



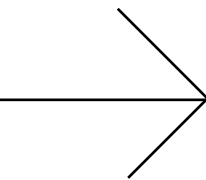
Bridging the Gap: Empowering PGRs

Francesca Dakin:

Reflections on 'impact' during a
PhD: connections and opportunities

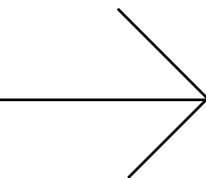
Kerstin Nothnagel:

Opportunities beyond the PhD



Opportunities Beyond the PhD

Kerstin Nothnagel, 3rd year PhD,
Dr (soon-to-be!)
PHS, University of Bristol



Be task-oriented — keep focus on main goal



Main task:

our research — foundation for everything else

Always ask:

Why am I doing this PhD / postdoc / fellowship?

Where do I want to go?

What's my long-term aim?

Looking Beyond the PhD

What do I want to do after my PhD?

Only when we know our direction can we tailor the skills we need

Be intentional- don't waste time, built networks that align with my future goal





Opportunities within the university

BRMS:

Wide range of short courses to built or strengthen skills

DTA, qualitative research methods, for SLR, or clinical governance

Choose up to 3 courses per year

Student Union:

Great mix of research and soft-skill training

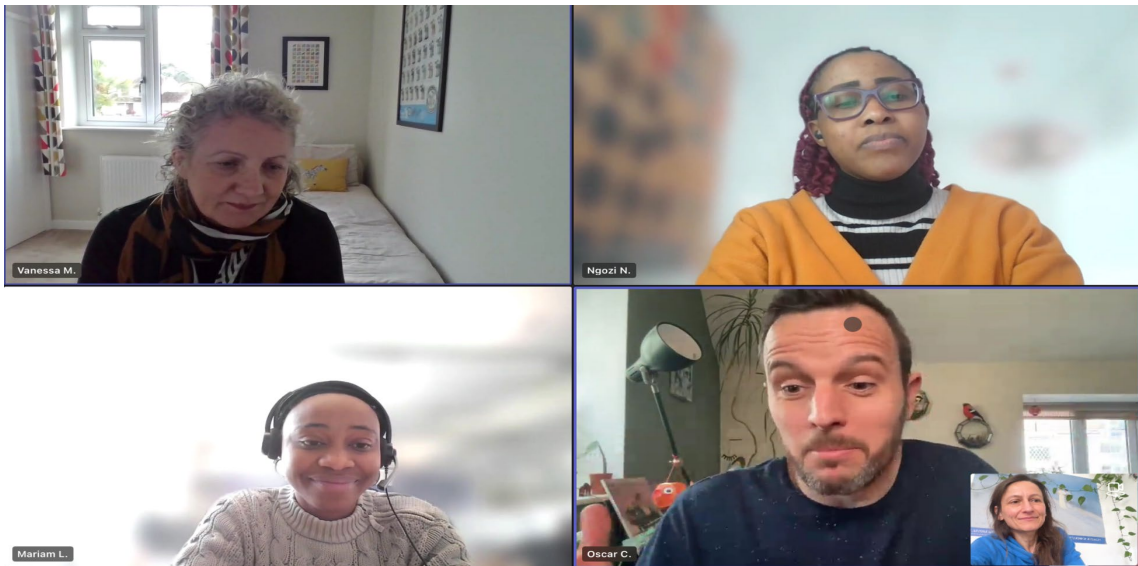
CV writing, interview training, leadership, presentation skills

Opportunities within the university

Presentations at BRMS, involvement in symposiums and events

Organising events teaches logistic, collaboration, stakeholder engagement (venue, catering, accessibility, even prayer rooms)

Built confidence, network, and sense of belonging to the Bristol research community





Opportunities at Bristol

- Engage in conferences, events, seminars, workshops, placements
- Alan Turing Institute = national AI & data powerhouse, Bristol is a partner
- Elizabeth Blackwell Institute = Bristol's health research hub
- Jean Golding Institute = Bristol's data science hub
- Bristol Plus Award = Bristol employability award

Our SPCR Community

SPCR community – always approachable and supportive

SPCR offers:

