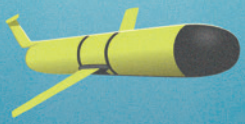

RESEARCHER TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MPLS Division Trinity Term 2025

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

MATHEMATICAL, PHYSICAL, ENGINEERING, COMPUTING AND LIFE SCIENCE

MPLS RESEARCHER TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT

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HOW TO BOOK

Researcher Training & Development Courses
Our courses this term are a mixture of online and in person.

- Click on the course titles in the online brochure which will take you to the course booking page.
- Visit www.mpls.ox.ac.uk/training and click on 'Course Bookings', which is a list of all upcoming courses sorted by date.

Most of our courses are booked via the Cosy booking system, but some may require application forms and / or deposits.

ED&I TRAINING PROGRAMME

Equality, diversity and inclusion courses take place online and are bookable via the ED&I web site.

www.mpls.ox.ac.uk/equality-diversity-and-inclusion-in-mpls/mpls-ed-i-training-programme

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

We also have a range of self-access online resources for DPhil students and research staff.

www.mpls.ox.ac.uk/training/resources-for-researcher-and-career-development

BROCHURE KEY

RS: research staff, post-docs or early career researchers.

DPhil: DPhil students or post-graduate researchers.

All: All researchers.

In Person *Online*

THE COVER

This term's cover is inspired by an interdisciplinary collaboration between the Department of Engineering & Department of Earth Science. The research, by Charlotte Reed, a second year DPhil student, will focus on the use of underwater gliders to autonomously investigate temperature anomalies in the North Sea, enhancing ocean climate models.

All photography by John Cairns Photography

Disclaimer: some courses may be changed from their advertised setting due to unforeseen circumstances.

COURSE *feedback*

MPLS Training and Development 2023/24 Academic Year

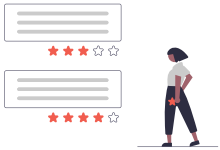
*Course Attendances**

1,763

**staff and students from any division*

Course Offered

94



Average Course Rating

87%

Participant Quotes

"THIS COURSE HELPED ME VIEW THE VIVA AS A POSITIVE EXPERIENCE."
Participant, Viva Practice and Preparation

"I APPRECIATE ALL OF THE DIFFERENT STRATEGIES AND A BETTER COMPREHENSION OF THE ... ISSUES BEHIND SOME ASPECTS."
Participant, Time Management

"THE INSIGHTS AND STRATEGIES SHARED IN THE COURSE WERE INCREDIBLY VALUABLE, ESPECIALLY THE PRACTICAL EXAMPLES AND PROJECT EXERCISES."
Participant, Project Management: The Essentials

"A PHENOMENAL PROGRAMME THAT ALLOWED ME TO ESTABLISH CONNECTIONS... AND EXPLORE DIFFERENT CAREER PATHWAYS."
DPhil, SeedWISE

"I FEEL THAT MANY THINGS HAVE BEEN DEMYSTIFIED ABOUT THIS WORK, SO MANY THANKS."
Participant, Podcast Your Science

RS

OPTIMISE YOUR TIME AT OXFORD

Wed 23rd April 12.00-14.00

Congratulations, you have got a research post at Oxford. But, what next? How do you manage your time at Oxford? This session looks at what being a post-doc means, what the opportunities and constraints are. It outlines the support available to help you make the most of your time at the University. You will hear from the Careers Service, Research Services, the Oxford Research Staff Society, and about Public Engagement & Impact, Research Integrity and Enterprise.

DPhil

THREE MINUTE THESIS TRAINING SESSION

Fri 25th April 13.00-15.00

The 3 Minute Thesis competition challenges doctoral candidates to present a compelling spoken presentation on their research topic and its significance in just three minutes to a non-specialist audience. This course helps you prepare for the competition and ensure that you have the best chance possible to represent Oxford nationally.

DPhil

SeedWISE

29th April 6th May 13th May 20th May 27th June 3rd June 9th June

SeedWISE is tailored specifically for women DPhil students who are working in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

Women are being urged to pursue careers in STEM subjects, where they often excel, but face a huge disparity in achieving success and leadership roles. SeedWISE has been developed to help address this challenge, bringing together women DPhil students from different STEM disciplines at the University of Oxford to meet with women working in industry and commerce, who face similar challenges. We work closely with industry to build mutual relationships, which aims to benefit women both working and studying in STEM roles.

