

Advice from the Industrial supervisor of a PhD student who completed early

Doing a PhD should be approached in the same way as running a project:

1. Be clear what the deliverables are
2. Understand the breakdown of the tasks needed to create the deliverables. Included in the tasks would be research time
3. Put a plan together, showing the estimated time for each task and the dependencies i.e. some tasks can be done in parallel, but there will be some which have to complete before the next can start
4. Build in contingency time to allow for unplanned events
5. Track yourself to the timeline, if you over run on one task you will need to find somewhere in the plan where you can recover the lost time
6. Keep focussed on the deliverables, an avenue of research may be interesting but if it's not going to support your deliverables don't waste your time because you will have to make it up elsewhere
7. Having somebody you need to report to on your progress will help you make sure you stay on track

With best regards,
Michael Wilson
Head of Materials Management
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