What I wish I knew when I started my PhD in the UK

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Who is Shungo Suzuki?

- A 3rd-year **PhD student** at Lancaster University
- Supervisor: Prof. Judit Kormos
- Research interests: L2 speech production, fluency
- 11 articles published; 5 papers under review/in progress
  - Most works are **co-authored**!
  - Collaborators: Judit Kormos, Tetsuo Harada, Kazuya Saito, Yuichi Suzuki, Viktoria Magne, Rie Koizumi, Masaki Eguchi, Mengqiao Zhang, Benjamin Kremmel, Andrea Révész...and more!
- **Motivation to do research**
  - To maintain my **identity** as a researcher in the field
What’s Doing PhD in the UK like?

**Programme in the case of Lancaster University**

- 3-4 years (full time) / 5-6 years (part time)
- No required coursework (Research-only course), but MA modules and Research-specific training programmes are available.
- Having a *supervision meeting* once a fortnight (Full-time)

To get a PhD degree

- 1st Year: Pre-confirmation (5,000 words paper + 4-page proposal)
- 2nd Year: Confirmation panel (12,000 words paper with pilot data)
- 3rd Year: PhD thesis (80,000 words) + Viva

**PhD = Opportunity to grow into an independent researcher, by working with your supervisor(s)**
Then, why do I work for publications?

PhD = Opportunity to grow into an independent researcher, by working with your supervisor(s)

Explore your own definition of an independent researcher.

An independent researcher …
- Have established their identity as a member of the field; and
- Keep questioning what “the contribution to the field” means.

Know what can contribute to the field

Connected to other papers to develop knowledge

Get published, and read and cited by other researchers

These two characteristics would lead to the publications of high-quality, impactful papers, but might be developed only through publications.
Even one publication will change how you see the field.

BUT

WE ARE VERY BUSY...
3 Tips to boost your productivity

1. Communicate with your supervisor closely
2. Write your PhD thesis regularly
3. Think about what research is constantly
1. **Communicate with your supervisor closely**

Relationship between supervisors and supervisees = “Work Together”

Share your goal of PhD study, future career, etc.

- My case: I shared my objectives for PhD study at the very first meeting (see the next slide).

It’s student’s responsibility for learning from supervisors.

- DON’T ask unfocused questions;
- Prepare one or two prototype options, and discuss the **decision-making processes** behind the decisions.
2. Write your PhD thesis regularly

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Aim

To disperse the **time** needed to write up a thesis and **pressure** throughout your PhD study period.

- Do thesis writing as **a daily routine** (as opposed to tasks for research; e.g., creating materials, data analysis)
- At any phase of research project, there are many chapters and sections **you can write**.
3. Think about what research is constantly

- To get published, you need to be able to answer this question—What does the contribution to the field mean?
- Your answer should be reflected in the paper; so that your editors and reviewers can consider your paper worth getting published.
- To heighten your awareness of research and publication, think of what research is constantly (e.g., 30 minutes every day, a whole day per week).

Example topics
- Criteria for papers to be “methodologically rigorous”
- Trigger Questions for Literature Review
- Responsibility as being a co-author
3 Tips to boost your productivity

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