



UNIVERSITY OF  
OXFORD



SOCIAL  
SCIENCES

# TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT FOR DPHIL STUDENTS & FTRS

SSD Researcher Development  
Programme - Trinity Term, 2026

# WELCOME TO TRINITY TERM 2026!

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.

This term we're particularly excited to introduce our new Introduction to Digital Methods stream- featuring an introductory session alongside dedicated workshopping session where you can explore cutting-edge approaches and apply them directly to your own research. Whether you're new to digital methods or looking to develop your existing skills, this is a fantastic opportunity to set your work apart.

And don't miss our Researcher Co-Working sessions - one of the most popular features of our programme. Running every Monday and Friday, 9:30-12:30 throughout term on Teams, these facilitated sessions use extended Pomodoro-style time blocks to help you build focused, productive beginnings and endings to your week. Sessions are facilitated by recent doctoral graduates who know exactly what it takes.

## HOW TO BOOK WORKSHOPS

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



Fieldwork



Research Methods



Ethics & Integrity



DPhil Milestones & Development



Academic Writing



Wellbeing



# 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.

## Introduction to Learning and Teaching at Oxford

DPHILS | ONLINE

*Part 1 - 19 May 11:00 - 12:30*

*Part 2 - 21 May 11:00 - 12:30*

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.

## Designing a Module

ALL | IN PERSON

*2 June 13:30 - 16:30*

*Are you keen to build your knowledge and skills in higher education teaching?*

*Are you unsure how to begin designing and delivering a module?*

This interactive workshop is intended to support you in your journey in higher education by providing you with an introduction to the main elements of module design and delivery.



TEACHING cont.

## Teaching with Objects - Eloquent Things

ALL | IN PERSON

*Part 1 - 9 June 10:00 - 13:00*

*Part 2 - 10 June 10:00 - 13:00*

*Part 3 - 11 June 10:00 - 13:00*

*Part 4 - 12 June 10:00 - 13:00*

Eloquent Things is a short course, comprising four mornings in the study rooms and galleries of the Ashmolean Museum, intended as a hands-on introduction to the principles and practice of teaching with objects.

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 relative advantages and disadvantages of study-room teaching, involving object handling, and gallery-based teaching looking at objects on display.

## Designing and Delivering a Lecture

ALL | IN PERSON

*9 June 13:30 - 16:30*

*Are you keen to teach?*

*Would you like some tips and advice on how to design and deliver a lecture? Do you feel you need to build your confidence as a lecturer?*

This interactive workshop is intended to support you in your journey to becoming a good and confident lecturer by providing you with an introduction to the main elements of effective lecture design and delivery.



# 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.

## Overseas Fieldwork Safety

DPHILS | IN PERSON

*13 May 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.



# 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.

## How to Write your Methodology Chapter

DPHILS | IN PERSON

*15 May 10:00– 16:00*

Too often, the methodology chapter in a DPhil thesis is one of the weakest parts of a manuscript. Too many DPhil students are confused about when and how to discuss such intimidating issues as ontology, epistemology, standpoint and ethics. Yet, if we know how to write well about our research designs and our methodological choices, it should not only impress examiners, but it could also open up a rich seam of additional publications and broaden the impact of your work across the social sciences and humanities. This workshop – taught by Patrick Brindle - is aimed at DPhil students of all levels, and acts as a practical guide to the basics of writing about methods. Drawing on good (and bad) examples throughout, and interspersed with hands-on exercises, the workshop serves as an introduction to an often thorny academic skill for anyone new or newish to research writing.

## Data Management in Practice Roundtable

DPHILS | IN PERSON

*26 May 14:00– 16:00*

This roundtable focuses on how researchers manage data in the context of their own projects, recognising that approaches vary widely across disciplines, methods, and research environments. Bringing together panellists at different career stages, the session offers an opportunity to hear how data management is handled in practice, from planning and organisation to longer-term storage and use.

Panellists will reflect on the practical decisions involved in working with different types of data, including how they organise and update materials, move between online and offline systems, and adapt their approaches as projects evolve. The discussion will also consider common challenges in managing data over time and how these are addressed in different research contexts.



