

How to get a PhD

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Heriot Watt University and Maxwell Institute

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- take responsibility for your progress

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- be **literate** with **adequate references**.

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- There will be an oral **viva voce** examination (2-3 hours typically, but no time limit in practice)

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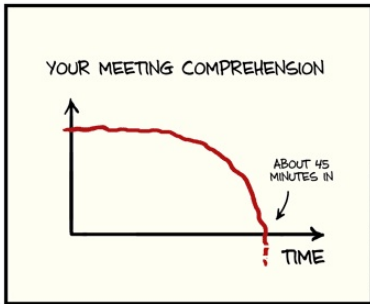
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- Be honest about your progress.
- Remember: it is YOUR project - your supervisor is there to mentor you. Take ownership of your project - and be curious!



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- Each of you will have a unique relationship with your supervisor.

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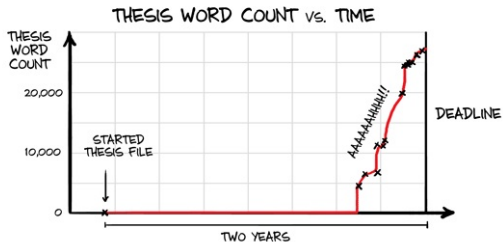
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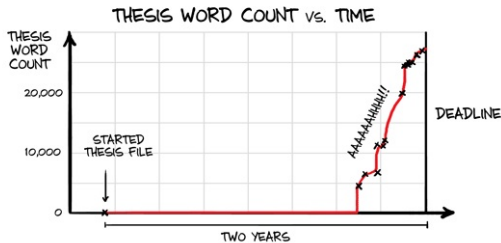
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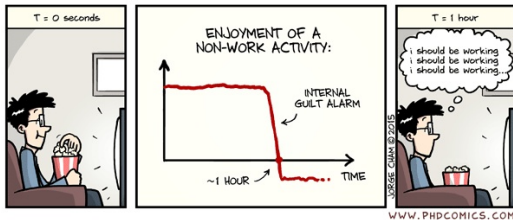
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- You will have to deal with getting a good work-life balance.



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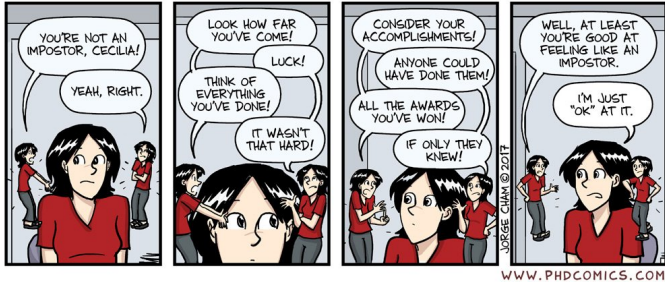
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- Ask questions



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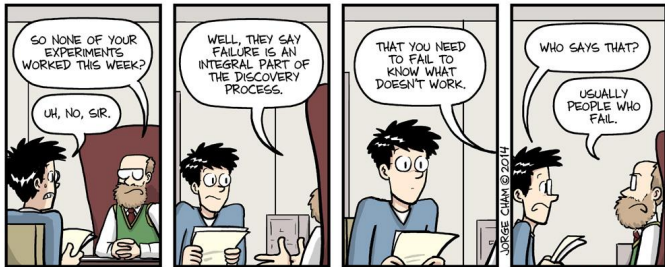
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- Volunteer for teaching - this will help you in the growth of your academic standing

Your environment

You are part of what makes your research/work environment, so...contribute to make it better!

- ▶ Equality and Diversity Events - Gender/Ethnicity/Neurodiversity
- ▶ Ethics in science - AI is not the only field raising ethical concerns

Ingressive vs Congressive personalities

- ▶ competitive vs collaborative
- ▶ focus on self, like winning vs focus on community
- ▶ like to be thought smart vs don't like to be thought stupid
- ▶ like solving problems vs like finding structures/connections
- ▶ like maths competitions vs like maths festivals
- ▶ Like traditional lectures vs prefer projects
- ▶ Right/wrong vs nuances

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