Surviving the PhD year by year

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General aims of these workshops

• To bring together research students from different universities and departments
• To explore issues relating to doctoral/masters research, particularly common themes affecting research students around the world
• To provide advice and encouragement to research students (but not supervision!)
The research degree is awarded to a candidate who:

1. Critically investigates and evaluates an approved topic
2. That results in an independent and original contribution to knowledge
3. Demonstrates an understanding of research methods appropriate to the chosen field
4. In the form of a written thesis
5. To the satisfaction of the examiners.
The need for sound foundations

- A research thesis needs to be a substantial and self-standing piece of research-oriented literature which will be judged by a panel of experts (your examiners)
- This requires you to be able to demonstrate that the basic premise on which the research is based is fundamentally sound
- Important to ensure that all the stages of your work are consistent with these fundamental foundations
Important stages

- You need to ensure that:
  - You understand the essential discipline of the research aims and objectives are stated clearly
  - Existing literature relevant to the research is reviewed
  - Methodology is appropriate for the research
  - Data amenable to the chosen methodology can be obtained
  - Analysis and reporting are rigorous and thorough appropriate conclusions are drawn
  - There is significant emphasis on evaluation
  - There is coherence and integrity to the final document, taking all the above into account
  - You meet all the deadlines along the way!
Today’s workshop:
Identifying & overcoming the challenges

- We want each group to complete this table on a flipchart sheet
- The issues will then be collated and put to the workshop facilitators
- We can then discuss the responses

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Key Issues</th>
<th>Possible Solutions</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early stages</td>
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<td>In the middle</td>
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<td>Towards the end</td>
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<tr>
<td>Time</td>
<td>Key issues (for your own research topic)</td>
<td>Possible solutions (as you now see it)</td>
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Some key references


2019 WA Business Faculties' Research Student Festival

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