TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT FOR DPHIL STUDENTS & FTRS

Trinity Term Card, 2025

WELCOME TO TRINTY TERM 2025!

Trinity brings the welcome arrival of spring - longer days, warmer weather, and Oxford coming into green - making it the perfect time to prepare for the next phase of your research journey.

We're delighted to present our term programme, thoughtfully designed to help you reflect on your progress and plan strategically for what comes next. As the academic year approaches its conclusion, these sessions provide valuable opportunities to consolidate your learning, refine your methods, and map out your summer research activities.

Be sure to explore our ResearcherConnect events on page 13, which continue to provide valuable peer support, focused writing sessions, and expert guidance. Whether you're completing a milestone, preparing for fieldwork, or planning your writing schedule for the months ahead, our community is here to support your success. Each session represents an opportunity to strengthen your capabilities while building connections with fellow researchers across disciplines.

We encourage you to take full advantage of this diverse programme throughout Trinity. Your development as a researcher remains our priority: let's harness the energy of the season to propel your work forward!

HOW TO BOOK

Click on the workshop titles in the online brochure which will take you to the booking page, or scan the QR code below.

CONTACTS

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OTHER TRAINING PROVIDERS

Bodleian Libraries iSkills

IT Learning Centre

Oxford University Language Centre

The Careers Service

THEMES KEY

- Teaching
- Research Methods
- Fieldwork
- Ethics & Integrity
- DPhil Milestones & Development
- Academic Writing
- Wellbeing
- Communication

THEMES

Teaching

Developing teaching skills is crucial for your academic journey and beyond. Whether you're aiming for a career in academia or considering other paths, the ability to convey complex ideas clearly and engage diverse audiences is invaluable. Our teaching theme offers innovative pedagogical techniques, guidance on designing effective curricula, and opportunities to boost your confidence in the classroom. These skills can enhance your academic profile and translate well into various professional settings, potentially making you a more versatile and sought-after candidate in any field.

Fieldwork

Fieldwork is often where theory meets practice, offering unique challenges and opportunities. Our Fieldwork theme prepares researchers for the realities of conducting studies in diverse settings, from remote locations to urban environments. Essential skills training in data collection, cultural sensitivity, safety and adapting to unexpected situations are on offer. These experiences can not only enrich your research but also cultivate your adaptability, problem-solving, and intercultural competence - qualities highly valued in academia and beyond.

Research Methods

A solid grounding in research methods is the cornerstone of impactful scholarship. Our Research Methods theme offers a deep dive into both established and cutting-edge methodologies relevant to social sciences. Explore quantitative and qualitative approaches, data analysis techniques, and emerging tools in digital research. This comprehensive understanding can not only strengthen your academic work but also equip you with highly transferable analytical and problem-solving skills prized across various sectors, from policy-making to industry research.

Ethics & Integrity

In today's complex research landscape, understanding and upholding ethical standards is more important than ever. Our Ethics and Research Integrity theme explores the world of responsible research practices, data management, and ethical decision-making. Participants can explore real-world scenarios, discuss emerging ethical challenges in their field, and develop a robust ethical framework for their work. This knowledge not only safeguards the integrity of your research but also enhances your credibility as a scholar and prepares you for leadership roles where ethical considerations are paramount.

THEMES

DPhil Milestones & Development

Navigating the DPhil journey can be daunting, but our Milestones theme is designed to guide you through each crucial stage. From proposal writing to viva preparation, this theme offers insights into what's expected and how to excel at each milestone. Gain valuable perspectives on time management, project planning, and strategies for overcoming common hurdles. This theme not only demystifies the DPhil process but also offers transferable skills in project management and goal-setting that can serve well in any future career path.

Wellbeing

Mental and physical well-being forms the foundation of academic success and personal fulfillment. Our Well-being theme presents practical strategies for maintaining balance, managing stress, and fostering resilience in the face of academic pressures. Learn about techniques for mindfulness, time management, and self-care that can be applied throughout your career. By prioritizing well-being, you can potentially enhance academic performance and develop lifelong skills for maintaining a healthy work-life balance in any professional setting.

