Canolfan Economeg Iechyd a Gwerthuso Meddyginiaethau
CHEME
Centre for Health Economics and Medicines Evaluation

PRIFYSGOL
BANGOR
UNIVERSITY

Completing your PhD (successfully)

Professor Dyfrig Hughes

- Some slides from “Fail your PhD with confidence!”
  - By Martin Greenhow

7 ways to success

- You must really want a PhD!
- Don’t underestimate what’s needed
- But also, don’t overestimate what’s needed
- Having a good supervisor (but thinking s/he is no good!)
- Having a (testable) ‘thesis’
  - “a statement or theory that is put forward as a premise to be maintained or proved”
- Completing before taking a job (not always fatal)

7 more ways to success

- Keep a positive mind
- Avoid getting side-tracked (teaching/other interests)
- Don’t under-value your research
- But also don’t see it as trying to find a solution to a problem
- See it as a professional qualification in being a researcher
- See it as an investment in yourself
- Don’t go into hiding

Get off to a good start. By the end of year 1

- Have a good idea about what your project will involve(!)
- Have read the background, review & original papers and be (very) familiar with the relevant aspects of the discipline
- Have attended courses
- Have produced a draft map of chapter contents and how they relate to one another (but this is not set in stone)
- Have started a week-by-week log book
- Have completed a chapter
- Have given a presentation to other PhD students/staff
- Have been appraised!

What does a thesis look like?

- Literature review (Chapter 1), empirical chapters (normally 4-ish), conclusions
- A PhD makes “a novel contribution to understanding”
- There are huge differences between areas of research (longitudinal, neuroimaging). No such thing as a ‘model’ thesis!

Planning your writing

- Work out what is needed (in detail)
- Have a plan with timings attached
- Discuss with your supervisor
  - Your plan must be realistic; revise it as you go
  - There will be a lot of rewriting and rethinking to do – this can take a lot of time

Meetings with supervisors

- Keep in touch regularly
- E-mail, telephone, meetings
- Formal meetings at least once a month
- Your responsibility to arrange times & dates

Keep a record

PhD Meeting Log

Date	Discussed	Action
16/03/2015 PhD Supervision EH, DH	**Literature Review (paper 1)** • Published December 2014 **ABC DCE Paper (paper 2)** • Final draft circulated to DH & VM 9/03/15 • EH discussed concerns about the probability of mild side-effects in the case study. DH advised to re-calculate, edit paper and re-circulate. • EH has looked at cost of items dispensed compared to cost of items prescribed. DH asked for this to be written into the paper. • EH to edit paper and circulated an updated version before 18/03/15. • DH will review the paper on 18/03/15. **Epilepsy Main DCE Paper (paper 3)** • First draft with DH pending review **Time Preference Paper (paper 4)** • DH raised the possibility of dropping this paper if time becomes an issue - but this will need to be discussed with VM • EH went through the current analysis plan • EH/DH decided on tables to be in a potential manuscript • EH to complete the agreed analysis and draft tables before next supervision	• EH to correct case study calculations in DCE paper • EH to edit DCE paper and re-circulate by 18/03/2015 • EH to complete TP analysis • EH to draft TP tables for potential paper • EH/DH/VM to discuss and agree content of thesis at the next meeting on 24/03/2015

Familiarise yourself with the regulations

Regulations for Postgraduate Research Programmes

Regulation 03: 2015 Version 02
Effective 1 September 2015

These regulations apply to students who began their postgraduate programme on or after 1 September 2015

PRIFYSGOL BANGOR UNIVERSITY

13. Professional Doctorates and PhDs are awarded to students who show:

i. an ability to create and interpret new knowledge through original research or other advanced scholarship. The work must be at the forefront of the discipline, of a quality to satisfy peer review, and must merit publication.

ii. acquisition and understanding of a substantial body of knowledge which is at the forefront of an academic discipline or area of professional practice

iii. an ability to conceptualise, design and implement a research project and to adjust the project design in response to unforeseen problems

iv. a detailed understanding of applicable techniques for research and advanced academic enquiry.

29. During the probationary period, students must demonstrate, to the satisfaction of the Supervisory Committee, sufficient knowledge and understanding of their discipline to allow them to meet the requirements of the programme (as defined in paragraph 10 or paragraph 13) and within the time periods specified in paragraph 31. If

30. A student's progress must be reviewed by a Supervisory Committee every year until the thesis has been submitted. A student who does not meet the required standards must be transferred to an alternative postgraduate research

32. Students must be at the University, or other agreed location, during the whole of the registration period. Unless otherwise determined by their conditions of employment or by conditions imposed by sponsors, students studying by Method A may take up to 8 weeks holidays (including public holidays and University holidays). Absences for study or holidays (other than UK public holidays and University holidays) must be approved by the supervisor or designated person in the School. Unexpected absences due to illness or other circumstances must be reported immediately.

