

A week's online course to enable part-time or off-campus PhD candidates to stay on track.

Personal tutor: John Wakeford, Missenden Centre

The course comprises seven days availability of an on-line tutor-led discussion of the main challenges for UK doctoral students – particularly those working off-campus for much of their time and probably at an early stage of their degree.

It will be assumed that specialist academic advice and guidance are being provided by supervisory teams at the university. Most other aspects of the doctoral process can be raised on this course.

At registration each participant will be invited to submit to the tutor:

1. PhD discipline and topic
2. Year of study
3. Special requirement and issues to be covered

John will invite those enrolled to join a google docs page for seven days 'chat-room' style discussion.

All communications and materials will be sent by email and communications dealt with in confidence. Participants may choose to use home rather than institutional email address.

Materials required

1. PC/laptop with good internet connection
2. Access to the candidate's university doctoral handbook and regulations
3. Access to Angel Productions [research student videos](#). (Once you have registered, Angel Productions will advise whether your university provides you with access to the necessary videos - and if it does not, Angel Productions will provide you with temporary personal access to the videos for the duration of the course, at no additional charge.)

Estimated hours of work

Advance preparation: 2 hours

Over 7 days: about 10 – 12 hours minimum at times convenient to the candidate. But no limit for those wanting to spend more time than this

The course will be problem-based and entirely interactive, using genuine anonymous first-hand narratives written by candidates and supervisors.

Indicative list of topics

- The features and commitments of full- and part-time doctorates in the UK
- The basic rules and expectations of the UK doctorate
- Your rights
- Finding out what work you will have to produce
- How to ensure your work is good enough to pass
- Setting up and sustaining effective supervisory relationships at a distance
- Reconciling academic and other commitments
- Balancing study, work, family and other obligations
- Considering taking on teaching duties
- Financial, project and time management to ensure completion on time
- 'No battle plan survives contact with the enemy' Prussian general
- Addressing common problems of part-time and off-campus study
- Conference attendance and publication
- Networking
- Examination and viva

A final session will include personal action planning and evaluation of the course.

Enquiries John Wakeford
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