Research Student Generic Skills Training Programme

Thursday 12 November 2009
Charles Wilson Building, 4th Floor, 9.30 am – 3.30 pm

www2.le.ac.uk/colleges/socsci
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Introduction

Welcome to the College of Social Science Training Day, which is the first of three. The others are on 9 February 2010 and 18 May 2010. The programme is designed for all Social Science research students and consists of three training days in a "conference style” format. Each day follows the same timetable and is divided into three ninety minute sessions and each session has three separate talks/workshops. There is a break for coffee after the first session and lunch is provided after the second:

09:30   Tea and Coffee
10:00   Session One
11:30   Tea and Coffee
11:45   Session Two
13:15   Lunch
14:00   Session Three

During the coffee and lunch breaks students will have an opportunity to meet informally with members of staff and students from other years. The talks are designed for specific year groups but you may elect to attend whichever sessions are most useful to you at this stage in your studies. The programme has a strong social sciences bias but it is not subject specific.

We very much hope that these will be enjoyable social as well as intellectual occasions giving you a chance to meet with other research students in the College and a chance to participate in the wider postgraduate community.

Useful web-links

College research training programme
http://www2.le.ac.uk/departments/gradschool/current/rdt-guide/training/college/social-science

Graduate School
http://www2.le.ac.uk/departments/gradschool

Student Support and Development, Postgraduate Research Skills Site
http://www2.le.ac.uk/offices/ssds/pgr/
The Programme

Refreshments
Refreshments are free to all participants; these breaks afford an opportunity to network with students and staff within the College.

Tea and Coffee will be served in the Garendon at 9.30 and 11.30 am and lunch will be in the Quorn at 1.15 pm.

Welcome to the College of Social Science
9.45 am. For all students – there will be a brief introduction and welcome to the new College of Social Science from Professor Elizabeth Murphy, Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Head of College.

Early Stage Research Training (Pre-APG Review and Recent APG Review)

Planning Your PhD

Course Tutor: Dr. Joan Smith of the Student Learning Centre
Venue: Gartree & Rutland – 4th Floor, Charles Wilson Building
Time: 10.00 am

Description: Offers practical strategies to help you clarify your research focus and form a medium-term project management plan. During the session participants will:

- articulate their research to other participants
- clarify their research questions
- develop a medium term plan for their PhD
Research Ethics

Course Tutor: Dr Meera Warrier of the Academic Practice Unit

Venue: Gartree & Rutland – 4th Floor, Charles Wilson Building

Time: 11.45 am

Description: Offers an introduction to the University’s research protocols for ethical approval of research involving human subjects. It will also discuss some of the wider issues involved.

Qualitative and Quantitative Research Design

Course Tutor: Dr Alison Taysum of the School of Education

Venue: Gartree & Rutland – 4th Floor, Charles Wilson Building

Time: 2.00 pm

Description: A core focus of the session will be on developing an understanding of the broad methodological framework approaches, how they are similar to and different from one another and the extent to which mixed methodologies/methods are appropriate and effective. Issues such as validity and reliability and what constitutes “knowledge” (epistemology) and “truth” (ontology) in both quantitative and qualitative research will be explored. By the end of the session, successful participants will:

- be familiar with the basic concepts and terminology of quantitative and qualitative research
- have developed an awareness of epistemological and ontological positions within both these two broad frameworks
- be able to recognise the key differences between and shared ground of quantitative and qualitative approaches
- be confident about developing a research design which takes due account of these issues
Middle Stage Research Training (Post-APG Review)

Academic Writing (Double Session)

Course Tutor: Professor Martin Parker of the School of Management
Venue: Sparkenhoe – 4th Floor, Charles Wilson Building
Time: 10.00 am
Description: The session will begin by covering the organisation of an academic thesis and specifically the aspects of chapter and topic arrangement, as well as discussing various approaches to writing style. The session will go on to elaborate on style and talk about writing for different audiences.

Peer Review

Course Tutor: Martin Coffey of the Student Support and Development Service
Venue: Sparkenhoe – 4th Floor, Charles Wilson Building
Time: 2.00 pm
Description: This session will introduce participants to the concepts and practicalities of peer review. The concept of academic quality will be explored. The session will also cover ethical issues relating to commenting on the work of another.
Final Stage Research Training (Approaching Completion)

**e-Thesis Submission and Copyright**

**Course Tutor:** Andrew Dunn of The Library  
**Venue:** Goscote – 4th Floor, Charles Wilson Building  
**Time:** 10.00 am  
**Description:** This session will cover the University requirements for the submission of the e-thesis to the Library. The issues surrounding copyright will also be discussed.

**Moving to Completion**

**Course Tutor:** Dr. Joan Smith of the Student Learning Centre  
**Venue:** Goscote – 4th Floor, Charles Wilson Building  
**Time:** 11.45 am  
**Description:** How much research is enough research? How do I know if my thesis is good enough? Which re-draft will be the final draft? Just how up to date should my literature review be? How long will it take me to finish off my PhD? Confronting these common concerns, this session will explore some of the pressures and challenges that can be involved in moving through the final stages of your PhD. The aim is to share some practical strategies for closing the project successfully. During the session, participants will:

- identify the remaining stages in completing their PhD project  
- plan for these, divide the remaining time of registration appropriately  
- consider how to approach the completion of the written project realistically

**How I Got Through**

**Course Tutor:** Dr Henrietta O’Connor of the Centre for Labour Market Studies  
**Venue:** Goscote – 4th Floor, Charles Wilson Building  
**Time:** 2.00 pm  
**Description:** A question and answer session where recent doctoral graduates in the social sciences share their experiences.
For further information contact

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