

Get it done: practical advice, strategies and support to finish your dissertation spring 2023

Writing – and finishing writing! – a PhD is a challenging endeavor. Many PhD candidates struggle to transition from research and writing into getting the thesis done and submitting the manuscript. Challenges, among others are: having many other obligations (such as child- and elderly care, jobs, political/activist engagements, volunteering, hobbies etc.), setting priorities, time management, anxiety around contacting supervisors, workload, uncertainty about expectations concerning quality, length, and format of the thesis, financial issues etc. Many of the issues are not academic in the strict sense. Most often it is a feeling of being pressured, overwhelmed, confused, and/or lost. Most candidates who face those issues believe that they alone face those challenges and their situation is unique. While a PhD is supposed to be an individual project, the experience of it is by no means unique.

This course contextualizes the experience of doing (and importantly finishing!) the PhD, provides systematic knowledge about the different experiences and common challenges of the last phase of the PhD, and provides opportunity for peer-group exchange. The course is a safe space in which personal issues and experiences can be shared. It provides room to reflect on individual problems, practical and emotional challenges but also solutions and successful strategies.

This course faces the challenges of finishing a PhD head on and aims at providing some tips for PhD candidates in finalizing their PhD theses. Key topics include finding a submission date, time management, getting into the right mind-set, asking for support, and communication with supervisors.

Participants:

The number of participants is limited to 10 persons. Participants should ideally be in the very last phase of their PhD and should aim at handing in within 6 months.

Dates:

8 March 2023, 10:15-11:45 am
15 March 2023, 10:15-11:45 am
29 March 2023, 10:15-11:45 am
19 April 2023, 10:15-11:45 am
Follow-up meeting in May

Registration:

Until **20th February 2023** via email to Julia Büchele (j.buechele@unibas.ch).
Please **include a short statement** (max. 1 page) about how far you are in your dissertation and the biggest challenges you are facing right now.

Venue:

We will decide whether the workshop will take place **via zoom or in class** depending on the participant's wishes and needs.

Schedule (tentative):

Date	Topic
8 March 2023	Opening Session: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introduction and organization of the semester, getting to know each other - Who is where while finalizing his/her thesis? What obligations do we have? What challenges do we face? - setting a submission date - Course objectives, participants' wishes & needs...
15 March 2023	Time and work management: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Individual time planning, to-do-lists, mile stones - Communication with supervisors and people who support you - How to deal with what kind of pressure? How do we manage our time?
29 March 2023	Getting everything ready: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How to organize the final revision processes - Make time for formatting, documents to hand in, printing etc.
19 April 2023	Rite of passage: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What does it mean to do/finish a PhD? - Why is it such an emotional experience at times and how can we deal with it?
A few weeks	Group meetings if desired, individual meetings, or no meetings
tba	Follow up session