



Social Sciences  
Researcher  
Development



# TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT FOR DPHIL STUDENTS & FTRS

MichaelmasTerm Card, 2024

# WELCOME TO MICHAELMAS TERM 2024!

We're excited to present a diverse and enriching programme designed to support your growth as researchers and future leaders in your fields. From refining your teaching skills to developing ethical research practices, from navigating crucial milestones to prioritising your well-being, our carefully curated themes offer something for everyone.

Join us for practical workshops that will enhance your fieldwork techniques, boost your communication skills, and strengthen your academic writing. Explore cutting-edge research methods that will set your work apart.

Don't overlook our ResearcherConnect events on page 13 - your path to peer support, accountability, and personalised development advice. Whether you're seeking collaborative co-working sessions or one-on-one guidance, we're here to support your unique journey.

Remember, each offering is an opportunity to expand your skillset and network. We encourage you to engage actively, challenge yourself, and make the most of these resources. Your growth and success are our priority - let's make this term a transformative one together!

## HOW TO BOOK

Click on the workshop titles in the online brochure which will take you to the booking page, or scan the QR code below.



## CONTACTS

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## OTHER TRAINING PROVIDERS

Bodleian Libraries iSkills

IT Learning Centre

Oxford University Language Centre

The Careers Service

## THEMES KEY



Teaching



Research Methods



Fieldwork



Ethics & Integrity



DPhil Milestones and Development



Academic Writing



Wellbeing



Communication

# THEMES



## Teaching

Developing teaching skills is crucial for your academic journey and beyond. Whether you're aiming for a career in academia or considering other paths, the ability to convey complex ideas clearly and engage diverse audiences is invaluable. Our teaching theme offers innovative pedagogical techniques, guidance on designing effective curricula, and opportunities to boost your confidence in the classroom. These skills can enhance your academic profile and translate well into various professional settings, potentially making you a more versatile and sought-after candidate in any field.



## Fieldwork

Fieldwork is often where theory meets practice, offering unique challenges and opportunities. Our Fieldwork theme prepares researchers for the realities of conducting studies in diverse settings, from remote locations to urban environments. Essential skills training in data collection, cultural sensitivity, safety and adapting to unexpected situations are on offer. These experiences can not only enrich your research but also cultivate your adaptability, problem-solving, and intercultural competence - qualities highly valued in academia and beyond.



## Research Methods

A solid grounding in research methods is the cornerstone of impactful scholarship. Our Research Methods theme offers a deep dive into both established and cutting-edge methodologies relevant to social sciences. Explore quantitative and qualitative approaches, data analysis techniques, and emerging tools in digital research. This comprehensive understanding can not only strengthen your academic work but also equip you with highly transferable analytical and problem-solving skills prized across various sectors, from policy-making to industry research.



## Ethics & Integrity

In today's complex research landscape, understanding and upholding ethical standards is more important than ever. Our Ethics and Research Integrity theme explores the world of responsible research practices, data management, and ethical decision-making. Participants can explore real-world scenarios, discuss emerging ethical challenges in their field, and develop a robust ethical framework for their work. This knowledge not only safeguards the integrity of your research but also enhances your credibility as a scholar and prepares you for leadership roles where ethical considerations are paramount.

# THEMES



## DPPhil Milestones and Development

Navigating the DPhil journey can be daunting, but our Milestones theme is designed to guide you through each crucial stage. From proposal writing to viva preparation, this theme offers insights into what's expected and how to excel at each milestone. Gain valuable perspectives on time management, project planning, and strategies for overcoming common hurdles. This theme not only demystifies the DPhil process but also offers transferable skills in project management and goal-setting that can serve well in any future career path.



## Wellbeing

Mental and physical well-being forms the foundation of academic success and personal fulfillment. Our Well-being theme presents practical strategies for maintaining balance, managing stress, and fostering resilience in the face of academic pressures. Learn about techniques for mindfulness, time management, and self-care that can be applied throughout your career. By prioritizing well-being, you can potentially enhance academic performance and develop lifelong skills for maintaining a healthy work-life balance in any professional setting.



## Academic Writing

Mastering academic writing is essential for sharing your research with the world. Our Academic Writing theme offers a comprehensive approach to developing your scholarly voice. From crafting compelling arguments to navigating the publication process, gain insights that can elevate writing to new heights. These skills extend far beyond academia, enhancing the ability to produce clear, persuasive content in any professional context - a valuable asset in today's information-driven world.



## Communication

In today's interconnected world, the ability to communicate your research effectively is paramount. Our Communication theme goes beyond academic writing, focusing on diverse forms of engagement with various audiences. Hone skills in public speaking, digital communication, and research dissemination through both traditional and innovative channels. These competencies can amplify the impact of your research and potentially open doors to exciting opportunities in research communication, policy advising, and thought leadership.

# WORKSHOPS

## Overseas Fieldwork Safety

DPHILS | IN PERSON

*23 October 09:30 – 13:00*

This course provides an essential overview of the approval process and equips you with the tools to plan and document safe fieldwork through appropriate risk assessments. Aimed at researchers conducting qualitative and ethnographic studies, particularly in areas where the FCDO advises against travel, this session offers valuable group activities and opportunities to learn from fellow researchers' experiences.