Academic Writing

Mastering academic writing is essential for sharing your research with the world. Our Academic Writing theme offers a comprehensive approach to developing your scholarly voice. From crafting compelling arguments to navigating the publication process, gain insights that can elevate writing to new heights. These skills extend far beyond academia, enhancing the ability to produce clear, persuasive content in any professional context - a valuable asset in today's information-driven world.

Communication

In today's interconnected world, the ability to communicate your research effectively is paramount. Our Communication theme goes beyond academic writing, focusing on diverse forms of engagement with various audiences. Hone skills in public speaking, digital communication, and research dissemination through both traditional and innovative channels. These competencies can amplify the impact of your research and potentially open doors to exciting opportunities in research communication, policy advising, and thought leadership.

WORKSHOPS

Mindfulness Based Cognitive Therapy for Life (MBCT-L)

ALL | ONLINE

5 May to 23 June, 19:00 – 21:15

Mindfulness is an evidence-based, secular and effective means of alleviating stress, anxiety and depression, and promoting well-being, flourishing, and resilience. In these times of ongoing uncertainty and additional stress, it can be a useful skill to develop. To enable widest possible access, the course will be taught entirely on Zoom.

Python for Social Science Researchers

ALL | IN PERSON

8 May, 09:30 – 17:00

The course is designed to help you develop skills and understanding relating to the analysis and reporting of qualitative data. The structure of the course reflects the issues and challenges that students have faced using qualitative data in their research, is quite practical and highly discursive in nature.

ChatGPT for Academics

ALL | IN PERSON

9 May, 09:30 – 17:00

This is a practical course aimed at increasing participants' comfort with ChatGPT, giving them tips and tricks for effective usage, practising the variety of use cases within academic research and helping everyone along on their ChatGPT journey.

How to Write your Methodolgy Chapter

ALL | IN PERSON

12 May, 10:00 – 16:00

23 May, 10:00 - 16:00

The goal of the workshop is to break all of the tasks facing you as a methodology writer into practical writing challenges.

Digital Methods for Research in the Social Sciences

ALL | ONLINE

14 May to 19 June 15:30 – 17:00

This module explores issues and methods involved in conducing qualitative and/ or ethnographic research in the social sciences related to the digital.
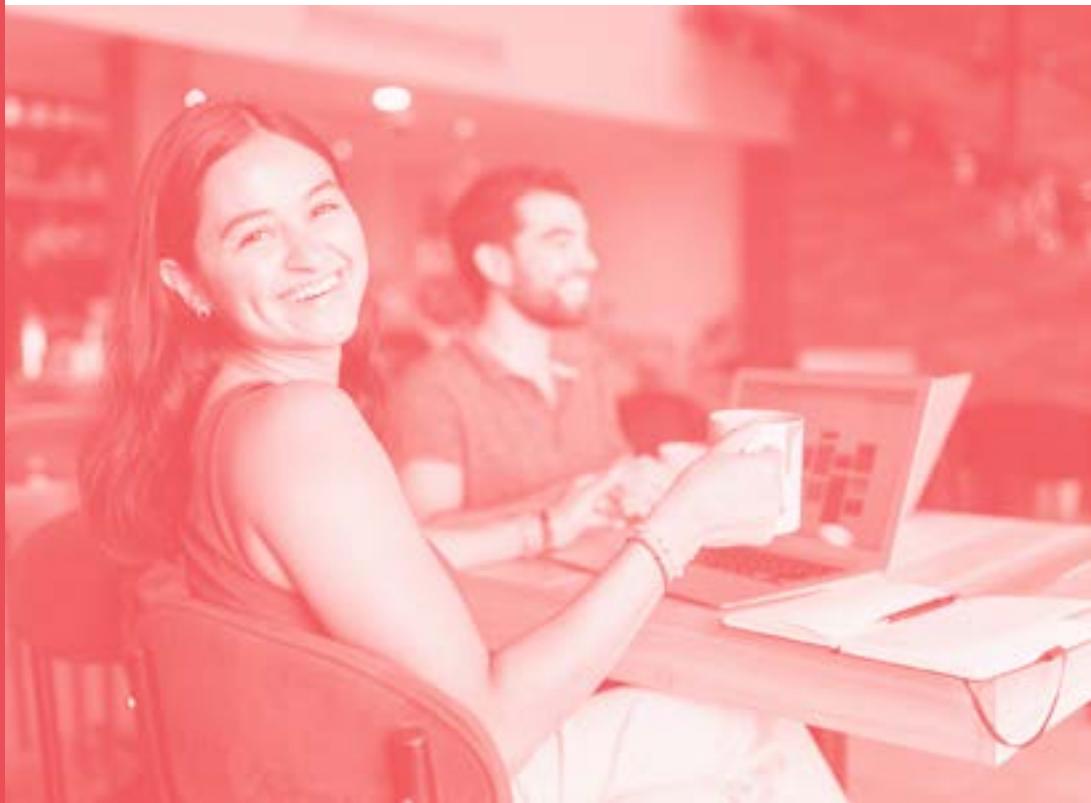
How to Write about your Research for Publication

