First Steps

The Effective, Successful, Happy Academic: Key approaches, tools, and resources

Our brief introduction to the ‘How to be a Happy Academic’ approach, designed for all salaried academic workers - irrespective of career stage, discipline or role.

The demands on academic settings and those working in them continue to rise. Publishing, funding, engagement, and mentorship - social media, mass media, leadership and teaching - the demands on academics increase, diversify, and evolve. Concurrently: jobs, resources, and institutional / research funding are becoming more scarce. More needs to be done better with less and by fewer academics.

In this interactive workshop, engage with and harness the best and latest thinking, research, and approaches to help support you and your workplace be effective in the new realities of the modern academic workplace. Consider how you can meet the diverse demands of the changing academic workplace and take your career, research and teaching to the next level amidst this complex and demanding context. Develop and consolidate your knowledge, skills, and strategies to meet the challenge of becoming, being and staying effective, successful, and happy.

How to be an Effective, Successful, Happy Academic Leader

Designed specially for current or future leaders in academic workplaces, drawing on the approach of ‘How to be a Happy Academic’, this workshop gives an orientation about how to understand, approach, and do the work associated with academic leadership roles.

Leadership roles in academic workplaces are uniquely demanding and challenging. Change is constant, demands from stakeholders and students are many, and authority is complex. Yet, the development and growth of academic leaders is often not prioritized or informed by research.

In this interactive workshop, engage with and harness the best and latest thinking, research, and approaches to help support you lead for institutional and personal success in the new realities of the modern academic workplace. Consider how you can meet the diverse demands of the changing academic leadership and take your career, your colleagues, and your organization to the next level amidst this complex and demanding context. Develop and consolidate your knowledge, skills and strategies to meet the challenge of becoming, being and staying effective, successful, and happy in your academic leadership role.
The Effective, Successful, Happy Student: Key approaches, tools, and resources

A student version of our brief introduction to the ‘How to be a Happy Academic’ approach, designed specifically for the challenges of being a Masters or doctoral student.

How can you best position yourself for your dream academic job and career? What are employers looking for in the increasingly competitive academic jobs market? How can you best ensure success in your ongoing graduate research, build a career, and future proof your happiness and work-life balance?

Join us in this interactive workshop to learn how to get the vital advantage now to meet the expectations and challenges of the modern academic workplace of today and tomorrow. Learn the best ways to manage your time, energy, and broader life. Be provided with vital tools to stay acutely focused on the right work to strategically maximize your chances of success today and build the right foundation for your career for the challenges of tomorrow. Applying the best thinking from research, theory, approaches - this workshop provides essential tools to develop your knowledge, skills, and strategies to meet the challenge of becoming, being and staying effective, successful and happy academic now and throughout your future career.

SUCCESS and THE CORE

Values: Building from your BIG why

Your values – formed from ‘who you are’, ‘what you stand for’ and ‘who you stand with’ should be central to academic work. Yet, like many other forms of work, we all too readily get sucked into focusing on what work needs to be done and how to do it. This may be immediately satisfying, but over the long term reduces motivation and reduces your effectiveness, success, and happiness.

In this interactive workshop, we explore the nature and role of personal values in academic work and identify how your values can be harnessed to specify your success indicators, priorities, goals and tasks. Come to find out more about what you really stand for and how you can use this to be more effective, successful, and happy in your work and your life.

Writing: Get your qualitative research and reviews in impactful journals: A step-by-step recipe for success

How can your work feature in your discipline’s premier journals? It has never been more important for qualitative researchers or their organizations to publish research and reviews in journals that are visible, influential and credible. But this usually this means publishing in journals that are less familiar with qualitative methods, have greater impact, and higher rejection rates. Using approaches from genre-theory, this workshop will equip you with the key ways of approaching, working on, and refining your publications to maximize the likelihood of acceptance in impactful journals of any discipline.
Workshops and Consulting – Sample Topics
Alex Clark, PhD, RN, FCAHS and Bailey Sousa, BA(Hons), PMP

Writing: Developing and writing exceptional qualitative proposals for grant funding success

Writing a research proposal for funding is vital but challenging and time consuming. Led by an experienced international researcher, grants reviewer, and review committee chair, this workshop provides you with a practical and internationally renowned hands-on-guide to maximise the persuasiveness of your qualitative or mixed-methods proposal. Relevant to all disciplines and researchers from graduate students onwards: come to turn the competitive funding process to your advantage and understand better how you can secure proposal success.

Effective Academic Consultations

Bring your own unique challenges, questions and problems to our special roundtable discussions or individual consultations via our 30 minute-long individual or group consultations for up to 2 hours with the facilitators in the following areas:

- Effectiveness
- Prioritization
- Career Strategy
- Creativity
- Human Work & Self Work
- Learning
- Influence and Persuasion
- Personal and workplace support for grant writing success
- Personal and workplace support for research impact
- Presenting
- Excellent habits and systems (including: prioritizing, calendar management, work-flow management, email management, facilitating better meetings).

Questions or topics of discussion should be submitted in advance and with sessions adapted for academics, leaders, and students. Format can be customized.