

IAPETUS Residential Training Event

**National Landscape Discovery Centre, Bardon Mill,
Hexham, Northumberland, NE47 7AN**

14-17 January 2025 (arrival 13 January)

Context

As last year, our training event is informed by feedback from previous training events. Specifically:

- Travel time at either end of the week is important. Consequently, the training will take place from the Tuesday morning to the Friday lunchtime, giving Monday to travel to the venue and Friday afternoon / evening to return.
- Cohort-building and informal interactions are key to the value of these events. Hence, we have limited formal training to 6h per day, to leave ample time for informal interactions.
- It would be good to ensure welcome events in quorum, to maximise mixing across cohorts.
- More varied training is required to meet the demands of the PG Cert – and more choice would be nice. Hence, as with the recent events, much of the content provides for choice between sessions.
- Heavier duty material would ideally be split overnight, so that there is downtime to process information between sessions.

As a result of these considerations, we need to gauge preferences and numbers for different sessions. If numbers are too high for some, we might have to give preference to specific cohorts; however, we will navigate that issue if it arises. The text below indicates, where relevant, which sessions we expect to be more relevant at different stages of the PhD. Note that if you are guided away from certain sessions, it is likely that there will be other opportunities to get the same or very similar training.

Content

Content is outlined on the following table. You will need to indicate which sessions you would like to attend, and a questionnaire will be circulated for that purpose.

Date	Session time	Session 1	Session 2
14/01	0900-1200	<p style="text-align: center;">Welcome, introduction and team-building</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Your team will face challenges like no researchers have before! A low-stakes, high-fun format strangely reminiscent of the TV show Taskmaster.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">You will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get to know other students from different cohorts and institutions • Use quick-thinking and creative problem solving • Practice presenting in a silly and safe setting <p style="text-align: center;">Bring an open mind and all the enthusiasm you can muster!</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Led by Matt Williamson</i></p>	
	1400-1700	<p>Storytelling for Researchers: Unleash the Power of Narrative</p> <p>Discover the art of storytelling to enhance your research communication. Engage your audience with impactful stories that make your work memorable. This workshop equips you with the skills to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand why stories are effective engagement tools • Utilize storytelling techniques in presentations • Find great stories to share • Experience an award-winning impression of an albatross <p>Relevant to all types of research communication, this workshop offers a light-hearted yet content-rich experience. Gain practical ideas and activities to immediately apply this powerful approach to your work. Perfect for newcomers to storytelling and those seeking a fresh and impactful way to present their research.</p> <p><i>Led by Matt Williamson</i></p>	<p>Data Visualisation for research and impact</p> <p>This session will focus on using R for high quality data analysis and visualisation.</p> <p><i>Led by Marion Pfeifer (Newcastle University)</i></p>

Date	Session time	Session 1	Session 2
15/01	0900-1200	<p data-bbox="539 221 1220 288">Building an Impactful Presentation: A Step-by-Step Guide</p> <p data-bbox="539 300 1243 491">70% of a successful presentation happens before you even step onto the stage. Avoid regrets by mastering the art of crafting a standout talk that truly captivates your audience. In this session, we will guide you through the process, step by step.</p> <p data-bbox="539 499 757 528">Participants will:</p> <ul data-bbox="539 536 1187 802" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="539 536 1111 603">• Learn the three core concepts of effective presentations <li data-bbox="539 611 1122 639">• Gain insights into slide design and creation <li data-bbox="539 647 1182 715">• Discover the value of thorough preparation and practice <li data-bbox="539 722 1077 802">• Utilize the Blocking strategy to alleviate presentation stress <p data-bbox="539 810 1243 922">Unlock the secrets to creating engaging presentations that leave a lasting impression. Join us and elevate your presentation skills to new heights.</p> <p data-bbox="539 962 853 997"><i>Led by Matt Williamson</i></p>	<p data-bbox="1276 221 1559 252">Project management</p> <p data-bbox="1276 300 2020 528">Project management is an immensely transferable skill that PhD students often acquire without even realising it. Nevertheless, being conscious of the skill and what it involves can increase confidence and efficiency. This session will aim to raise consciousness of the process of project management and its components.</p> <p data-bbox="1276 611 1892 683"><i>Led by Peter Whitton (Researcher Development Programme, Durham University)</i></p>

Date	Session time	Session 1	Session 2
	1400-1700	<p>Statistics – a gentle introduction (Pt 1). Quantitative skills and data analyses are increasingly sought after, and expected of, PhD graduates. However, it is not uncommon for many of us to feel like we missed the basics of data analysis: like statistics is just a series of tests for which we need to memorise the names and uses; and as though there's no possibility for general understanding. This two-part session is aimed at those people: a way to learn, interactively, about data distributions and their properties, and the link between the properties of data and how statistics can tell us the things we're interested to know.</p> <p><i>Led by Hua Lu (British Antarctic Survey)</i></p>	<p>Time management Almost every academic reports that they could achieve more if they were better at time management. Again, this is a valuable transferable skill. Here, we will consider some principles and techniques for good time management.</p> <p><i>Led by Peter Whitton (Researcher Development Programme, Durham University)</i></p>
16/01	0900-1200	<p>Statistics – a gentle introduction (Pt 2) This is a continuation of the session above and, depending on the spectrum of familiarity with the basics of statistics after the morning session, there might be the opportunity to subdivide the group so that some students can move on to a more responsive type of statistics training (i.e., tackling specific queries that you have).</p> <p><i>Led by Hua Lu (British Antarctic Survey)</i></p>	<p>Leadership, supervision & mentoring Key skills in academia and beyond, we will focus on helping individuals to become more effective leaders by realising their own values, so as to provide a solid, authentic and resolute base.</p> <p><i>Led by Steve Hutchinson</i></p>

Date	Session time	Session 1	Session 2
	1400-1700	<p>Introduction to coding with python The basics of python for those with limited experience.</p> <p><i>Led by Dmitry Nikolaenko (Advanced Research Computing, Durham University)</i></p>	<p>Funding and financial management Funding and financial management are key attributes for academics – but they are also aspects of the job that many academics try to avoid. Here, we will consider funding available for early-career researchers – as well as how to manage the research funding that is available to you.</p> <p><i>Led by Rebecca Boulton (Stirling University)</i></p>
17/01	0900-1200	<p>Further R This builds on the sessions delivered in Stirling in November. If you missed those sessions, please catch up on materials via the Iapetus Forum.</p> <p><i>Led by Dan Chapman (Stirling University)</i></p>	<p>The components of an Iapetus PhD Owing to the unavoidable unavailability of one of our trainers, and in response to a variety of training requests, we have decided to run a discussion session on a range of issues that students have raised. These include writing, publication, theses, vivas and the PGCert. However, if you have additional questions, you can bring them to this session.</p> <p><i>Led by Phil Stephens (Durham University) and Heather Price (University of Stirling)</i></p>

Speakers without affiliations are external consultants