

The International Student's
Guide to
British
postgraduate
research

FEATURES OF THE POSTGRADUATE BRITISH RESEARCH

The British academic environment may differ from those abroad, hence it is important to understand some of its key characteristics. This will help you adapt to the change and use it to your benefit.

NEXT



1. FOCUS ON NOVELTY AND CHANGE

Everybody strives for new
knowledge, new concepts,
new theories, new results



NEXT



2. YOU ARE NOW A COLLEAGUE



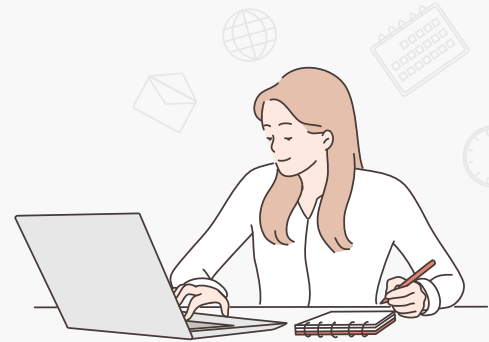
You will be treated as an equal at this stage, discussions will take place as between two scholars debating on a topic.

You do not get taught anymore in the traditional ways, but at this stage, you just build up on your knowledge by challenging assumptions and debating them with your supervisor

NEXT



3. FREEDOM



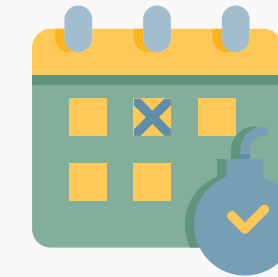
WORK

You are in charge of your work. You choose which chapters you want to tackle and how you want to do this. Once you decide on a strategy, you can run it by your supervisor and discuss it together.



TIME

You will be designing how your working time should look. Identify your peak productivity times and create a schedule around them. The time in a PhD is very flexible and you can set it up according to your needs.



DEADLINES

You will not have traditional hard deadline, unless YOU decide to. Otherwise, you have to create your own calendar and decide on periodic dates when you would like to submit work to your supervisors.



4. YOU ARE ENCOURAGED TO TEACH

As a postgraduate student, you will be offered the opportunity to teach seminars in your department.

NEXT

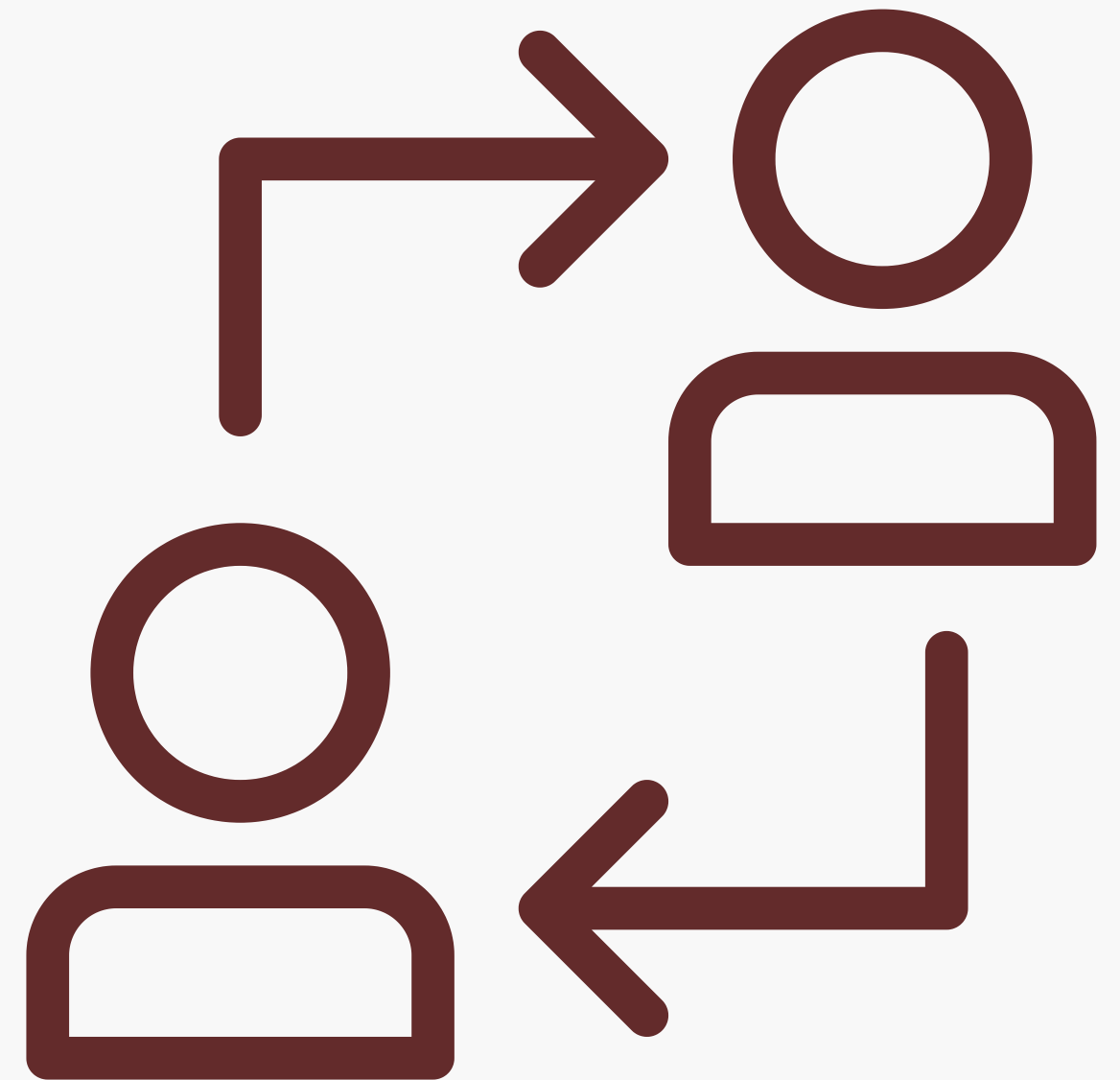


5. ISOLATION AND SOCIAL INTERACTION

Doing a PhD can feel isolating, due to the amount of independent work involved. The university offers opportunities however for social interaction:

- societies
- lab groups
- office space
- weekly departmental talks
- social postgraduate events

NEXT



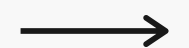
6. RESEARCH DISSEMINATION



You are encouraged to share your research from early on. Varied opportunities emerge for this specific aim:

- departmental groups
- postgraduate conferences
- lab meetings

NEXT



BRITISH ACADEMIC RESEARCH ENVIRONMENT IN A NUTSHELL



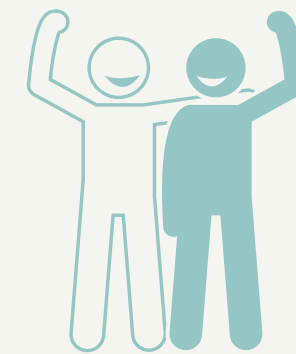
FLEXIBLE

You decide on what and when to work. You design your schedule and your deadlines.



INFORMAL

You become an early career colleague and the relationship 'student-teacher' dies down.



ENCOURAGING

You are encouraged to teach, socialise and communicate your research from early on.