Annual trainee events

Doctoral training camp

Writing retreats

Diverse online masterclasses



My PhD: AI-Guided Point-of-care Ultrasound to Diagnose Deep Vein Thrombosis in Primary Care



SLR: AI applications in POCUS with handheld ultrasound probes

DTA: AI diagnosis vs reference tests (specialist sonographers, remote reporting, image quality scoring) (565)

Interviews: patients, specialists, non-specialist operators (26)

Internship at the House of Lords (HoL)



Internship at HoL in Baroness Nicholson's team

Start July 2024 UK General Election

Experiences: King's Speech, parliamentary sittings, navigating parliament buildings, learning from librarians, lots of tea with Lord Holmes (Al Bill)

Daily work: research support for Baroness Nicholson, preparing briefs, attending events

Evening events: British Museum, consulates, embassies, conferences

Parliament vs Government



UK Parliament

= HoC + HoL

👉 Make and scrutinise laws, hold the government to account, and represent the public



UK Government

= PM + Cabinet Ministers (ruling party in the Commons)

👉 Responsible for running the country, making policy decisions, and implementing laws.

What Is Parliament?



House of Commons: Elected members who make and pass laws, represent the public, and hold the government accountable

House of Lords: Appointed members who review, suggest changes, and delay legislation to ensure laws are well considered

The King: The ceremonial head of state who formally approves laws passed by both Houses (called Royal Assent), making them official

How Can We Engage with Parliament?

Internship and Fellowship

Name of scheme + link to further info	Aimed at	Key information	Important dates	Application process
POST (Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology) fellowships	Current PhD students based in the UK – requirements may differ based on who is funding the fellowship. 'Recently completed' PhD study (graduated same year)	3 month fulltime or 6 month part time in London. Funded unless a compulsory DTP placement. Most fellows assist POST in providing briefing material for parliamentarians on emerging science topics. Work may include: Producing a POSTnote or POSTbrief (briefing documents to help inform the work of MPs and Peers), or contributing to a longer briefing report; assisting a select committee in an ongoing inquiry; organising a seminar to inform or disseminate research.	Fellowships announced throughout the year – 6 week application window. Start date throughout the year by negotiation	Read guidance notes. Check eligibility (*visa, residency*) Get supervisor/funder permission Complete application form Write POSTNote Shortlisted applicants will have an interview Successful applicants will need security clearance
UKRI policy internships	Current UKRI-funded PhD students	3 month fulltime in a range of organisations across the UK. Part-funded (stipend & expenses). Work could include producing at least one briefing paper, participating in a policy inquiry and/or organising a policy event, or equivalent piece of work.	July-September each year	Read guidance notes. Choose a host organisation/project Get supervisor/funder permission Complete application form Write policy briefing Shortlisted applicants will have an interview Successful applicants

Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology (POST)

Connects research and policy to ensure evidence informs legislation and government scrutiny

Researchers can get involved by:

- Participating in an interview as an expert
- Peer-reviewing briefings
- Applying for a fellowship
- PhD fellows (3 months)
- Parliamentary Academic Fellows
- Thematic Research Leads



POST getting involved

- Sign up to POST alerts <https://post.parliament.uk/subscribe/>
- Follow POST on social media:
<https://www.linkedin.com/company/post-uk>
- Look out for relevant POSTnotes being written on the POST website: <https://post.parliament.uk/future-research/>
- Sign up to the Keu newsletter for information on how to contribute:
www.parliament.uk/keunews
- Apply for a PhD Fellowship



**Resources for engaging
with UK Parliament**

FROM POLICY TO PRACTICE: A RESEARCH STAY IN HEALTH DATA SCIENCE AT HUMAN TECHNOPOLE

Coffee Break



Lunch at the HT rooftop



Health Data Science group presents at HT seminar



Women's Network at HT



The Rho cycle team



Human Technopole



Zuccolo Health Data Sciences group



Focus Group Meeting



Office space at HT



Begin of the project



Scala visit



Celebrations of project completion

Summing it up

- Nothing is set in stone – doors open and close constantly
- Stay flexible, resilient, and open to opportunities
- Yes, PhD can be exhausting – but it's also exciting
- Every experience builds towards growth as a researcher and beyond





Don't forget to have fun!

