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 fixed-term researchers at Oxford. You will find further resources on your department or faculty and division web pages. Please explore the map, click on the links, and tailor it to your individual timelines and goals.

**Action at Oxford**

- **Settling in**
  - Arrive at Oxford
  - Consider applying for fellowships or funding
  - Seek opportunities to further develop your skills
  - Plan your engagement and impact
  - Sharing your research
  - Manage your research data
  - Research practice essentials
  - Seek necessary ethics approvals for your research

- **Mid contract**
  - Review your development and book training
  - Grow your skills and professional network
  - Talk to former and current academic researchers with experience in other sectors
  - Reflect on your various career options
  - Understand the wellbeing support available
  - Consider signing up for ongoing support
  - Explore personal & professional development opportunities
  - Consider your contributions to a supportive, inclusive and equitable research culture
  - Protect your mental health

- **Late stage of your contract**
  - Open a Career Connect account & sign up to news for researchers
  - Begin or refresh your career planning
  - Ask your department/faculty HR lead how to access a Career Development Review (CDR) or Professional Development Review (PDR)
  - Test your career ideas and identify several routes to pursue in parallel
  - Find guidance on decision-making and navigating transition
  - Build on your research role(s)
  - Update your CV and identify gaps
  - Develop your core skills
  - Prepare to make effective applications
  - Use the Careers Service for support for one year after your contract ends

- **Yourself**
  - Learn more about the University
  - Review your development and book training
  - Grow your skills and professional network
  - Talk to former and current academic researchers with experience in other sectors
  - Reflect on your various career options
  - Understand the wellbeing support available
  - Consider signing up for ongoing support
  - Explore personal & professional development opportunities
  - Consider your contributions to a supportive, inclusive and equitable research culture
  - Protect your mental health

- **Your Research**
  - Research practice essentials
  - Seek necessary ethics approvals for your research
  - Plan and design your research
  - Open a Career Connect account & sign up to news for researchers
  - Begin or refresh your career planning
  - Ask your department/faculty HR lead how to access a Career Development Review (CDR) or Professional Development Review (PDR)
  - Test your career ideas and identify several routes to pursue in parallel
  - Find guidance on decision-making and navigating transition
  - Build on your research role(s)
  - Update your CV and identify gaps
  - Develop your core skills
  - Prepare to make effective applications
  - Use the Careers Service for support for one year after your contract ends

- **Your Career**
  - Open a Career Connect account & sign up to news for researchers
  - Begin or refresh your career planning
  - Ask your department/faculty HR lead how to access a Career Development Review (CDR) or Professional Development Review (PDR)
  - Test your career ideas and identify several routes to pursue in parallel
  - Find guidance on decision-making and navigating transition
  - Build on your research role(s)
  - Update your CV and identify gaps
  - Develop your core skills
  - Prepare to make effective applications
  - Use the Careers Service for support for one year after your contract ends