

Further Studies



PhD in CompSci
Interdisciplinary PhD

What is a PhD?

- The highest academic degree in the field
- Involves original research and writing a thesis
- In the UK: 3 or 3.5 years + write-up year if required
- Prepares you for
 - Research
 - Academia
 - Advanced industry roles

Why Pursue a PhD?

- Passion for research and discovery
- Career in academia or R&D
- Desire to contribute to cutting-edge technology
- Opens doors to leadership roles in tech industry

How to Get Into a PhD Program

- Strong academic background
 - In the UK: MSc (2.1 or higher)
- Search online resources for funding
 - [FindAPhD](#); [Jobs.ac.uk](#); [PhDPortal](#); [University Websites](#); Newsgroups
- Often required for application
 - Find a professor happy to support your application
 - Draft a research proposal (on a given topic)

What to Expect During the PhD

- First Year
 - Deep dive into a topic
 - Develop research aim and project plan
- Second Year
 - Doing the main bulk of the research + writing conference papers
- Third Year
 - Completing the research + writing journal papers
 - Writing and defending your thesis

Tips for Success in PhD Studies

- Pursue a topic that aligns with your passion and long-term goals
 - This will sustain your motivation through challenges
- Cultivate a collaborative relationship with your supervisor
 - Treat them as a mentor, not just an authority figure, and seek regular feedback
- Develop strong critical thinking and analytical skills
 - Question assumptions, engage with diverse perspectives, and refine your reasoning
- Take initiative in your research and meetings
 - Come prepared with ideas, progress updates, and questions to drive productive discussions
- Master time management and organisation
 - Use tools (e.g. calendar or project plan) to balance research, writing, and personal well-being

Tips for Success in PhD Studies

- Build a supportive academic network
 - Collaborate with peers, attend conferences, and join research groups to exchange ideas
- Prioritise writing early and often
 - Draft sections of your thesis or papers regularly, even if imperfect, to avoid last-minute stress
- Embrace failure as part of the learning process
 - Setbacks are inevitable; analyse them constructively to improve your work
- Maintain a healthy work-life balance
 - Schedule downtime, exercise, and hobbies to prevent burnout and sustain creativity
- Develop transferable skills
 - Train in teaching, public speaking, data analysis, or project management to broaden career options post-PhD