All

AN INTRODUCTION TO ANTI-RACIST ALLYSHIP

Thur 1st May 10.30-11.30

We will look at the core concepts of anti-racist allyship including white fragility, white privilege and how our understanding of how these things play out can enable us to become better anti-racist allies.

DPhil

THESIS AND REPORT WRITING

Tue 6th May 09.30-13.30

This course covers methods of managing and controlling the process of thesis and report writing, as well as meeting deadlines. It also discusses the principles and practice of high-quality scholarly writing.

RS

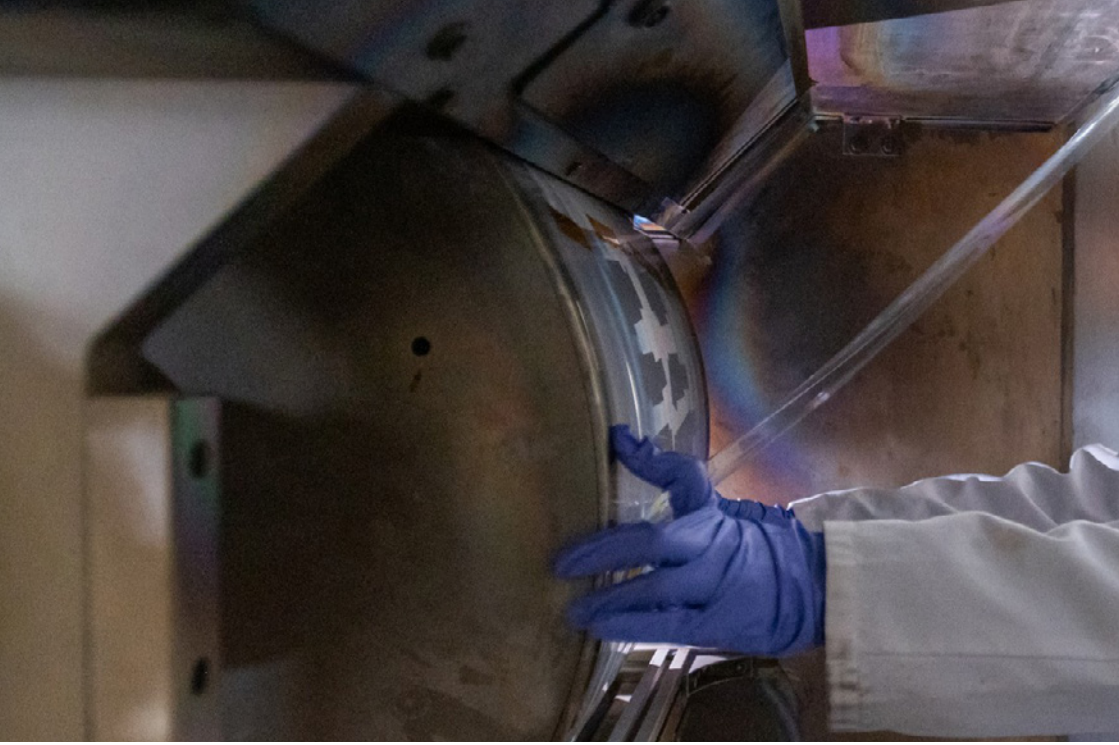
GET THAT FELLOWSHIP

Wed 7th May 09.30-12.30

This session will help you to understand the do's and don'ts of fellowship application. It will guide you through the process and explain the support that is available. A holder of a research fellowship will discuss their application experience.

By the end of this session you will understand more about:

- What experience and characteristics you need to have to gain a fellowship.
- The application process.
- How to work with University's systems and procedures to optimise your application and its chance of success.
- You will also have an opportunity to practice interviewing/being interviewed for fellowship applications.



All

HANDS-ON SCIENCE ENGAGEMENT

Thur 8th May 13.00-16.00

Dive into the world of experiential learning with our immersive course, 'Hands-On Science.' This programme is designed to equip you with the practical skills and insights needed to effectively communicate your research through engaging desktop activities.

