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?

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:

- Research
- Publications
- Teaching

GOALS: RESEARCH

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

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

GOALS: PUBLICATIONS

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

- International or regional publications
- Identifying specific journals helpful to your career
- Peer-review and editing
- Conferences
GOALS: TEACHING

Areas within teaching to inquire about and explore:

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

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?

PEOPLE AND RESOURCES

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

PEOPLE AND RESOURCES

University career centers may offer:

- Free workshops
- One-on-one sessions
- Job search resources
- Writing help
**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://mesana.org/ Screenshot by Scholars at Risk.
PEOPLE AND RESOURCES

SAR!

Protection
• hosting threatened scholars for temporary academic visits
• referring scholars to the network for assistance

Advocacy
• offering Student Advocacy Seminars to teach real-world advocacy skills
• supporting scholars in prison by writing letters of appeal
• working with the SAR Academic Freedom Monitoring Project

Learning
• attending SAR conferences and workshops
• inviting SAR scholars to share their stories on campus
• joining research groups focusing on 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/

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

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
**SKILLS TO STRENGTHEN YOUR ROLE**

**Resume/CV Writing**

- 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.

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

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.

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

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
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

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