

Tips for PhD Students

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On your relationship with me

1. You should be sending me stuff to read every month.
2. You should not expect me to contact you for a meeting, you should do it yourself.
3. Don't ask for a meeting if you have not sent something written beforehand. It can be short, but it must be written.
4. It will take me (at least) one or two weeks to read what you send me (6,000 words 1 week, 12,000 words two weeks, approximately).
5. After the meeting, send me a brief email summarizing the discussion and the things we have agreed upon.

On habits and planning

1. Write every day, no matter your stage, save 2 hours a day only for writing.
2. Plan your methodological training during your PhD. Search for adequate activities and use every available opportunity.
3. Plan your conferences, at least one each year starting on the second year. Use conferences to advance in your work and to network.
4. As soon as you complete an academic activity, introduce all the required information in sigma. You will need to do this for each seminar, paper, conference, course, workshop etc. that you do during your PhD, and I will need to validate it. If the information is not complete, I cannot validate. It is better to keep it updated than to search for details four years after.
5. Take care of your academic image (webpage, twitter, etc.).

Finalizing and defending

1. The debate on compilation vs monograph is complicated and the final decision is taken fairly late in the process. You should aim for a book length PhD. You will write papers to present in conferences during the process. The final decision on compilation vs. monograph depends on many things such as opportunities for publication that you cannot plan in advance. You should not be distracted by this.
2. Remember to acknowledge the research projects/scholarships that have funded your conferences and data gathering in the papers you publish and in the final manuscript.
3. Start thinking about your committee early on. This is an important part of your public. Revise the final manuscript once the committee is appointed bearing them in mind.
4. If you need a recommendation letter give at least two weeks. Send as much information about the position as you can.