success.

OUTCOMES

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

- › understand and improve the research impact sections of EU funding applications
- › expand ideas tailored to their own research
- › consider how these concepts can be carried out in their own research
- › integrate these concepts in grant proposals to increase funding success

DOCTORAL RESEARCHER FEEDBACK

It is interactive and engaging.



TUTOR/S

Dr Edward Duca



DURATION

3 hours



OCCURRENCE

Semester 1: PM

Semester 2: AM



MODE OF DELIVERY

AM

PM



MAX. NO. OF PARTICIPANTS

15





DOC6064

MANAGING A RESEARCH LABORATORY*

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Setting up and managing a research laboratory is one of the intensive tasks that a post doctorate face at the start of a research career. This requires the skill of quick decision making including (1) identifying a research niche that is current, relevant and novel; (2) building a cutting edge laboratory facility; (3) build and manage a research team; (4) write highly competitive proposals to grow and maintain the outputs including publications and intellectual properties; (5) risk management; (6) strategic planning; (7) communication, dissemination & exploitation, and other skills that are necessary to manage the laboratory.

OUTCOMES

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

- identify equipment and infrastructure
- budget and find resources
- risk assessment and mitigation
- networking and the 3 pillars of a research laboratory
- manage time and responsibilities
- internal audits
- communication and decision making to keep capacity and grow
- the workshop is designed to provide experiences in laboratory management and instigate discussions to identify research niches that will formulate the strategic planning of laboratory facilities



TUTOR/S

Prof. Godfrey Grech

DURATION

3 hours

OCCURRENCE

Semester 1: AM**Semester 2: PM**

MODE OF DELIVERY

AM **PM** 

MAX. NO. OF PARTICIPANTS

16

** During registration we should collect the area of interest of the candidates to adjust the worksheets according to the expertise of the participants.*

The participants should have gone beyond the M.Phil./Ph.D. transfer.

DOC6038

BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN ACADEMIA AND THE LABOUR MARKET*

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



TUTOR/S

Prof. Anne Marie Thake
Guest Speaker



DURATION

3 hours



OCCURRENCE

Semester 1: PM
Semester 2: AM



MODE OF DELIVERY

AM 
PM 



MAX. NO. OF
PARTICIPANTS

10

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





DOC6013

WRITING EFFECTIVE CVs AND JOB APPLICATION LETTERS

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.



TUTOR/S

Ms Jeanette Theuma

DURATION

3 hours

OCCURRENCE

Semester 1: AM**Semester 2: PM**

MODE OF DELIVERY

AM**PM**

MAX. NO. OF PARTICIPANTS

10

DOC6014

PREPARING FOR A JOB INTERVIEW

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



TUTOR/S
Ms Jeanette Theuma



DURATION
3 hours



OCCURRENCE
Semester 1: PM
Semester 2: AM



MODE OF DELIVERY
AM 
PM 



MAX. NO. OF PARTICIPANTS
10





DOC6012

WRITING WINNING GRANT APPLICATIONS

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



TUTOR/S

Dr Elena Sultana
Ms Lili Kankaya



DURATION

3 hours



OCCURRENCE

Semester 1: PM
Semester 2: AM



MODE OF DELIVERY

AM

PM



MAX. NO. OF
PARTICIPANTS

15

BEYOND YOUR Ph.D.: DESIGNING DOCUMENTS FOR SUPRANATIONAL ORGANISATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

The workshop addresses a need for doctoral researchers who are curious, ambitious or enterprising and who wish to seek out openings in a knowledge economy with an increasing internationalisation of outlook. Organisations, public and increasingly private, draft key documents treating cultural, scientific, socio-economic and socio-technical themes, sometimes featuring together. These may involve fieldwork, desk study/archival research and laboratory/instrumental methods outside university environments. In this workshop, doctoral researchers will learn about formal documentation and will bring their varied subject synergies and interests to bear in critically analysing and evaluating real-world documents from supranational/inter-governmental organisations. *Beyond their Ph.D.*, in the workshop title, embraces the prospect of making a career articulating documents – knowledge assets – within institutions such as the European Space Agency (ESA), World Trade Organisation (WTO), Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO), European Council, European Commission, European Parliament, the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), and the World Health Organisation (WHO). Indeed, doctoral graduates may seek such opportunities not necessarily within such bodies, as private international organisations make numerous submissions, proposals and studies shaping the emerging agenda and debates.