## Advanced R for Social Science Researchers

ALL | IN PERSON

*24 October 09:30 – 17:00*

DPHILS | IN PERSON

This one-day course provides Social Scientists with a range of useful tools and techniques to improve their ability to code using R. This workshop is aimed at students who have already got the basics of R (Loading in data, cleaning data, running regression models and producing ggplots).



## ChatGPT for Academics

ALL | IN PERSON

*25 October 09:30 – 17:00*

A Practical Workshop to Thriving as a Researcher in the 21st Century.

This one-day workshop aims to equip researchers with practical skills to leverage ChatGPT to boost their efficiency and improve the quality of their research.

The workshop will cover the following topics:

- Understanding LLM Models
- Sharing Guiding Principles & Useful Phrasing
- Generating Ideas & Research Questions
- Conducting a Literature Review
- Acing Your Methodology
- Perfecting Your Results Chapter



# Managing your Data in the Field

ALL | IN PERSON

**05 November 14:00 – 16:00**

Maintaining well-organised data is essential for researchers to keep accurate records of fieldwork data and make informed decisions. The techniques and strategies for securely managing data may differ depending on the field sites, types and amount of data, and the system or database used for data collection



# Introduction to Research Ethics at Oxford

ALL | ONLINE

**06 November 14:00 – 15:00**

This termly session will give attendees an overview of the research ethics review process at Oxford. The trainer will also give you top tips on how to write good research ethics applications.



# Python for Social Science Researchers

ALL | IN PERSON

**8 November 09:30 – 17:00**

This one-day, intensive course will help equip students with the essential skills to use Python for research and data-driven projects. Designed around the needs of social science researchers, the course assumes participants have some experience coding in another language (STATA, SPSS, or R) and are now looking to learn Python to enhance their data analysis capabilities.



# Preparing for the Viva and DPhil examination

DPHILS | ONLINE

**11 November 14:00 – 16:00**

This workshop, designed for those who have submitted their thesis and anticipate their viva within three months, combines pre-reading with interactive sessions to demystify the viva process. We'll address practical issues surrounding the examination, helping you develop clearer expectations and increased confidence. By the end of the workshop, you'll have a comprehensive understanding of the viva system and be better prepared for this significant step in your academic journey.



# Vicarious [Secondary] Trauma Workshop

ALL | IN PERSON

*12 November 09:30 – 16:30*

The Vicarious Trauma Workshop is designed for researchers whose work engages them with the traumatic experiences of others. It aims to help researchers reduce the risk of vicarious traumatisation and manage the exceptional emotional demands this kind of research can place on them.



# Quantitative Research for Qualitative Researchers

ALL | IN PERSON

*14 November 09:30 – 17:00*

This one-day course attempts to demystify quantitative methods for people who don't naturally think in numbers. Starting with a brief discussion on why using numbers to investigate a phenomenon may be useful (and not necessarily that tricky), the bulk of the course will use examples and thought experiments to explore the core set of quantitative methods that social scientists typically use.







# Insider and Outsider Fieldworkers

**ALL | IN PERSON**

***19 November 14:00 – 16:00***

For some of us, our research projects are situated back home or in locations where we have already spent considerable time. For the rest of us, our field sites could be in locations where we are visiting or living for the first time. Some of us work closely with people in our own communities, whilst others join local communities as external fieldworkers. Depending on our backgrounds, we may navigate fieldwork as “insider” researchers, “outsider” researchers, or both.

At this workshop, former fieldworkers will share their experiences in the field, and we will discuss the opportunities and challenges of navigating fieldwork as insiders, outsiders, or both. The workshop is an open space for meeting other fieldworkers and discussing various fieldwork-related topics, including but not limited to tips and strategies to prepare for and navigate fieldwork smoothly. Staff and research students are welcome to join the workshop.



# Overseas Fieldwork Safety

ALL | IN PERSON

**20 November 09:30 – 13:00**

This course provides an essential overview of the approval process and equips you with the tools to plan and document safe fieldwork through appropriate risk assessments. Aimed at researchers conducting qualitative and ethnographic studies, particularly in areas where the FCDO advises against travel, this session offers valuable group activities and opportunities to learn from fellow researchers' experiences.



# Introduction to Learning and Teaching at Oxford

ALL | ONLINE

**Part 1 - 26 November 09:30 - 12:00**

**Part 2 - 4 December 09:30 - 12:00**

The Divisional Introduction to Learning and Teaching is an interactive and discursive two-part course to prepare for teaching in Oxford. You do not need to be teaching in the term you take this course. Participants must attend both sessions to receive an attendance certificate.



# Teaching with Museum Objects: Eloquent Things

ALL | IN PERSON

**26, 27, 28 & 29 November 10:00 – 13:00**

In an increasingly virtual world, direct encounters with real objects have come to be regarded as important and versatile tools in University teaching across a wide range of disciplines. The Ashmolean has established itself as a pioneer of this exciting new pedagogy.