Uncover the art of facilitating interactive science demonstrations that captivate and educate. Learn the pivotal elements of event design and planning specifically tailored for public engagement activities.

By the end of this course, you'll not only have a repertoire of engaging activities at your disposal, but you'll also possess the skills to thoughtfully design, execute, and adapt events that leave lasting impressions.

RS

INNOVATION AND LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME

12th, 14th, 16th & 23rd May

Deadline to Apply is 5th May

This 4-module core course provides a blend of online materials, presentations and small group discussion sessions, and aims to give new lecturers, associate professors and senior independent research fellows enhanced skills and confidence in innovation leadership, managing stakeholders and teams, communication and more. Please note there will be some small group working in the period between the sessions.

All

TELLING STORIES THAT MATTER

Thur 15th May 10.00-13.00

Discover what elements of storytelling and narrative can be used to enhance a profession in the sciences. Craft compelling and moving stories from your experiences as a scientist using these key story elements: • Character • Conflict • Structure • Description

Apply these storytelling and narrative skills to working in the science:

- Communicating research to a range of audiences (including publics, media and funding bodies).
- Enhancing presentation skills.
- Telling scientific stories across a range of media.

Robert Holtom is a professional storyteller and consultant who has worked with a range of organisations to help them refine and hone their stories for a variety of audiences.

focus on MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK

All

DIFFICULT CONVERSATIONS AND THE IMPORTANCE OF GIVING AND RECEIVING FEEDBACK

Mon 12th May ***11.00-12.00***

Join this session with the MPLS Resolution Service to master the art of giving and receiving feedback. Learn practical steps to confidently handle difficult conversations, enhancing your leadership skills. Open to all and ideal for managers, group leaders, and supervisors aiming to foster a positive, productive work environment.

All

EXPLORING AND OVERCOMING IMPOSTER PHENOMENON

Tues 13th May ***09.30-12.30***

Join Dr. Tracy Bussoli for an insightful and empowering session that delves into imposter phenomenon (IP), helping you understand and conquer feelings of self-doubt and insecurity.

Gain insights into what Imposter Phenomenon is and why you might experience it.

Explore how experiencing IP can affect various aspects of your life and career.

Identify practical approaches to manage feelings of self-doubt and IP effectively.

All

CULTIVATING RESILIENCE AND SELF-CARE FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

Tues 13th May ***10.30-11.30***

This session offers practical strategies to enhance personal well-being and support those around you. Learn to thrive in challenging times with effective self-care techniques.

All

BEING AN EFFECTIVE BYSTANDER

Thurs 15th May ***13.30-14.30***

Learn how to confidently challenge behaviours and practices that disadvantage staff and students. This interactive workshop will enable you to create a safer, more inclusive environment. Ideal for all staff and students committed to positive change.

All

GROW: CREATING COMPELLING NARRATIVES THAT PERSUADE AND SUCCEED

Tue 20th May ***12.00-14.00***

Join us for an interactive in-person session with Roger Frosh, an expert in strategic communication and engagement. With experience working across academia, industry, and start-ups, Roger will share practical approaches to help researchers present their ideas clearly, connect with diverse audiences, and maximise the impact of their work.

All

RESEARCH DATA MANAGEMENT

Tue 20th May ***12.30-14.00***

Research data is often at the heart of scientific projects, it's what you spend hours in the lab generating or in the field collecting. It forms the basis of your analysis and underpins your arguments in papers and theses. But how often do you consider how you're managing this vital resource? Is your data secure and backed up? How can you demonstrate its integrity if challenged? Could your research make a greater impact by sharing data? What happens to your hard-won data when your project ends?

Research Data Management (RDM) considers these questions and more. In this session we introduce RDM and the practical skill of developing Data Management Plans to manage your own data successfully.

All

ADVANCED PRESENTATION SKILLS

Wed 21st May ***09.30-12.30***

You will learn how to read a group, deal with difficult situations, use humour, match your presentation to the audience, and make impact. You will learn how to get your message across, so it is remembered. You will learn about timing and when you should deliver key messages. You will develop your self-awareness and understand its role in presenting.

