

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: Attending a conference

Start by going to postgrad workshops and study days which are less formal. It's probably best to go alone and make friends when you get there

Don't be afraid to present in your first year. Presenting your work is useful because it generates feedback; focuses you on only one argument from your research; and people get to know about your work (which can lead to publications)

Try to go to at least one panel not directly related to your research to expose yourself to other theories and methods

If there is a conference dinner, attend it! It will give you an opportunity to network.

Don't be put off by the high cost of accommodation at some conferences, if you can't afford it use [couchsurfing.org](https://www.couchsurfing.org) instead!

Don't apply for too many conferences. Try to focus on two or three major and most relevant events which will be fruitful for your research

**Do a bit of research beforehand to find out who'll be attending.
Don't be shy to talk to people who have similar research interests, it can lead to interesting collaborations**

Don't only write 'Thank you' on your last presentation slide, put your email address and link to academia profile as well!

Bring business cards with your with email, academia profile and twitter info. Also leave a blank space on the card where you can write a note for the recipient (e.g. about a Skype chat or article)

Always type up notes straight after, you never know when they will come in useful