ALL | IN PERSON

19 May, 10:00 – 16:00

This workshop introduces the basics of writing for publication for DPhil students looking to publish for the first time.

Preparing for your Viva
DPHILS | ONLINE

19 May, 14:00 – 16:00

This workshop, designed for those who have submitted their thesis and anticipate their viva within three months, combines pre-reading with interactive sessions to demystify the viva process.

Introduction to Research Ethics at Oxford
DPHILS | ONLINE

21 May, 14:00 – 15:00

This termly session will give attendees an overview of the research ethics review process at Oxford. The trainer will also give you top tips on how to write good research ethics applications.

Making the Most of Supervisory Meetings
DPHILS | IN PERSON

22 May, 15:00 – 17:00

This panel brings together experienced doctoral students to share strategies for making supervisory meetings more effective and rewarding.

Vicarious [Secondary] Trauma Workshop

ALL | IN PERSON

29 May, 09:30 – 16:30

The Vicarious Trauma Workshop is designed for researchers whose work engages them with the traumatic experiences of others. It aims to help researchers reduce the risk of vicarious traumatisation and manage the exceptional emotional demands this kind of research can place on them.

Writing & Editing Books and Book Chapters

ALL | IN PERSON

2 June, 10:00 – 16:00

This workshop provides DPhil students, early-career researchers and post-docs an introduction to the basics of writing and editing academic books and book chapters. The course takes a publisher's perspective throughout, and introduces participants to the huge changes that are radically changing academic publishing worldwide. A focus will be on using DPhil and Postdoc research as a means of generating viable book publications.

DPhil Writing Workshop

ALL | IN PERSON

3 June, 09:30 – 12:00

Use Reverse Outlining

Reverse outlining is a powerful tool for ensuring your writing is well-structured and comprehensive. This session will guide you through the process of creating an outline from your completed draft, allowing you to see the overall structure and identify any gaps or redundancies.

Overseas Fieldwork Safety

ALL | IN PERSON

4 June, 09:30 – 13:00

This course provides an essential overview of the approval process and equips you with the tools to plan and document safe fieldwork through appropriate risk assessments. Aimed at researchers conducting qualitative and ethnographic studies, particularly in areas where the FCDO advises against travel, this session offers valuable group activities and opportunities to learn from fellow researchers' experiences.

Making Data Work: Practical Strategies for Managing Research Data

ALL | IN PERSON

5 June, 14:00 – 16:00

Maintaining well-organised data is essential for researchers to keep accurate records of fieldwork data and make informed decisions.
You will have the chance to engage directly with our expert panellists, connect with fellow researchers, and learn from each other's experiences and strategies for navigating the complexities of research data management.

Teaching with Museum Objects: Eloquent Things

ALL | IN PERSON

10, 11, 12 & 13 June, 10:00 – 13:00

In an increasingly virtual world, direct encounters with real objects have come to be regarded as important and versatile tools in University teaching across a wide range of disciplines. The Ashmolean has established itself as a pioneer of this exciting new pedagogy.

