Oxford Researcher's Trailmap

Looking after yourself, your research, and your career



This Trailmap is your guide to engaging with personal, research, and career development opportunities available to all researchers at Oxford. You will need a Single Sign On (SSO) to login and access further resources on your department or faculty and division web pages. Please explore the map, follow the path based on your individual timelines and goals and click on the links.

Arrive at Oxford

Yourself

Settle into your role
- Welcome to Oxford's research community
- Essentials for working here
- Explore the Equality and Diversity Unit
- Access the staff handbook
- Learn about your contract type
- Guidance on the probationary period
- Information on flexible working
- Support for fixed-term researchers

Connect with fellow researchers
- Join the Oxford Research Staff Society
- Find your research staff representation

Oxford is committed to researcher development
- Read the Charter for the Career Development of Researchers

Discover Oxford
- Settle into Oxford
- Try leisure activities

Your Research

Your research practice essentials
- Complete Research Integrity Training
- Get an ORCID iD to get credit for your research outputs
- Register for Symplectic Elements to support your research reporting
- Learn about Open Access Publishing

Plan and design your research
- Review help and resources available from the Bodleian Libraries
- Explore research governance resources
- Pre-register your research plans
- Undertake inclusive research
- Consider the environmental impact of your research
- Read guidance on good research practices

Seek necessary ethics approvals for your research
- Learn where and how to apply ethics review
- Consult Biomedical Services (if working with animals)

Your Career

Prioritise your learning and your wider career
- Open a CareerConnect account and sign up for opportunities
- Explore dedicated careers support for researchers

3 Months
Settling in

Yourself

Learn more about the University
- Find the Divisions and Departments

Engage with the Conference of Colleges
- Acquire a college association

Explore Oxford researchers' projects and collaborations
- Visit Research@Oxford

Stay safe at work
- Access health and safety guidance

Your Research

Manage your research data
- Learn about quality research data management
- Prepare a Research Data Management Plan
- Understand the FAIR Principles for research data

Stay up to date with core research skills
- Review the research integrity checklist
- Sign up for research practice training

Your Career

Decide what you want to develop
- Plan your professional development

Grow your professional network
- Networking tips
- Find networks and societies

6 Months
Early stage of your contract

Yourself

Understand the wellbeing support available
- Access Spectrum.Life, Oxford's Employee Assistance Programme
- Learn about the Wellbeing Programme
- Information on health and safety training

Consider signing up for ongoing support
- Coaching, mentoring and communities
- Visit Learning and Organisational Development

Help build an inclusive community
- Explore EDI activities and events
- Connect with staff networks

Your Research

Prepare your outputs and routes to impact
- Consider best practices in publication and authorship
- Plan on evaluating research impact
- Reflect on commercialisation and consulting

Fieldwork
- Prepare for working overseas and fieldwork

Your Career

Have a Career Conversation to reflect and prioritise
- Prepare for your Career Conversation
- Learn more about Personal Development Reviews

Discover your next career opportunity
- Book a 1:1 appointment with a careers adviser
- Review your potential next steps

Connect with researchers with experience in other sectors
- Explore options beyond academia with Research Careers

1 Year
Mid contract

Yourself

Understand the end-of-contract employment processes
- Managing and ending fixed-term contracts

Contribute to a positive research culture
- Find out about research culture at Oxford

Your Research

Use research metrics responsibly
- Become familiar with the principles of research metrics

Develop your research skills further
- Humanities Researcher Development and Training
- MPLS Researcher Training & Development
- Medical Sciences Skills Training
- Social Sciences Support for Fixed Term Researchers
- Gardens, Libraries & Museums Training
- Connect with Oxford's Entrepreneurship Hub
- Other University training providers

Your Career

Develop by applying for fellowships or funding
- Identify research fellowship and funding sources
- Use the Map of Internal Funds to view internal funding schemes

Find guidance on decisionmaking and navigating transition
- See a Careers Adviser
- Access 1:1 coaching

Test possible career directions
- Leverage your experience with consulting
- Consider entrepreneurship

Keep track of what you've achieved
- Create a focused and targeted CV

2 Years +
Late stage of your contract

Yourself

Look after your mental health and wellbeing
- Access confidential support
- Learn about wellbeing resources

Your Research

Explore skill development
- Take the digital skills health check
- Gain leadership and management skills

Plan for your research future
- Familiarise yourself with data management requirements

Your Career

Develop your core skills
- Learn what employers look for
- Consider volunteering at the Oxford Hub

Prepare to showcase your talent
- Share your research on your academic CV
- Tell your career story with a narrative CV

Post contract

Yourself

Stay connected beyond your contract
- Keep your ORCID profile up to date
- Update your LinkedIn and maintain your Oxford networks

Your Career

Use Careers support one year after your contract ends
- Tips on responding to change or setbacks