

From Offer  First Day

Date: _____

- PRINT - TICK - SAVE -

Starting Your PhD Cribsheet

1. Celebrate + Confirm your Offer!

- Accept your offer formally
- Review funding details
- Send an intro email to your supervisor
- Join department mailing lists, and weekly meetings (if possible)

TIP: Take time to enjoy your achievement!



2. Get Familiar with your Research Area!

- Read 2-3 key review papers
- Watch 1-2 recent talks in your field
- Bookmark interesting papers
- Note down key takeaways, and any relevant questions to explore

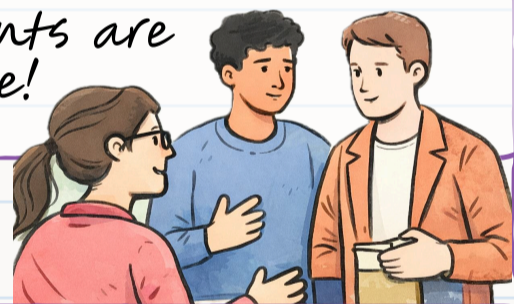
TIP: You don't need to know "everything" yet!



3. Connect with People!

- Connect and chat with current PhD students
- Meet with your supervisor
- If lab based, learn about your lab culture and expectations
- Ask current students what they struggled with in year 1

TIP: Other students are your best resource!



4. Set-Up your PhD Toolkit

- Install a referencing manager (and test it!)
- Choose and set up ONE note-taking system
- Identify 1-2 key tools in your field and try a beginner tutorial
- Set up a clear folder structure for papers, notes, and data

TIP: A bit of setup now, saves time later!

5. Moving to the UK?

- Arrange accommodation (you'll need a right-to-rent code: available through e-visa services on gov.uk)
- Open a UK bank account
- Register with a general practitioner (GP)
- Plan your arrival dates



Note down any "extras" on here!

Useful Resources

1. Doctoral Academy
2. International Student Support
3. Student Wellbeing
4. Library Booking System

6. First Week of your PhD

- Attend all inductions
- Meet your new peers
- Set 2-3 small, realistic goals for your first month
- Ask LOTS of questions



scan for links!