

Use the speech bubble post-it notes and take part in this interactive poster experience.

# Getting Started

## Beginning the Postgraduate Research Journey

What were the best sources of support for your postgraduate research?

Are there any reading materials you would recommend to prospective postgraduate students?

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### Transition

Students who are already engaged in postgraduate research are a valuable source of information on the transition from undergraduate to postgraduate education. This poster is designed to capture and share some of that expertise with the aim of supporting future students new to the postgraduate research journey.

Use the post it notes to write your suggestions for effective transition and stick them onto this poster. You might want to consider:

- What was the most important lesson you learned in your first year?
- What do you know now that you wish you'd known before you started?
- If you could have the time again, what would you do differently?
- What has been the best part of your research experience?

Write down your answers or any other suggestions you may have from your own experience.

Stick your post-it notes in the space below

### Internet information

The following websites may be of interest to prospective postgraduate students.

- The Open University's 'Open Learn' Postgraduate study skills in science, technology or mathematics' includes information on getting started and managing a PhD project <http://openlearn.open.ac.uk/mod/oucontent/view.php?id=398576>
- 'Vitaæ' is an online support network for research staff and postgraduate researchers <http://www.vitae.ac.uk/>
- 'Engage' is primarily for bioscience but has useful generic preparatory content. <http://www.engageinresearch.ac.uk>

Have you found any useful online support sites for postgraduate research? If so, share them here.

### References

Lefever, R. & Currant, B. (2010) *How can technology be used to improve the learner experience at points of transition?* <http://technologyenhancedlearning.net/files/2010/04/ELESIGliteraturereview/FINAL240210.pdf>

Phillips, E. M. and Pugh, D.S. (2005 4th Ed) *How to get a PhD*. OUP.

Watling, S. (2009). 'Getting Started': Pre-Induction Access to Higher Education. In T. Bastiaens et al. (Eds.), *Proceedings of World Conference on E-Learning in Corporate, Government, Healthcare, and Higher Education 2009* (pp. 2232-2235).

Yorke, M & Longden B (2008) *The first year experience of Higher Education in the UK: final report*. York: HEA. <http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/assets/york/documents/ourwork/research/surveys/FYEFYEFinalReport.pdf>

Getting Started...

Research shows first year undergraduate students who withdraw often cite the lack of appropriate preparation for study (Yorke and Longden 2008). At the University of Lincoln, the 'Getting Started' project has supported undergraduate students new to higher education through the provision of pre-enrolment access to preparatory materials on Blackboard. Evaluations show this eases the transition process and supports the early development of academic practice. 'Getting Started' has been identified nationally as an effective example of pre-entry support into higher education (Lefever and Currant 2010). Lessons learned from working with potential undergraduate students may be worth revisiting with the transition from undergraduate to postgraduate education in mind.

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