Assessment Procedures

50. Postgraduate research programmes include the submission of a thesis. Theses must include:

- a summary and
- a discussion/commentary that puts the work in context and describes, as appropriate, its academic or commercial significance.

Theses must also include:

- a review of literature relevant to the work conducted by the student
- a description of the methods used by the student to conduct the research
- a description of the results of the research and conclusions
- a bibliography of sources quoted or referenced in the thesis

62. Theses must be submitted for examination as a soft bound volume and an electronic copy must also be provided. If corrections are required after the examination, the corrected version of the thesis must be submitted for examination electronically unless the School's procedures do not allow this. The final corrected and approved version of the thesis must be a hard bound volume (as defined in paragraph 70) and an electronic copy must also be submitted. Students must deposit the final electronic version of the thesis in the University's Digital Repository using the procedures defined by the University.

63. The soft bound volume must:

    - be sufficiently secure to withstand transit to and from the examiners
    - have, on the outside cover, the student's name and the title of the postgraduate research programme.

.....

51. Examiners must judge the thesis on the basis of the standard and scope of work which it is reasonable to expect from a postgraduate research student after a specified period of study (as defined by these regulations, and particularly in paragraph 10 or paragraph 13).

Examination

72. An Examining Board will comprise the following :

- chair
- internal examiner (except for students who are members of staff)
- external examiner
- second external examiner (only for students who are members of staff)

79. The purpose of the oral examination is to:

- allow the examiners to assure themselves that the thesis is the student's own work
- give the student an opportunity to defend the thesis and clarify any matters raised by the examiners
- allow the examiners to assess the student's general knowledge of the particular area of study.

Option A. Award the degree using Option A1, A2 or A3

A1. Without conditions

A2. After completing minor corrections.
These must be completed within 4 weeks from the date when the student receives official notification of the result of the examination. Minor corrections do not require academic re-assessment, for example, typographical errors or minor re-organisation of material.
The internal examiner must verify that the corrections have been made.

A3. After completing substantive amendments.
These must be completed within 6 months (or 4 months for Masters by Research theses) from the date when the student receives official notification of the result of the examination.
The external examiner must verify that the corrections have been made.

Options B & C

Know your examiners!

- You will choose an external examiner with your supervisor
  - Who would you like to know about your work?
  - Who will you feel comfortable with?
  - Do this in plenty of time: 6+ months before viva
- You'll be asked about your preference for the internal examiner too

Know your examiners!

- Ensure you have referred to all relevant work by your examiners in your thesis
- Think about possible implications of your work for them and vice versa

What is a viva like?

- Normally 2 hours
- Examiners will have lots of notes and bookmarks in your thesis – don’t be put off
- Bring your thesis(!), a pen, and notes
- Can be highly enjoyable
- Examiners will make you wait to hear the outcome

Chapter 1

Explain the difference between poor- and optimal- adherence. What do you know about the taxonomy medication adherence? When you refer to non-adherence does this include both non initiation premature discontinuation or is it limited to lack of implementation.

Chapter 2

The reviews described in chapter two a very informative though limited to some extent by not being systematic. Nevertheless the findings very representative of the literature concerning medication adherence. What are your thoughts on the differences between a systematic, a rapid review and a comprehensive review? What are your views about adherence questionnaires and what they measure? You classify biological assays such as blood concentration of drug as being an indirect measure of adherence. Others have categorised this as being a direct method of measuring adherence. Can you comment on this? What about the Proteus ingestible chip which can be included in the formulation of medicines? Would that be a direct method?

Page 20 when comparing different types of measures what do you think is the theoretical limit for agreement. That is, if methods measure different aspects of adherence, would it be fair to assume that full agreement is unlikely to ever be achieved.

In terms of predictors and risk factors non-adherence do you not think that as a behaviour, adherence is only weekly associated with clinical and demographic factors?

The key point to note is that non adherence can be both intentional and unintentional. Unintentional non-adherence can simply result from forgetfulness.

It would appear to me that your third review may not have been sufficiently sensitive to identifying relevant articles.

Did you consider reviewing previous reviews?