## RESEARCH METHODS cont.

### Introducing and Workshopping Digital Methods

DPHILS | IN PERSON

*4 June & 11 June March 14:00 - 16:30*

This is two-part workshop with an introduction to digital research methods (part 1), including tools and resources (readings, links and useful guides), to help you navigate undertaking qualitative and ethnographic digital research with reference to your own research projects, as well as an opportunity (in part 2) to “workshop” use of digital research methods in the context of your own research projects.

### Advanced R for Social Science Researchers

DPHILS | IN PERSON

*5 June 09:30 – 16:45*

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).



# DPHIL MILESTONES & 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.

## Academic Life Management

ALL | ONLINE

*Part 1 - 13 May 12:30 – 13:00*

*Part 2 - 20 May 12:30 – 13:00*

*Part 3 - 27 May 12:30 – 13:00*

*Part 4 - 10 June 12:30 – 13:00*

*Part 5 - 17 June 12:30 – 13:00*

This five-session series cuts through academic overwhelm with practical systems that work for real researchers. We'll tackle the unique challenges of managing a multi-year project – from breaking down massive tasks into manageable chunks to building sustainable focus practices beyond caffeinated willpower

## Preparing for the Viva and DPhil examination

DPHILS | ONLINE

*18 May 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.



# DPHIL MILESTONES & DEVELOPMENT cont.

## The Research Funding Landscape DPhils

DPHILS | ONLINE

*2 June 11:00 - 12:00*

The session will give an overview of the current funding landscape for Social Sciences researchers with a focus on early career schemes.

The specificities of each funder, as well as their remit and scope will be addressed, giving students the occasion to learn more about the opportunities that will be available to them and to identify the funders best suited to their needs. This will help students make informed choices about their post-DPhil career trajectories.

## Using Open Practices in your Research

DPHILS | IN PERSON

*27 May 14:00 - 16:00*

'Open' can be a force multiplier for your field. Discover how openness can improve opportunities for collaboration and community, while increasing visibility and engagement and allowing for greater transparency and rigour to be applied to your work.

This course will explore key concepts around openness in the research cycle, look at its benefits and challenges, and equip you with a strong starting point for your own research practice.



# 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.

## Writing & Editing Books and Book chapters

ALL | IN-PERSON

*18 May 10:00 - 16:00*

This workshop provides DPhil students, early-career researchers and post-docs an introduction to the basics of writing and editing academic books and book chapters. The course takes a publisher's perspective throughout, and introduces participants to the huge changes that are radically changing academic publishing worldwide. A focus will be on using DPhil and Postdoc research as a means of generating viable book publications.

The course will cover the complete workflow of the process from deciding to write a book (or book chapter) through finding the best publisher, writing a proposal, working with a commissioning editor, writing and editing the manuscript and marketing the book after publication.

## Working Through Supervisor Feedback: A Simple, Repeatable Revision Process

DPHILS | ONLINE

*20 May 10:00 - 12:00*

Getting your chapters back covered in supervisor comments can feel like standing at the foot of a mountain with no clear path up.

*Where do you start? What matters most?*

*How do you stop the pile from becoming a wall you just can't face?*

This two-part online workshop introduces a simple, repeatable process for working through feedback in an organised, time-effective way - one specifically designed to interrupt overwhelm before it tips into paralysis.



## ACADEMIC WRITING cont.

# Academic Writing in Practice Roundtable

DPHILS | IN-PERSON

*21 May 14:00 - 16:00*

This roundtable explores academic writing as a lived and evolving practice. Bringing together panellists from different career stages and disciplinary backgrounds, the session offers an opportunity to hear how academic writers develop, sustain, and adapt their writing practices over time.

Drawing on panellists' own experiences, the discussion will focus on everyday writing practices, including how writing habits and routines develop across different stages of the doctorate and beyond, how momentum is maintained, and how uncertainty, interruption, and competing demands are navigated. The emphasis is on hearing how experienced researchers approach writing in practice, rather than on instruction or skills training.

## Academic Writing with AI

ALL | ONLINE

*Starting 28 May 10:00 - 12:00*

Academic Writing with AI provides a structured approach to integrating AI tools at each stage of the writing process for students of social science.