OUTCOMES

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

- understand the meaning and value of document design and validation
- understand and apply methods of formal drafting and document articulation for international bodies
- appreciate the qualities institutions strive for in authoritative publications, such as authenticity of source and method, integrity of data and information, and reliability critically analyse short real-world documents, such as a strategic plan, a climate change study, a food safety report, and an innovation study



TUTOR/S

Dr Robert M. Cachia



DURATION

3 hours



OCCURRENCE

Semester 2: AM



MODE OF DELIVERY

AM



MAX. NO. OF PARTICIPANTS

20





DOC6045

AN INTRODUCTION TO ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND THE COMMERCIALISATION OF IP*

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



TUTOR/S

Prof. Russell Smith
Prof. Juanito Camilleri



DURATION

Full day*

OCCURRENCE

Semester 1: AM

MODE OF DELIVERY

AM 

MAX. NO. OF
PARTICIPANTS

8

** This workshop is taking place between 11:30 and 15:00. The use of mobile phones and laptops is not permitted during this workshop except during break periods.*

DOC6058

THE PURPOSE OF YOUR LEADERSHIP
IN TIMES OF CHANGE

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

The aim behind this three-hour workshop is to create an opportunity for us to share our strengths, our concerns, the challenges that we are facing in fulfilling our roles in whichever institution we form part of and at whatever level we may be working at. It is an opportunity to reflect, discuss and celebrate good practices. The main objective is to help you reflect on your leadership journey by exploring: self-awareness, purpose, teamwork and empowerment. You will do so by engaging personally and collectively on your perceived leadership qualities and traits. It is also hoped that through the interactions that takes place we are able to individually inspire each other to grow as leaders.

OUTCOMES

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

- › identify with the values and traits that you embrace as a person
- › engage with motivational quotes to help you reflect and engage personally and collectively with the attributes that you feel are central to your engagements with others
- › reflect on the leadership acts that you conduct on a daily basis
- › identify the leadership qualities that you will need to refine

DOCTORAL RESEARCHER FEEDBACK

All university students should have the opportunity to be aware of leadership skills.



TUTOR/S
Prof. Christopher Bezzina



DURATION
3 hours



OCCURRENCE
Semester 1: AM
Semester 2: PM



MODE OF DELIVERY
AM
PM



MAX. NO. OF
PARTICIPANTS
15





DOC6015

ANNUAL DOCTORAL SYMPOSIUM*

The Doctoral School is organising a Doctoral Symposium as part of the University of Malta's Research Expo planned to be held on Wednesday 27 May 2026. 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. A poster session is also organised.

** Registrations for the Doctoral Symposium will be open in due course.*

Applicants will kindly be requested to submit a 250-word abstract to the Research Expo organisers when a call for papers is announced.

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.

➤ um.edu.mt/library/workshops

Health and Wellness Centre

The Health and Wellness Centre at the Msida Campus offers services aimed at enhancing the wellness of UM staff and students. Professional support, to help UM staff and students take on the challenges and grasp the opportunities that may arise as a result of everyday life situations, is readily available at:

➤ um.edu.mt/services/health-wellness

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.

➤ um.edu.mt/itservices/training

Centre for Academic Literacies and English Communication Skills (CALECS)

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

➤ um.edu.mt/calecs

Research Support Services Directorate (RSSD)

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

➤ um.edu.mt/rssd

Knowledge Transfer Office (KTO)

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

➤ 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.

