More than a PhD?

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What to expect from your PhD

[Diagram showing a week's schedule with various activities and emotions]
What to expect from your PhD

- **Highs**
  - New findings
  - Publications
  - Developing skills / knowledge

- **Lows**
  - Experiments not working
  - Delays
  - Isolation

What else?

- Conferences
- Demonstrating
- Competitions
- Clubs and societies
- Public engagement and widening participation
Public Engagement and WP

- STEMnet / RSC ChemNet
- British Science Association
- Manchester Science Festival
- I'm a scientist, get me out of here...
- Manchester Access Programme

Why?

- Research should be the sole focus of your life. I expect you to eat, drink, and sleep research.
- I'm allowed to sleep? Only in a lie-awake-at-night-croissants-over-it-kind-of-way.
- Outside interests only tell me you're not serious about getting your PhD. I mean, what could be more interesting than our research?
- L.. I can't answer that. Exactly. Nothing.

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Why?

- Boost your CV?
- Gain experience and skills
- Meet new people / network
- Have fun
- Take time off from your research

The supervisor relationship

- Role: “Oversee and guide”
- Different types
  - Hands-off vs hands-on?
  - Experienced vs new to the field?
  - Ambitious?
  - Supportive?
Top tips

1. Arrange, plan and minute meetings
2. Agree expectations and goals
3. Be honest and realistic
4. Meet deadlines
5. Take criticism positively
6. Be independent

What to do if there’s a problem

- Speak to:
  - Supervisor
  - Other members of staff/students
  - Advisor
  - Anyone else
When I started...

- Experiments
- STEM ambassador
- Literature review
- Demonstrating

And now?

- Sensored Science
- Demonstrating
- Writing my dissertation
- Presenting at conferences
- Finishing off experiments
- Marking MAP assignments
- Writing up lab reports
- A-level student work experience
- Open days
- Working in labs
- Working in offices
- Presenting at events
- Preparing for exams
Thank you for listening

Any questions see me at the British Science Association stand!