

## The DPhil Process – example from Plant Sciences

In consultation with graduate students and the DGS in Plant Sciences, adapted from:  
Phillips, E. M. and Pugh, D. S. (1994), *How to get a PhD*, Buckingham: Open University Press.

	<b>Beginning Phase</b>	<b>Middle Phase</b>	<b>Ending Phase</b>
<b>Within 4 years</b>	<b>Terms 0-3</b>	<b>Terms 3-7</b>	<b>Terms 7-11</b>
<b>Form of thesis</b>	Literature search; background theory; practical work starts ('a plant and a protocol').	Practical experiments; generation of bulk of results; and analyses.	Practical experiments continue; writing up.
<b>Stages</b>	Possible topics (open-end or specific); first year assessment (preparation for transfer of status).	Second year assessment (confirmation of status).	Writing up; preparation for viva.
<b>Personal processes</b>	Transition to new status (smooth or bumpy); novel tasks; multiple training; anticipation; uncertainty; 'getting the hang of things'.	Increasing familiarity; intellectual uncertainty; making the project one's own. Frequent sense of failure; fed-up-ness; panic.	Pressure to complete; termination of research; career anxiety.
<b>Supervision issues</b>	Establishing pattern of regular meetings; guiding research; multiple training; building a relationship; understanding how time is spent; support for first year assessment; consider what is realistic.	Support for maintaining focus; letting go; encouragement with plan; discussion about career; consider what is realistic.	Support: during intensive writing; as research ends; and in preparation for the viva; consider what is realistic.