All

SCIENTIFIC WRITING: CORE SKILLS

Thur 22nd May 09.30-17.00

This one-day course provides a sound grounding in the core skills needed to produce accurate and effective scientific writing. The course will include:

- **Critique of readability in relevant papers.**
- **Use of tenses in academic papers.**
- **Writing with impact.**
- **Concise writing.**
- **Grammar and proofreading.**
- **Scientific table and chart technique.**

All

INTRODUCTION TO PRESENTATION SKILLS

Tue 27th May 09.30-12.30

The course will cover the key principles of planning and delivering a successful talk, and help to build your confidence. Each subject area in the MPLS Division has its own specific requirements for research presentations. Please note that this course does not seek to address these.

RS

GET THAT FELLOWSHIP

Tue 27th May **09.30-12.30**

This session will help you to understand the do's and don'ts of fellowship application. It will guide you through the process and explain the support that is available. A holder of a research fellowship will discuss their application experience.

By the end of this session you will understand more about:

- What experience and characteristics you need to have to gain a fellowship.
- The application process.
- How to work with University's systems and procedures to optimise your application and its chance of success.
- You will also have an opportunity to practice interviewing/being interviewed for fellowship applications.

All

PROJECT MANAGEMENT: THE ESSENTIALS

Wed 28th May **09.30-16.00**

During the course you will have the opportunity to manage a project. You will be able to apply the techniques you learn to a project that you bring along. Topics covered: project initiation, managing stakeholders and risk, time estimation, planning.

By the end of this session you will understand more about:

- The importance of planning.
- The tools to make project management succeed.
- How to estimate the time a project will take realistically.
- The skills you need to be a good project manager.

All

COACHING SKILLS FOR LEADERS

Wed 28th May 13.30-17.00

Coaching is a highly impactful approach to people development and can support individuals to identify goals, gain insights into challenges, consider options and plan actions. Coaching skills are a valuable asset to leaders and managers and can be useful in a range of workplace conversations, such as feedback, delegation and career development reviews. This workshop will introduce key coaching concepts, approaches and skills. We will explore when and how coaching skills can be used to support effective leadership and management practice. Participants will take part in a practice coaching conversation using real-life examples, topics and challenges.

All

PUTTING STORIES TO WORK

Thur 29th May 10.00-13.00

This session builds on the introductory workshop Telling Stories that Matter and introduces new elements of great storytelling including metaphor, clarity and message. This highly interactive workshop will be based around an example of writing an explainer or news article for the wider, non-specialist public website.

It is highly recommended that you will have already attended the introductory workshop, or equivalent introductory workshops on storytelling. Brief reading material will be provided to ensure you are up to date with the fundamentals of storytelling that are the basis of this workshop.

All

SCIENTIFIC WRITING: GETTING YOUR PAPER PUBLISHED

Tue 3rd June, 09.30 - 17.00

This course will look at the aspects you need to consider when constructing your paper, and show you what they really want. You will learn how to choose the best journal for your work, negotiate the peer review process and deal with reviewer comments.

The course will cover:

- Why publish and how that affects how you publish.
- The structure of a paper.
- What to include in the title and abstract.
- Open access.
- Impact metrics and citations.
- Ways to get published more quickly.
- Publicising your paper once it is published.

All

THE IMPORTANCE OF PSYCHOLOGICAL SAFETY

Tue 3rd June, 10:30 - 11:30

This course equips managers, team leaders, and supervisors with the skills to foster psychological safety—ensuring employees feel safe to speak up, take risks, and collaborate effectively. Learn practical strategies to build trust, encourage open communication, and create a supportive culture that drives engagement, innovation, and high-performance teamwork.

All

GROW - HOW AI IS CHANGING INDUSTRY FUTURES

Wed 4th June 12.30-14.00

The event will bring together industry experts to explore how AI is reshaping businesses, from start-ups to large corporations. The session will focus on the current impact of AI across various industries, emerging trends, and critical safety considerations in AI development and deployment.

