

SCHOLARS AT RISK NETWORK
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Making the Most of a Placement




Scholars at Risk
 Online Training Module
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MAKING THE MOST OF A PLACEMENT

Once you've been offered a position to continue your academic work in safety, the question often remains: *What now?*



How do I maximize this opportunity? How do I make this opportunity a building block for future opportunities?

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IDENTIFYING YOUR GOALS

One way to begin thinking about this is to consider your *long-term academic goals*

- What are you working towards while in your placement?
- What skills do you hope to build now for future opportunities?

Goals Exercise
 Take 4 minutes to write down your goals for your current and future academic work

* Reminder to continually consider your long-term priorities

IDENTIFYING YOUR GOALS

Thinking of how to further your engagement on some of the goals you've identified might be helpful.

Some of your **goals** may be related to:



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- Research
- Publications
- Teaching



GOALS: RESEARCH

Some areas of research you could look into expanding or augmenting are:

- o *Research themes and topics*
- o *Unfinished projects*
- o *Collaborative research*
- o *New research methods*
- o *Courses for university faculty*



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GOALS: PUBLICATIONS

There are a few different areas within the realm of publications you may choose to explore to work towards your goals:

- o *International or regional publications*
- o *Identifying specific journals helpful to your career*
- o *Peer-review and editing*
- o *Conferences*



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 **GOALS: TEACHING**

Areas within teaching to inquire about and explore:



- o Curriculum
- o Pedagogy
- o New Course Content
- o Continued Learning Resources
- o Observing others

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 **HOW TO ACHIEVE THESE GOALS**

Think about:

- *Is this through making new contacts in your field?*
- *Is this by taking a specialized course in pedagogy, a new language, or content on which you would like to work?*
- *Is it expanding your research focus into a new area?*

Consider: what other ways can you think about achieving goals that you had envisioned for yourself?



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 **PEOPLE AND RESOURCES**



- Faculty mentors
- Students
- University career centers
- University social groups, events, and activities
- University wellness centers
- Academic associations
- SAR!

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PEOPLE AND RESOURCES

Faculty mentors are often an invaluable resource for:

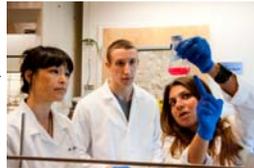
- *Offering guidance*
- *Expanding your network and connecting you to relevant contacts*
- *Directing you to research and teaching resources*
- *Supporting you through a transition*



PEOPLE AND RESOURCES

Students may help you:

- *Build supervisory skills*
- *Develop new pedagogy*
- *Explore new research questions*



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PEOPLE AND RESOURCES

University career centers may offer:

- *Free workshops*
- *One-on-one sessions*
- *Job search resources*
- *Writing help*



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PEOPLE AND RESOURCES

Joining **University social groups, events, and activities** can help you:

- *Form bonds around shared academic and personal interests*
- *Further your engagement with others on and off campus*

What academic and personal interests would you like to connect on with colleagues and peers?

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PEOPLE AND RESOURCES

University wellness centers can serve as a resource for:

- *Work-life balance*
- *Healthy habits*
- *Specific events for international scholars and spouses*

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PEOPLE AND RESOURCES

Academic associations can offer a wealth of information to help advance your career in a new environment with such resources as:

- Job Boards
- Calls for Proposals
- Conferences
- Content Specific Research and News
- Student Resources
- And More

Available at <https://mesa-ana.org/> Screenshot by Scholars at Risk.

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PEOPLE AND RESOURCES

SAR!

 Protection	 Advocacy	 Learning
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> hosting threatened scholars for temporary academic visits referring scholars to the network for assistance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> offering Student Advocacy Seminars to teach real-world advocacy skills supporting scholars in prison by writing letters of appeal work with the SAR Academic Freedom Monitoring Project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> attending SAR conferences and workshops inviting SAR scholars to share their stories on campus joining research groups looking at pressing issues facing international higher education

We are here for you. You can also visit our website here for scholar resources:
<https://www.scholarsatrisk.org/scholar-resources/>



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SPECIFIC SKILLS TO STRENGTHEN YOUR ROLE

- Public speaking
- Resume/CV writing
- Interviewing
- New classroom technologies
- Teaching resources
- Academic writing
- Academic English courses
- Networking
- Inviting feedback



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SKILLS TO STRENGTHEN YOUR ROLE

Public speaking is a skill that most people feel they can improve upon.

As an academic, public speaking is important for course instruction, conferences, lectures, and more.

A few resources:

- Toastmasters
- Conferences
- Guest Lectures
- SAR speaker series!



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SKILLS TO STRENGTHEN YOUR ROLE



Resume/CV Writing

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- CVs should be living documents
- Norms and standards differ according to varying academic contexts
- Resources: writing classes/workshops, colleague reviews, SAR!



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SKILLS TO STRENGTHEN YOUR ROLE

Interviewing

- Like a muscle, interviewing skills can be strengthened with conditioning and practice
- Consider practicing with colleagues and experts in your field to prepare and invite feedback before an interview



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SKILLS TO STRENGTHEN YOUR ROLE

New classroom technologies

As technology progresses, so do methods of teaching within academia.

Are you interested in learning about:

- Flipped Classrooms
- MOOCs
- Smart boards
- Video Conferencing
- Etc?



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What resources might be available for you to do so?



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SKILLS TO STRENGTHEN YOUR ROLE

Teaching resources

With new environments, different course loads, or diverse student environments, you may want to explore new teaching approaches

Consider: What do you hope to achieve in your classroom?

Remember your abundant resources:

- Colleagues
- University teaching centers
- Online learning opportunities
- Student evaluations
- And more



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SKILLS TO STRENGTHEN YOUR ROLE

Academic writing

Continually improving one's writing, especially in new academic settings, is an invaluable trait for advancing your research caliber



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- Resources: academic writing courses, university career centers, collegicues, academic associations, etc.



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SKILLS TO STRENGTHEN YOUR ROLE

Networking

- Making connections is integral to professional and personal growth
- The **outcomes can and do vary**:
 - Networking does not always result in employment but can serve as a stepping stone to future opportunities

6 Quick Tips

1. Identify the purpose
2. Prepare for the question:
What do you do?
3. Tailor your questions to your audience
4. Find a shared interest
5. Show gratitude
6. Follow up



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SKILLS TO STRENGTHEN YOUR ROLE

Inviting feedback is seen as a strength.

- Consider asking: **What can I do better?**
- This demonstrates a desire to continually learn and grow



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DISCUSSION

What other skills do you think could help you strengthen your role at the university?



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Thank you!



get connected:

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