Eloquent Things is a short course, comprising four mornings in the study rooms and galleries of the Ashmolean Museum, intended as a hands-on introduction to the principles and practice of teaching with objects.

The course is led by Dr Jim Harris, the Ashmolean's Teaching Curator.

Advanced R for Social Science Researchers

ALL | IN PERSON

13 June, 09:30 – 17:00

DPHILS | IN PERSON

This one-day course provides Social Scientists with a range of useful tools and techniques to improve their ability to code using R. This workshop is aimed at students who have already got the basics of R (Loading in data, cleaning data, running regression models and producing ggplots).
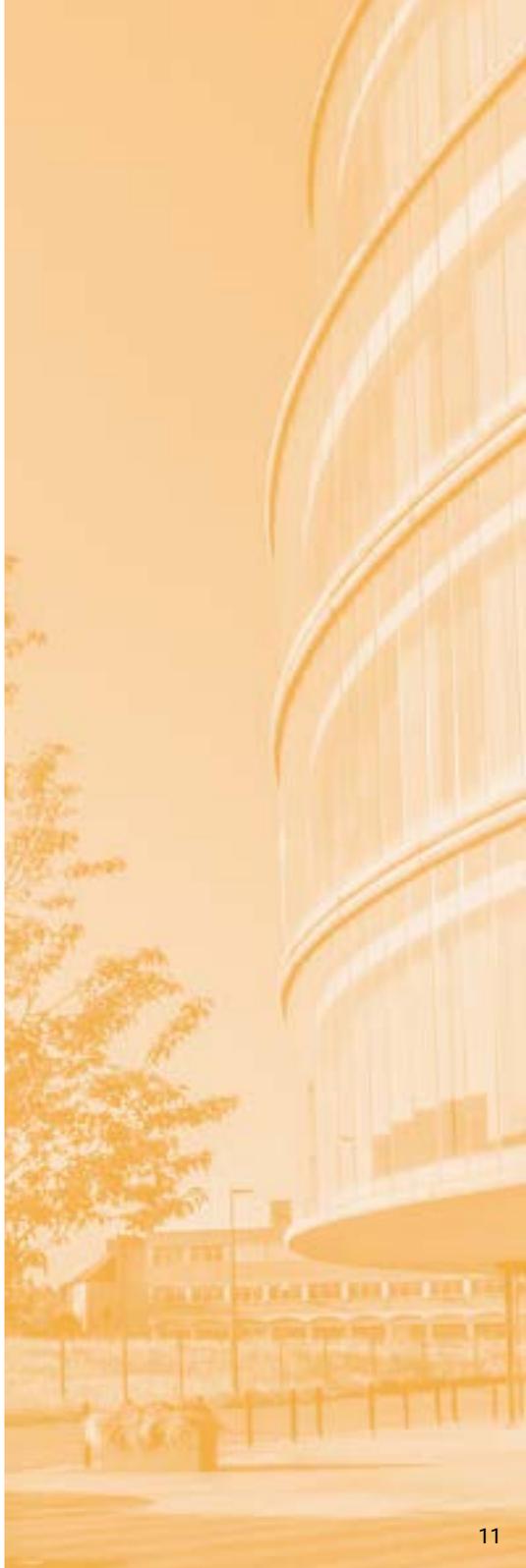
Interdisciplinary Research: Overcoming Barriers and Unlocking Potential

ALL | IN PERSON

16 June, 14:00 – 16:00

This panel will explore the value of interdisciplinary research, consider the practical challenges it entails, and share strategies for fostering effective collaboration—whether through team-based initiatives or individual researchers working across disciplinary boundaries.

DPhil Writing Workshop

ALL | IN PERSON

18 June 09:30 – 12:00

Refine your Writing

This session focuses on techniques to improve the quality of your academic writing. You'll learn how to enhance clarity, precision, and conciseness in your writing, making your arguments more compelling and easier to understand. The session will cover common pitfalls in academic writing, such as verbosity and ambiguity, and provide strategies for avoiding them. By the end of the session, you'll have a toolkit of techniques to sharpen your writing, making it more effective and impactful.