The course is delivered by Oxford's Academic Communication team, who are leading the University's work on writing with AI. This course takes a process-first view of academic writing in an AI-mediated world: how to plan, draft, revise and check your work with AI in ways that strengthen argument, clarity and style while aligning with Oxford guidance on academic practice.

## How to Write About Your Research for Publication

ALL | IN-PERSON

*15 June 10:00 - 16:00*

This workshop introduces the basics of writing for publication for DPhil students looking to publish for the first time.

The tutor – Patrick Brindle – takes a publishing-insider's perspective and examines how you can improve your research writing to improve the chances of being accepted for publication and then heighten the chance that your article, book chapter or research report will be read and cited by as wide and significant an audience as possible.



# 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.

## Introduction to Research Ethics at Oxford

DPHILS | ONLINE

*20 May 14:00 – 15:30*

This termly session delivered by the Research Ethics Manager for the Social Sciences and Humanities Divisions, will give attendees an overview of the research ethics review process at Oxford.

This session:

- Introduces the University's Research Ethics Policy and explains the requirements for ethics review;
- Gives an overview of the ethics application process;
- Introduces the principles of ethical research and encourages researchers to think about the practical implications of these for their own research;
- Provides tips for preparing an ethics application.



## 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.

### Vicarious [Secondary]Trauma Workshop

DPHILS | IN PERSON

*28 May 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.

It is particularly relevant to research contexts including conflict, genocide, natural disaster, domestic violence, imprisonment, sexual abuse, and displacement, but is open to anyone who feels it might be useful.

### The Mindfulness Toolkit: Boost Focus and Build Resilience

ALL | ONLINE

*17 June 14:00 - 16:00*

The Mindfulness Toolkit is designed to support doctoral students and researchers in developing cognitive skills that underpin sustained academic work.

At advanced levels of study, research performance depends not only on disciplinary expertise, but also on the ability to regulate attention, manage cognitive load, and recover effectively from periods of intensive intellectual effort.

These capacities contribute to the consistency, quality, and sustainability of a researcher's journey.

This evidence-based session provides structured, practical tools for working more effectively with attention and cognitive demand in research contexts.

# 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 DPhil1:1 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

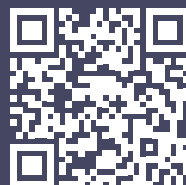
DPHIL | ONLINE

*Thursdays 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	13 May
Academic life management: finding systems that stick	12:30 - 13:00	Multi dates
How to Write your Methodology Chapter	10:00 - 16:00	15 May
Writing & Editing Books and Book Chapters	10:00 - 16:00	18 May
Preparing for the Viva and DPhil Examination	14:00 - 16:00	18 May
Introduction to Learning and Teaching at Oxford 1/2	11:00 - 12:30	19 May
Working Through Supervisor Feedback	10:00 - 12:00	20 May
Introduction to Research Ethics at Oxford	14:00 - 15:30	20 May
Introduction to Learning and Teaching at Oxford 2/2	11:00 - 12:30	21 May
Academic Writing in Practice Rountable	14:00 - 16:00	21 May
Data Management in Practice Rountable	14:00 - 15:00	26 May
Using Open Practices in your Research	14:00 - 16:00	27 May
Vicarious (secondary) Trauma Workshop	09:30 - 16:30	28 May
Academic Writing with AI	10:00 - 12:00	Multi
The Research Funding Landscape DPhils	11:00 - 12:00	2 June
Teaching - Designing a Module	13:30 - 16:30	2 June
Introducing and Workshopping Digital Methods 1/2	14:00 - 16:30	4 June
Advanced R for Social Science Researchers	09:30 - 16:45	5 June
Teaching - Designing and Delivering a Lecture	13:30 - 16:30	11 June
Teaching with Museum Objects: Eloquent Things	10:00 - 13:00	Multi
How to Write about your Research for Publication	10:00 - 16:00	15 June
The Mindfulness Toolkit: Boost Focus and Build Resilience	14:00 - 16:00	17 June
Co-Working Sessions - Mondays and Fridays during term	09:30 - 12:30	
DPhil 1:1 Appointments - Thursdays during term	14:00 - 15:00	



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