



How to do a PhD

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Things to think about

- Which university/college?
 - Department with strong research agenda
 - Other people working in similar areas
 - Infrastructure of the institution
 - working space, rooms, library, online access, courses
 - Other PhD students helpful for peer discussion, mutual support, fun...
- Supervisors
 - Supervised other PhDs before
 - Methodological background
 - You have to get on with them!
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- Topic
 - You have to “own” it!!



Things to think about

- Full-time/part-time
 - Advantages and disadvantages: 3-4 years versus >4 years
 - PhD alongside clinical work?
- Finance
 - Fellowship? Grant?



Precondition

- Masters helpful
 - Familiar with research methods
 - Experience writing a thesis



Precondition

- Enthusiasm
- Enough stamina
- Being realistic (work – life balance, time lines, changing terrain without researcher's fault etc.)
- The process doing a PhD is exposing: the more you know the more you realise what you don't know!

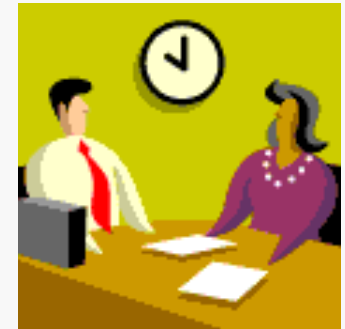
Working with your Supervisor (s)

- Single versus team supervision
- Dealing with the enthusiastic supervisor!



Meeting the supervisor (s)

- Keep the meeting focused
 - What is its purpose?
 - What do you want to achieve?
 - Sending material in advance?
 - Clear written record of the meeting?
 - Have a plan or contract for supervision?
 - Be realistic at what is achievable between meetings.



Practical Issues

- Credit points towards your PhD
- Presentation of the thesis
 - Monograph
 - Thesis by publications
- Preparing for a Viva Voce/Defence



**The are no perfect PhDs
but only finished PhDs**