➤ um.edu.mt/cebi

Useful Contacts



| DOCTORAL SCHOOL CONTACTS | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| DIRECTOR OF THE DOCTORAL SCHOOL | ✉ maurice.apap@um.edu.mt |
| DOCTORAL SCHOOL TEAM | ✉ doctoralschool@um.edu.mt |
| DOCTORAL ACADEMIC COMMITTEE | ✉ doctoralacademic.committee@um.edu.mt |
| PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE | ✉ professionaldevelopment.committee@um.edu.mt |

| INTERNAL LINKS | |
|---|---|
| DOCTORAL SCHOOL | ➤ um.edu.mt/doctoralschool |
| DOCTORAL SCHOOL FACEBOOK PAGE | ➤ facebook.com/umdocschool |
| OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR | ➤ um.edu.mt/registrar |
| UNIVERSITY LIBRARY | ➤ um.edu.mt/library |
| KUNSILL STUDENTI UNIVERSITARI (KSU – University Students' Council) | ➤ ksu.org.mt |

| EXTERNAL LINKS | |
|---|---|
| MALTA COUNCIL FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY | ➤ mcst.gov.mt |
| MALTA ENTERPRISE | ➤ maltaenterprise.com |
| VITAE (Professional Career Development for Researchers) | ➤ vitae.ac.uk |
| DOCPRO (The Professional Profile of Ph.D. Holders) | ➤ mydocpro.org/en |

Guiding Principles for the Professional Development of Doctoral Students at the University of Malta

IN TERMS OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE
DOCTORAL OF PHILOSOPHY – Ph.D. – DEGREE REGULATIONS, 2023

DOCTORAL SCHOOL
2025

Guiding Principles for the Professional Development of Doctoral Students at the University of Malta

IN TERMS OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE

DOCTORAL OF PHILOSOPHY – Ph.D. – DEGREE REGULATIONS, 2023

Introduction

The University of Malta is committed to ensure that its doctoral students are trained to develop transferable skills as part of their professional development. This should enhance their employability and augment the quality of their research. This policy is in line with the Salzburg Principles on the reform in doctoral education (2005¹; 2010²) and is endorsed by the European Council for Doctoral Candidates and Junior Researchers (EURODOC³).

Throughout the Ph.D. programme, training is provided by the Faculty/Institute/Centre/School where the student is registered and/or by the Doctoral School. This training is meant to augment discipline-specific knowledge and to promote the acquisition of transversal skills, interdisciplinarity, and the acquisition of a broader scientific culture.

The Doctoral School offers a Professional Development Programme which runs annually between October and June. The Programme is advertised on the Doctoral School's website before registrations open in September and in January. The 3- or 6-hour training workshops are delivered by academics hailing from the different Faculties/Institutes/Centres/Schools and by members of the University's senior management. None of the workshops offered as part of the Doctoral School's Professional Development Programme are mandatory with the exception of *DOC6043 Research Integrity and Research Ethics*. Those doctoral students who are involved in any teaching activities are encouraged to follow *DOC6033 Basic Lecturing Skills*.

Doctoral students who commenced their studies from February 2023 onwards must complete approximately 100 hours of training during the course of their Ph.D., as mandated by the Doctor of Philosophy - Ph.D. - Degree Regulations (2023). These hours of training are to be completed by the time that the student signals their intention to submit their thesis for examination. Training and professional development activities may include, but are not limited to:

- auditing taught study-units⁴;
- the writing and publishing of academic papers;
- presentations at conferences;
- training sessions organised by the Doctoral School;
- other training sessions that complement the students' doctoral studies and their professional career as doctoral graduates;
- participation at Faculty/Institute/Centre/School seminars, workshops and conferences, and study visits.