Insider and Outsider Fieldworkers

ALL | IN PERSON

19 June, 14:00 – 16:00

For some of us, our research projects are situated back home or in locations where we have already spent considerable time. For the rest of us, our field sites could be in locations where we are visiting or living for the first time. Some of us work closely with people in our own communities, whilst others join local communities as external fieldworkers. Depending on our backgrounds, we may navigate fieldwork as "insider" researchers, "outsider" researchers, or both.

RESEARCHER CONNECT SUPPORT

ResearcherConnect events offer a more relaxed approach to your development journey, fostering a supportive community among peers. Under this theme we provide flexible, informal spaces for collaboration, problem-solving, and growth. Through DPhil1:1 appointments, offered weekly in term time, you can tap into personalised guidance on any training or development needs, helping you navigate your unique path with confidence. And our online Co-Working Sessions, held Mondays and Fridays during term time, create a virtual environment for shared productivity and mutual support. Whether you're seeking advice, accountability, or simply a change of pace, ResearcherConnect is your go-to resource for building connections and enhancing your research experience in a less structured, more organic way.

Co-Working Sessions

ALL | ONLINE

Mondays and Fridays during term, 09:30 - 12:30

Are you struggling with motivation and need some accountability?
Feeling isolated in your work and want some company and connection?
In search of some regular structure for your weeks?

Step into our Co-Working sessions, online gatherings where focus and progress are at the heart of every session. Twice a week, join a senior DPhil student facilitator in a virtual space dedicated to advancing your academic work. It's not about discussions or feedback; it's about setting a rhythm for productivity alongside fellow researchers. Each session is an opportunity to work independently yet not alone, in solidarity with your peers. There's no pressure to share or critique—just the collective energy of concentration that inspires personal motivation. Whether you're ploughing through literature, planning data collection, or writing up your findings, the Co-Working Sessions are your scheduled appointment with progress: make them a core part of your weekly routine.

DPhil 1:1 Appointments

DPHIL | ONLINE

Fridays during term time, 14:00 - 15:00

If you've got questions about training, or developing yourself as a researcher while you're in Oxford, this drop-in session is the very place to ask an expert! For answers, signposting, suggestions and valuable connections, book a slot, and let's have a chat.

NOTES

SSD Term Card Timetable

EVENT	TIME	DATE
Mindfulness Course - start date	19:00 - 21:30	5 May
Python for Social Sciences Researchers	09:30 - 17:00	8 May
ChatGPT for Academics	09:30 - 17:00	9 May
How to Write your Methodology Chapter	10:00- 16:00	12 May
Digital Methods for Research - start date	15:30 - 17:00	14 May
How to Write about your Research for Publication	10:00 - 16:00	19 May
Preparing for your Viva and DPhil examination	14:00 - 16:00	19 May
Introduction to Research Ethics at Oxford	14:00 - 15:00	21 May
Making the Most of Supervisory Meetings	15:00 - 17:00	22 May
How to write your Methodology Chapter	10:00 - 16:00	23 May
Vicarious (secondary) Trauma Workshop	09:30 - 16:30	29 May
Writing & Editing Books and Book Chapters	10:00 - 16:00	2 June
DPhil Writing Workshop - Use Reverse Outlining	09:30 - 12:00	3 June
Overseas Fieldwork Safety	09:30 - 13:00	4 June
Making Data Work	14:00 - 16:00	5 June
Teaching with Museum Objects: Eloquent Things - start date	10:00 - 13:00	10 June
Advanced R for Social Science Researchers	09:30 - 17:00	13 June
Interdisciplinary Research	14:00 - 16:00	16 June
DPhil Writing Workshop - Refine your Writing	09:30 - 12:00	18 June
Insider and Outsider Fieldworkers	14:00 - 16:00	19 June
Co-Working Sessions - Mondays and Fridays during term	09:30 - 12:30	
DPhil 1:1 Appointments - Fridays during term	14:00 - 15:00	

SCAN THE QR CODE TO VIEW ALL OF OUR WORKSHOPS AND

WWW.SOCSCI.OX.AC.UK/OUR-PROGRAMME