Eloquent Things is intended as an introduction to the principles and practice of teaching with objects and comprises four mornings in the study rooms and galleries of the Ashmolean Museum.

Using works of art and archaeological material gathered from the Ashmolean's extraordinary collections, we will discover methodologies that are also applicable to rare books, buildings, everyday objects or, indeed, any type of material culture. We will consider how you might collaborate with curatorial staff in museums, and the advantages and disadvantages of working in the Study Room with objects taken from storage or in the galleries looking at objects on display.

We will also explore how teaching with objects can offer new routes in to your own research; open up new ways of working with students in the classroom; or lead to inter- or multi-disciplinary forms of teaching.



# Presentation Delivery Skills

ALL | IN PERSON

*28 November 14:00 – 17:00*

This workshop goes far beyond surface-level advice, helping you uncover your unique presentation style and equipping you with practical tools for your next speaking engagement. We'll explore how to leverage internal and external resources to create impactful presentations, debunk public speaking myths, and examine the intellectual, emotional, and physical aspects of effective communication. Through memorable concepts and hands-on exercises, you'll gain a deeper understanding of live communication principles, empowering you to approach future presentations with confidence and skill.



# Advanced R Support Surgery

ALL | ONLINE

*29 November - times TBC*

Students can apply for a 45-minute consultation with Dr Peter Mitchell for support on issues they are having with their R code. This support is aimed at students who have completed Advanced R for Social Science Researchers, or similar courses offered by the university.



# RESEARCHER CONNECT SUPPORT

*ResearcherConnect events offer a more relaxed approach to your development journey, fostering a supportive community among peers. Under this theme we provide flexible, informal spaces for collaboration, problem-solving, and growth. Through DPhil 1:1 appointments, offered weekly in term time, you can tap into personalised guidance on any training or development needs, helping you navigate your unique path with confidence. And our online Co-Working Sessions, held Mondays and Fridays during term time, create a virtual environment for shared productivity and mutual support. Whether you're seeking advice, accountability, or simply a change of pace, ResearcherConnect is your go-to resource for building connections and enhancing your research experience in a less structured, more organic way.*

## Co-Working Sessions

ALL | ONLINE

*Mondays and Fridays during term, 09:30 - 12:30*

*Are you struggling with motivation and need some accountability?*

*Feeling isolated in your work and want some company and connection?*

*In search of some regular structure for your weeks?*

Step into our Co-Working sessions, online gatherings where focus and progress are at the heart of every session. Twice a week, join a senior DPhil student facilitator in a virtual space dedicated to advancing your academic work. It's not about discussions or feedback; it's about setting a rhythm for productivity alongside fellow researchers. Each session is an opportunity to work independently yet not alone, in solidarity with your peers. There's no pressure to share or critique—just the collective energy of concentration that inspires personal motivation. Whether you're ploughing through literature, planning data collection, or writing up your findings, the Co-Working Sessions are your scheduled appointment with progress: make them a core part of your weekly routine.

## DPhil 1:1 Appointments

DPHIL | ONLINE

*Fridays during term time, 14:00 - 15:00*

If you've got questions about training, or developing yourself as a researcher while you're in Oxford, this drop-in session is the very place to ask an expert! For answers, signposting, suggestions and valuable connections, book a slot, and let's have a chat.

# SSD Term Card Timetable

EVENT	TIME	DATE
Overseas Fieldwork Safety	09:30 - 13:00	23 October
Advanced R for Social Science Researchers	09:30 - 17:00	24 October
ChatGPT for Academics	09:30 - 17:00	25 October
Managing your Data in the Field	14:00 - 16:00	05 November
Introduction to Research Ethics at Oxford	14:00 - 15:00	06 November
Python for Social Science Researchers	09:30 - 17:00	08 November
Preparing for the Viva and DPhil Examination	14:00 - 16:00	11 November
Vicarious (secondary) Trauma Workshop	09:30 - 16:30	12 November
Quantitative Research for Qualitative Researchers	09:30 - 17:00	14 November
Insider Outsider Fieldworkers	14:00 - 16:00	19 November
Overseas Fieldwork Safety	09:30 - 13:00	20 November
Introduction to Learning and Teaching at Oxford - 1/2	09:30 - 12:00	26 November
Teaching with Museum Objects: Eloquent Things - 1/4	10:00 - 13:00	26 November
Teaching with Museum Objects: Eloquent Things - 2/4	10:00 - 13:00	27 November
Teaching with Museum Objects: Eloquent Things - 3/4	10:00 - 13:00	28 November
Presentation Delivery Skills	14:00 - 17:00	28 November
Teaching with Museum Objects: Eloquent Things - 4/4	10:00 - 13:00	29 November
Advanced R Support Surgery	TBC	29 November
Introduction to Learning and Teaching at Oxford - 2/2	09:30 - 12:00	04 December
Co-Working Sessions - Mondays and Fridays during term	09:30 - 12:30	
DPhil 1:1 Appointments - Fridays during term	14:00 - 15:00	



SCAN THE QR CODE TO VIEW ALL OF OUR WORKSHOPS AND EVENTS