¹ Bologna Seminar on "Doctoral Programmes for the European Knowledge Society" (Salzburg, 3-5 February 2005)

² Salzburg II: Recommendations European Universities' Achievements Since 2005 in Implementing the Salzburg Principles (EUA, 2010)

³ EURODOC, PRESS RELEASE: Eurodoc Report on 'Identifying Transferable Skills and Competences to Enhance Early-Career Researchers Employability and Competitiveness' (2018)

⁴ University of Malta, 'Auditing Students' <<https://www.um.edu.mt/study/auditingstudents/>> (2023)

Guiding principles for training

It is understood that doctoral students must be allowed independence and flexibility to grow and develop. Doctoral education is highly individual and by definition original. The path of progress of the individual is unique, in terms of the research project as well as in terms of the individual professional development. In order to uphold this principle, each doctoral student is responsible for the organisation of their training as part of a personal study plan drawn up in close consultation with their supervisory team. The principal supervisor is responsible for endorsing each choice made, ensuring the relevance of the study programme especially when selected training courses or activities fall outside the scope of the training and other activities organised and offered by the University of Malta.

The following should be taken into account when selecting training:

- i. To promote the diversity of training, the number of hours validated for each training activity should not exceed 30 hours.
- ii. The workshop on Research Integrity and Research Ethics offered by the Doctoral School is mandatory and does not count towards the approx. 100 hours of training.
- iii. The completion of study-units that are an integral to a student's Ph.D. programme, as stipulated in the letter of acceptance, do not count towards the approx. 100 hours of training.
- iv. Training activities which are not offered by the Doctoral School or in collaboration with it may be validated upon the presentation of a certificate of attendance indicating the name of the training activity followed and the number of hours and signed by the training activity organiser.
- v. Training courses offered by the Doctoral School are not validated by a final examination, but by a certificate of attendance.
- vi. Some workshops offered by the Doctoral School are in high demand, so students should endeavour to register early. The Doctoral School administration will provide students with information about the programme via the mailing list, the University's Newspoint and other social media.
- vii. The mode of delivery – in-person, hybrid, remote – of any training is decided by the organiser of the training activity and students may have to make arrangements to ensure that they take part in an activity for which they registered.
- viii. Students are encouraged to present their work to the scientific community during seminars organised by the Faculty/Institute/Centre/School or the Doctoral School. Such presentations may take the form of an oral communication or a poster.
- ix. Students are encouraged to take up teaching opportunities in the University entity where they are registered.

Validation of the training

The validation of the training activities will follow the training activities validation guideline. The limit imposed on the number of times that a training activity can be validated is meant to encourage students to sign up for training opportunities that cut across the five categories. It does not, in any way, stop a student from pursuing activities beyond the limit given here. Indeed, students are encouraged to publish more than once and to choose peer-reviewed publication venues carefully to ensure maximum impact in their discipline. If students wish to undertake training of a type that does not fit in the categories below, they ought to contact the Doctoral School for guidance on ✉ professionaldevelopment.committee@um.edu.mt

| CATEGORY A | ENHANCING OF SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE | |
|--|---|---|
| Type of professional development/training activity | Number of hours validated | Frequency of validation in the course of the doctoral programme |
| Auditing a study-unit offered by the University of Malta as part of a degree or diploma programme | Up to 20 hours | Once |
| Participation in a doctoral summer school or a doctoral writing retreat (typically over a week/weekend) | Up to 20 hours | Once |
| Structured placement/internship at an institution of relevance for the research (cannot be less than 30 hours) | 30 hours | Once |
| Participation in workshops offered as part of the UM's Doctoral School Professional Development Programme | As advertised (3 or 6 hours) | Once for each workshop |
| Participation in doctoral workshops/seminars/courses offered by a Faculty/Institute/Centre/School or by external institutions | Actual hours attended for a maximum of 10 hours | Once |
| Lecturing on a degree or diploma programme | Actual hours delivered | Up to a maximum of 20 hours |

