

# My research career: What I have learnt!

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# Tips for PhD

## 1. Get started ... NOW!

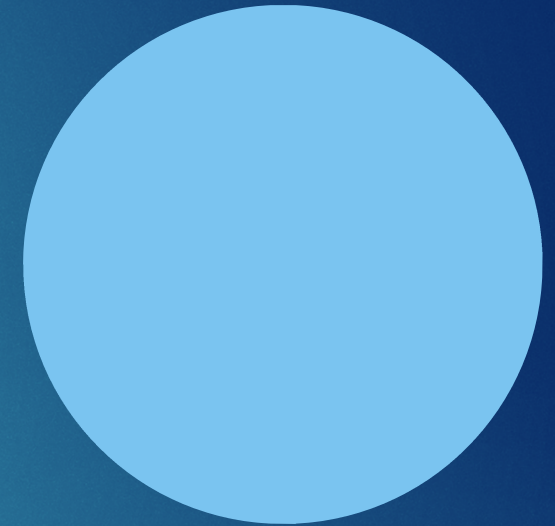
- ▶ 3 years seems a long time now ...
- ▶ Plan your time ...and stick to it.
- ▶ Do not spend too much time reading .. Start doing ..!
  - ▶ What skills /training do you need?
  - ▶ Order any equipment asap
  - ▶ Talk to other researchers to learn how to avoid any holdups



# Tips for PhD

## 2. Relationship with supervisor

- ▶ They are busy
- ▶ Some are difficult to find/see
  
- ▶ You need to manage them too!
  1. Set up appropriate meeting times at set periods
  2. Give them time to review your work
  3. Listen to them when they give advice ..!





# Tips for PhD

## 3. Take care of yourself!

- ▶ Research is up and down ...!
- ▶ Sort out a realistic work/life balance ... Do other things!
- ▶ Get help if you need it ...emotionally
  - ▶ I suggest you get a mentor ..external to your work!
- ▶ If it is not working out ... move on!
  - ▶ Its not for everyone...1-2 years of independent research will still look good on a cv!
  - ▶ Life changes!



# Tips for PhD

4. Use this opportunity...
  - ▶ Get training ... on
    - ▶ Research skills needed
    - ▶ Writing papers
    - ▶ Presenting.
  - ▶ Go to a good conference – in a nice place!
    - ▶ Use University travel funds ...
    - ▶ it looks good on cv that you applied for grants!



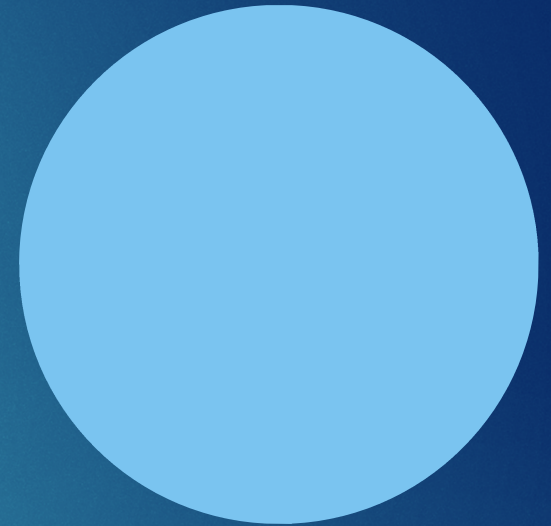
# Tips for PhD

5. Think about afterwards ... what do you need for the next step!

- ▶ If academia is the plan ...
  - ▶ Write a journal paper asap!
- ▶ Build up a network.
  - ▶ Get involved in student activities in your department
  - ▶ Go to workshops/ conferences – stay in touch with those you meet
  - ...



Enjoy your research ....!





# Research tips

- ▶ Be flexible ... you may not be able to stick to your favourite topic  
OR ...
- ▶ On the flip side... being an expert in one area can be great!
- ▶ Get to know those in your field ... they will be your reviewers
- ▶ Do not trash the work of others ...they will be your reviewers!
- ▶ Take reviews constructively ... Get a thick skin ...!
- ▶ Stay positive .... !

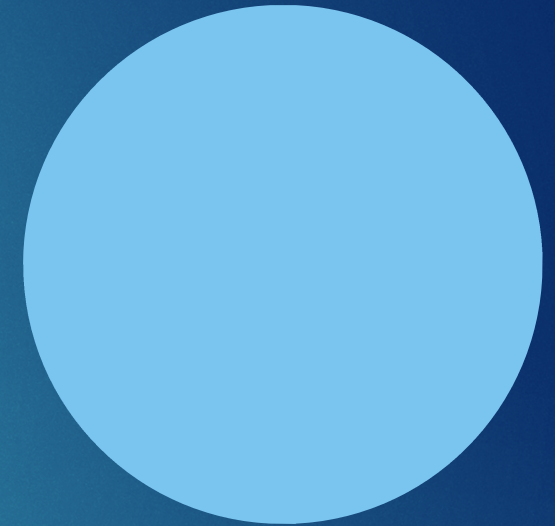


# Skills I learnt from my PhD

- ▶ World expert on geotechnical centrifuge testing ...

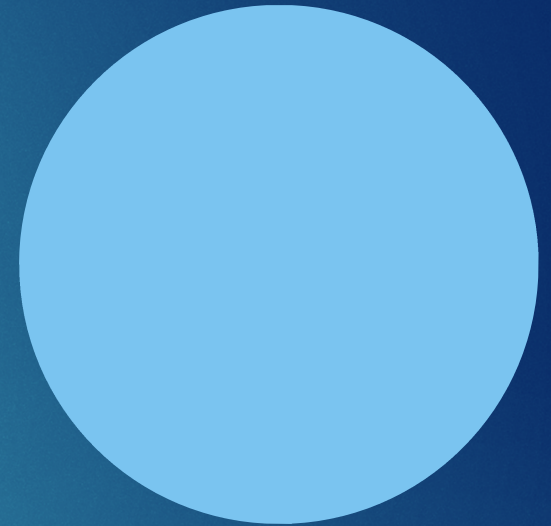
More general skills:

- ▶ Numerical modelling
- ▶ Programming
- ▶ Presenting work in public!
- ▶ Writing papers/ technical work
- ▶ Applying for grants/ funds
- ▶ Supervising students / teaching
- ▶ Project management
- ▶ Independent working .....





# Questions ..?



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