

Quick tips for making the most of your PGR and GTA experience

Advice on best practice from experienced members of the SALC postgraduate community

TOPIC: General aspects of the PhD experience

Choose your supervisor carefully and if the relationship does not work, change them; your project is a priority and you have the right to do so.

Believe in your project. It might not look good in the beginning but at some stage of the PhD it will turn into a swan. Give yourself time and have faith in yourself; if you don't, nobody will

Although you are probably most skint during your PhD, the opportunities for funding are greatest so use the chance to attend and present at large international conferences

Scrivener is a great thesis planning tool; Onenote is excellent for reading notes; LastPass generates and securely stores all your account passwords. Get secure cloud storage and set your research and writing folder to automatically back-up, or set an alert to do it every week – or when you make significant changes.

Keep a research journal and try to write something in it every day no matter how insignificant

I worked as a residential tutor in one of the halls. It is a good way to earn your living costs (rent and bills only) and it will make you aware of the students' perspective and their university experience (I worked in an undergraduate hall). It will also make you aware of all the services that the university offers which can also help yourself. And most people also make good friends with their fellow tutors (I did), which is always good to have.