| CATEGORY B | PRESENTATION OF RESEARCH | |
|--|---------------------------|---|
| Type of professional development/training activity | Number of hours validated | Frequency of validation in the course of the doctoral programme |
| Presentation of a paper (first author) in a doctoral workshop/seminar/symposium organised by the Faculty/Institute/Centre/School or the Doctoral School | 5 hours | Twice |
| Presentation of a paper (first author) in a national conference | 10 hours | Once |
| Presentation of a paper (first author) in an international conference | 20 hours | Once |
| Presentation of a poster (first author) in a national conference | 10 hours | Once |
| Presentation of a poster (first author) in an international conference | 20 hours | Once |

| CATEGORY C | PUBLICATION AND PEER REVIEWING OF ACADEMIC RESEARCH | |
|--|---|---|
| Type of professional development/training activity | Number of hours validated | Frequency of validation in the course of the doctoral programme |
| Publication of a scholarly contribution in a peer-reviewed publication as first author: | | |
| (i) Chapter in a book published by a non-academic press | 5 hours | Once |
| (ii) Chapter in an edited book published by an academic press | 15 hours | Once |
| (iii) Paper in a local journal, local conference proceedings | 20 hours | Once |
| (iv) Paper in an international journal, international conference proceedings | 30 hours | Once |
| (v) Book reviews or review articles in any venue | 2 hours | Once |
| Peer reviewing of a scholarly contribution as first author: | | |
| (vi) Paper submitted to a national conference | 2 hours | Once |
| (vii) Paper submitted to an international conference | 3 hours | Once |
| (viii) Paper submitted to a journal or an edited book | 5 hours | Once |

| CATEGORY D | CONVENING OF RESEARCH FORA | |
|--|----------------------------|---|
| Type of professional development/training activity | Number of hours validated | Frequency of validation in the course of the doctoral programme |
| Member on the scientific/organising committee of a national conference | 10 hours | Once |
| Member on the scientific/organising committee of an international conference | 15 hours | Once |

| CATEGORY E | PARTICIPATION IN UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE | |
|--|--|---|
| Type of professional development/training activity | Number of hours validated | Frequency of validation in the course of the doctoral programme |
| Participation in the governance of the Doctoral School, as student representatives elected to sit on its Board or the Professional Development Committee | 5 hours | Once |
| Participation in the governance of the Faculty/Institute/Centre/ School as student representatives elected to sit on its Board | 5 hours | Once |

In addition to the above, Practice as Research M.Phil./Ph.D. students should take note of the following professional development opportunities:

| CATEGORY A | ENHANCING OF SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE | |
|--|------------------------------------|---|
| Type of professional development/training activity | Number of hours validated | Frequency of validation in the course of the doctoral programme |
| Participation in a Master Class or an international workshop retreat | Up to 20 hours | Once |
| Participating in a collective exhibition, film and animation festival or performance | 10 hours | Once |
| Participating in Arts Festivals and Satellite Events | Up to 20 hours | Once |
| Participating in Funded Projects, nationally and internationally | 10 hours | Once |
| Providing studio assistance to and shadowing of professionals in the field (in order to address problem-solving strategies in studio practice) | 10 hours | Once |
| Curating a body of work by students or young practitioners for public exhibition | 20 hours | Once |
| Delivering a curatorial talk (applies to all the practice research areas) | 5 hours | Once |
| Delivering a practitioner's talk (applies to all the practice research areas) | 5 hours | Once |
| Delivering a Workshop on Practice/Process/Methods | 5 hours | Once |
| Participating in a panel discussion | 5 hours | Once |
| Attending a Residency which contributes to and informs the practice that is being developed during the doctoral study (applies to all the practice research areas) | Up to 20 hours | Once |
| Teaching in a Recognised Artistic Institution | Up to 20 hours | Once |