All

INTERVIEWING FOR PODCASTS

Thur 5th June 09.30-12.30

You are behind the mic, ready to record your first podcast ... but wait! What do you ask? This hands-on training session helps you navigate the world of podcast interviews. The session will cover preparing for interviews, creating a question line, finding your authentic voice and active listening.

Participants will be paired up and asked to conduct short interviews with a fellow participant which will be recorded over Zoom. As a group we'll listen back to them and workshop the interviews for constructive feedback.

This course is aimed at anyone looking at working on interviewing skills as a presenter but is also useful to those asked to be a guest on a podcast.

All

TIME MANAGEMENT

Tue 10th June 10.00-12.00

An essential skill for researchers. Issues covered will include work- life balance, planning, prioritising, the need to differentiate between importance and urgency, and using a range of strategies and time- saving ideas.

DPhil

YOU AND YOUR SUPERVISOR

Tue 10th June 14.00-17.00

The supervisory relationship is key to the success of your DPhil, and we know that positive and effective relationships contribute to the timely completion of the doctorate.

As with many things, the more you put into the relationship with your supervisor, the more you will benefit from it.

Join Dr Emma Williams for this course which will provide information and introduce strategies to enable you to develop an effective working relationship with your supervisor

RS

GETTING STARTED IN POLICY ENGAGEMENT

Wed 11th June 10.00-12.00

This introductory session, tailored to those new to policy engagement, is designed to support MPLS researchers, DPhil students, and professional services staff, in transforming their motivations for impact into a structured understanding of how to get started in academic-policy engagement.

By the end of this session you will have:

- A better understanding of the differences between policy influence, impact, and engagement.
- An enhanced understanding of the policy process at different levels of government (local, regional, national and international).
- An increased awareness of practical tools and strategies to start creating a policy engagement plan.

DPhil

COMPLETING YOUR DPHIL

Wed 11th June 14.00-17.00

The session will cover:

- What makes a good DPhil.
- Planning to write up your DPhil., structure, content and what makes good writing.
- What the viva will explore.
- What the examiners are asked to consider.
- Time Management, FAQs and Q&A.

All

PODCAST YOUR SCIENCE

12th June 09.30-16.30

From inception to publication; this practical session delivered by Emily Elias, journalist and producer of the Oxford Sparks podcast series, is a whirlwind tour through the basics of how to share your research in an engaging manner through podcasting. The session will introduce approaches to podcasting, present inspiration from a range of different podcast styles, and take you step-by-step through the basic technical skills of recording, editing and publishing audio files; you'll have the chance to develop an idea and have a go recording it with support and feedback during the day.

All

IDEAS TO ACTION: EFFECTIVE PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT WITH RESEARCH

Thur 12th June 13.00-16.00

Ready to bring your engagement idea to life? This 3-hour session is tailored to those looking to explore evidence-based strategies for designing activities/events, apply for PER funding, or get practical tips for organising an activity.

All

NETWORKING - A STRATEGIC APPROACH

Wed 18th June 09.30-15.00

Being at Oxford provides you with an amazing opportunity to meet a wide range of extraordinary people who could help you and who you could help. This session will enable you to develop this important skill, which will: help you make contacts; discover opportunities; open doors; and speak to the right people. It will also enable you to devise a strategic approach to networking which can have lifetime benefits for you.

All

GETTING STARTED WITH PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT WITH RESEARCH

Thur 19th June 11.00-12.00

Engagement describes the ways in which we can share our research and its value by interacting with wider public audiences, generating mutual benefit.

In this introductory session tailored to those new to engagement, we look at what public engagement is and some of the reasons why you might want to do it. We'll highlight the multitude of different approaches you can take and provide tips on getting started and where to get support.

RS

LEADERSHIP IN ACTION

24th, 25th & 26th June 09.00-17.00

Leadership in Action provides the opportunity for you to explore what leadership is, look at some leadership theory, and identify and develop your own leadership style. You will also be able to meet and work with people from other departments and divisions. The course takes a very practical and experiential approach; this means there will be presentations on leadership theory, but for the most part you will actively participate in sessions and activities.

