Introduction to the Informatics Graduate School

Nigel Topham
Director of Graduate School
What is the IGS?

- Large cohort of postgraduate research students
- Degrees: MScR, MRes, MPhil, PhD
- Academic and administrative staff (ISS)
- Information sources for postgraduate student

http://web.inf.ed.ac.uk/infweb/student-services/igs
Information – Graduate School web pages

- Rich source of up-to-date info
- IGS people
  - Academic staff and their roles
  - Administrative and support staff
- Links to:
  - Introductory information
  - Year timelines
  - Annual reporting guidelines
  - Examination process
  - Programme change / withdrawal
  - Training & development
  - Fees & funding
  - Student support
  - Social events

http://web.inf.ed.ac.uk / infweb / student-services / igs
Graduate School staff and their roles

- **Director (Nigel Topham)**
  - Recruitment, selection and funding, with Institute PGR Selectors
  - Graduate School policy
  - College and University representation

- **Deputy Director (Alex Lascarides)**
  - Approve interruptions, suspensions, extensions
  - Networking events
  - Transskills courses
  - Annual review cycle

- **Personal Tutor, PGR (Paolo Guagliardo)**
  - Mentoring and pastoral advice

- **ISS staff with IGS responsibilities, see:**
  - [http://web.inf.ed.ac.uk/infweb/student-services/igs/contact](http://web.inf.ed.ac.uk/infweb/student-services/igs/contact)
Starting your PhD...

- Be bold – choose an exciting, challenging topic
- Develop your skills in parallel with your research
  - IAD courses (e.g., How to do an Inf PhD, 21/11/18)
- Get to know other PhD students
  - Firbush (29-31/11/18)
  - Other social events advertised via email
- Seek outside interests - work/life balance
- Supervisors are only human – learn to work with them
- Think about where you are going, and plan for your career
Be an effective PhD student ...

- PhD time is precious – manage it carefully
- Read extensively, widely and continuously
- Write early and often
- Plan your research around paper submissions
- Define small, measurable goals
- Tell supervisors and colleagues about your plans
- Be rigorous in your work
- Learn from the best role models in research
- Take control of your own destiny…
- Read the Researchers’ Handbook (Bundy et al.)

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→ phd → training-development → researchers-handbook
Have fun with your research!