| CATEGORY B | PUBLICATION AND PEER REVIEWING OF ACADEMIC RESEARCH | |
|---|---|---|
| Type of professional development/training activity | Number of hours validated | Frequency of validation in the course of the doctoral programme |
| Presentation of a work demonstration or delivery of a workshop (main practitioner) in a national conference | Up to 10 hours | Once |
| Presentation of a work demonstration or delivery of a workshop (main practitioner) in an international conference | Up to 20 hours | Once |
| Article (normally 5000 words, 1–6 images) | 15 hours | Once |
| Research Project or Project Report (normally 3000 words, 1–4 images) | 10 hours | Once |
| Critical Essay (normally 3000 words, 1–4 images) | 10 hours | Once |
| Exposés (normally 1500 – 2000 words, 1–2 images) | 5 hours | Once |
| Artist's Profile (normally 1500 words, 1–2 images) | 5 hours | Once |
| Featured Work (normally 1000 words, 1–2 images) | 5 hours | Once |

| CATEGORY C | CONVENING OF RESEARCH FORA | |
|---|----------------------------|---|
| Type of professional development/training activity | Number of hours validated | Frequency of validation in the course of the doctoral programme |
| Principal performer, director, producer, composer, scriptwriter, conductor, choreographer, film-maker, or principal set/sound/light designer in a national event/production (concert, dance, theatre, film) | Up to 20 hours | Once |
| Principal performer, director, producer, composer, scriptwriter, conductor, choreographer, film-maker, or principal set/sound/light designer in an international event/production (concert, dance, theatre, film) | Up to 30 hours | Once |
| Ensemble/group performer, or assistant set/sound/light designer in a national event (concert, dance, theatre, film – but not film extra) | Up to 5 hours | Twice |
| Ensemble/group performer, or assistant set/sound/light designer in an international event (concert, dance, theatre, film – but not film extra) | Up to 10 hours | Twice |
| Organising and setting up pop-up visual arts exhibitions, film, moving image and immersive screenings | 10 hours | Once |
| Organising an Open Studio | 10 hours | Once |
| Participating in an Open Studio | 5 hours | Once |

| CATEGORY D | ART PUBLICATION | |
|---|---------------------------|---|
| Type of professional development/training activity | Number of hours validated | Frequency of validation in the course of the doctoral programme |
| Conceiving and editing an exhibition catalogue or practitioner's book/monograph | 20 hours | Once |
| Critical/Curatorial Essay (first author) | 10 hours | Once |
| Producing an artist's book ⁵ | 20 hours | Once |
| Producing a self-published audio-visual publication (Audio/Video/VR/XR/AR Application, Print, Web etc.) | 20 hours | Once |
| Contributing to non-peer review specialist publications (online blogs, newspapers, magazines etc.) | 5 hours | Twice |
| Producing Programme Notes | 5 hours | Twice |

⁵ See: <https://blog.library.si.edu/blog/2012/06/01/what-is-an-artists-book/>

3 The student's portfolio of training

Doctoral students are responsible for completing and updating their portfolio of training which should include all training activities carried out as part of professional development. It should be updated regularly and contain the necessary documentation that is required for validation purposes. A template that can be used for the purpose will be provided by the Doctoral School.

In their annual progress report, students are required to include a list of the training activities that were followed and are planned to be followed as part of their Ph.D. programme. Students will also be required to print out a copy of the Professional Development Activities template, discuss their progress with their supervisory team and ask their Principal Supervisor to sign a hard copy of the template, as well as the relative documents/proof. These will then need to be presented to the Faculty Doctoral Committee together with their progress report.

Validation of the portfolio will be carried out by the Faculty/Institute/Centre/School Doctoral Committee in collaboration with the Doctoral School twice during the course of a Ph.D. programme, when the student:

1. submits a request to transfer their studies from M.Phil. to Ph.D;
2. submits a request to present the thesis for examination.

Nothing in the content of this document takes precedence over *Doctor of Philosophy – Ph.D. – Regulations, 2023* which may be subject to amendment.

Approved by the Professional Development Committee of the Doctoral School, University of Malta

22 February 2023

Updated 1 August 2025

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