MPLS TIMETABLE TRINITY TERM

DATE	TIME	COURSE TITLE	TYPE	FOR
Wed 23rd April	12.00-14.00	Optimise Your Time at Oxford	In Person	RS
Fri 25th April	13.00-15.00	3MT Training Session	In Person	DPhil
Tue 29th April	16.00-17.00	SeedWISE Induction	Online	DPhil
Thur 1st May	10.30-11.30	An introduction to Anti-Racist Allyship	Online	All
Tue 6th May	09.30-13.30	Thesis & Report Writing	In Person	All
Tue 6th May	14.00-17.00	SeedWISE 1	In Person	DPhil
Wed 7th May	09.30-12.30	Get that Fellowship	In Person	RS
Thur 8th May	13.00-16.00	Hands-on Science Engagement	In Person	All
Mon 12th May	10.00-13.00	Innovation & Leadership Programme 1	In Person	RS
Mon 12th May	11.00-12.00	Difficult Conversations and the Importance of Giving and Receiving Feedback	Online	All
Tue 13th May	09.30-12.30	Exploring and Overcoming Imposter Phenomenon	In Person	All
Tue 13th May	10.30-11.30	Cultivating Resilience and Self-Care for Ourselves and Others	Online	All
Tue 13th May	16.00-17.30	SeedWISE 2	Online	DPhil
Wed 14th May	10.00-14.00	Innovation & Leadership Programme 2	Online	RS
Thur 15th May	10.00-13.00	Telling Stories that Matter	Online	All
Thur 15th May	13.30-14.30	Being an Effective Bystander	Online	All
Fri 16th May	10.00-13.00	Innovation & Leadership Programme 3	Online	RS
Tue 20th May	12.00-14.00	GROW: Creating Compelling Narratives that Persuade and Succeed	In Person	All
Tue 20th May	12.30-14.00	Research Data Management	In Person	All
Tue 20th May	16.00-17.30	SeedWISE 3	Online	DPhil
Wed 21st May	09.30-12.30	Advanced Presentation Skills	In Person	All
Thur 22nd May	09.30-17.00	Scientific Writing: Core Skills	In Person	All
Wed 23rd May	10.00-16.00	Innovation & Leadership Programme 4	In Person	RS
Tue 27 May	09.30-12.30	Introduction to Presentation Skills	In Person	All
Tue 27th May	09.30-12.30	Get that Fellowship	In Person	RS
Tue 27th May	16.00-17.30	SeedWISE 4	Online	DPhil
Wed 28th May	09.30-16.00	Project Management: The Essentials	In Person	All
Wed 28th May	13.00-17.00	Coaching Skills for Leaders	In Person	RS
Thur 29th May	10.00-13.00	Putting Stories to Work	Online	All
Tue 3rd June	09.30-17.00	Scientific Writing: Getting your Paper Published	In Person	All
Tue 3rd June	10.30-11.30	The Importance of Psychological Safety	Online	All
Tue 3rd June	16.00-17.30	SeedWISE 5	Online	DPhil
Wed 4th June	12.30-14.00	GROW: How AI is Changing Industry Futures	Online	All
Thur 5th June	09.30-12.30	Interviewing for Podcasts	Online	All
Mon 9th June	14.00-17.00	SeedWISE 6	In Person	DPhil
Tue 10th June	10.00-12.00	Time Management	Online	All
Tue 10th June	14.00-17.00	You and Your Supervisor	In Person	DPhil
Wed 11th June	10.00-12.00	Getting Started in Policy Engagement	In Person	RS
Wed 11th June	14.00-17.00	Completing your Dphil	In Person	DPhil
Thur 12th June	09.30-16.30	Podcast Your Science	In Person	All
Thur 12th June	13.00-16.00	Ideas to Action: Effective Public Engagement with Research	Online	All
Wed 18th June	09.30-15.00	Networking - a Strategic Approach	In Person	All
Thur 19th June	11.00-12.00	Getting Started with Public Engagement with Research	Online	All
24th/25th/26th June	09.00-17.00	Leadership in Action	In Person	RS

KEY

RS: research staff, post-docs or early career researchers.
DPhil: DPhil students or post-graduate researchers. *All:* All researchers.

In Person *Online*