

## Fathi's research support

Dear Mr. Wakeford

I would like to thank you for very informative and attractive workshop last Friday at my university. Really it was amazing and included a lot of new ideas that all students should look for and find answers before (they) join any PG program.

I asked you during the workshop and you told me to send email regarding my question: How can we get a fund for our lab?

I am working with very nice and helpful supervisor, but the problem coming up is that there are not enough budgets for lab maintenance. I am new PhD student (self-funded) and I like my project but I am afraid from delay in working due to no working tools or may I need to wait long time till I can work on experiment.

Moreover, I don't know what we can do if we have more technical problems in my lab in the future, especially we are four students sharing same lab. and there may be more students in the way.

You remember when you asked this question to the panel of supervisors at the workshop, the answer was we are looking for budgets from different sides. I don't know when they get this support.

Thanks

Sincerely

Fathi

**Q: how would you respond to Fathi's question?**

Hi Fathi,

By offering you a place to work on a phd on a particular topic, the University is committing itself to providing sufficient support and adequate facilities in time for you to carry this out. You have the right to these.

I suggest that together with your supervisors you draw up a list of what are the resources essential for you to carry out the research. They should then apply to the university to supply what is necessary - with a reasonable deadline so that your work is not delayed. If they are not received, you have grounds - which your supervisors should support - for a formal complaint to the University (possibly via the Dean). You must not let the University try to wriggle out of this responsibility. Shortage of money is not your concern. If you can join with other postgraduates affected by the same problem, this will ensure you get what is needed.

Let me know what you do and the response. You can share this email with your supervisors if you like.

Best wishes

John

**Q: discuss John's reply. How would you have responded?**

Dear Mr Wakeford

Thanks again for your interesting (advice)

Regarding the funding, my supervisor got some funds for instruments. As I told you, he is very active and helpful man.

Ok, you can use the question without mentioned my name or school (anonymous).

Best regards

Fathi

**Team task**

**What lessons are there here for**

- 1. Postgraduate students**
- 2. Supervisors, and**
- 3. Institutions?**