

# Why not just write? An introduction to researcher development and culture

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# Why might we be suspicious of development?

- It's important to complete and submit within four years (or perhaps other, depending on your course). Anything else is a distraction, unless it's an opportunity to publish something or do some teaching.
- My masters degree has already given me all the training I need. For anything else, my supervisor can give specialist advice.
- I won't need training for what I plan to do after my PhD.
- I've done training courses before, and they're a waste of time.
- I can't see anything that interests me in the list of courses.

# Reasons not to be suspicious

- Funding and regulatory bodies never see training/development as a distraction. *In fact, they encourage and expect it* (e.g. UKRI 210 hours – equivalent to two weeks per year for three years)
- And they expect it for valuable reasons:
  - They want PGR graduates to have the skills they need for their future careers (academic and otherwise)
  - They want PGR programmes to be globally competitive
  - Masters-level study will enable you to *begin* your programme of research ... but not to *complete* it successfully
- Remember that a PhD has an *apparent* product and a *real* product
- Specialist technical skills aren't the only thing that you'll need to function effectively, during or after your doctorate. Flexibility, adaptability and open-mindedness are important, even in academic careers
- Training can take very varied forms – be alert to opportunities
- Training helps you meet new people!

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- The report sets out an action plan for work that UKRI is currently developing or will undertake:
  - review how UKRI sets its stipend and the wider support that provided for UKRI funded students, particularly those with disabilities, children and caring responsibilities.
  - support more diverse participation in doctoral study by exploring innovative doctoral models
  - more generally, the PGR Funders and Provides Forum has collectively agreed to explore developing a common baseline for the stipend and core support for students.

[https://www.ukri.org/news/ukri-to-improve-support-for-research-students-through-new-deal/?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=govdelivery](https://www.ukri.org/news/ukri-to-improve-support-for-research-students-through-new-deal/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery)



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