PhD Launchpad (year 1)
“I think this was the best workshop I have been to so far in terms of preparing me for my PhD, I think everything was covered extremely well, and can’t think of any improvements that would need to be made.”

Making Progress in Your PhD (Year 2)
“The course as a whole we well structured and offered both practical advice and supportive description of being in 2nd year of the PhD, across disciplines. Pinning down the argument of the thesis was extremely helpful, in addition to suggestions and methods for making writing part of the everyday process of the PhD.”

Finish Up, Move on (Year 3)
“Lots of information on how a viva works, and how to write up a thesis, which I found helpful.”

www.dundee.ac.uk/opd
PhD Launchpad (year 1)
Dr Tracey Stead
Atimed at new PhD students, this intensive one-day course will help you to tune into the demands and expectations of your research. Designed around the core skills needed in the early stages of a PhD, you will work with a toolkit of ideas and techniques to use as you begin to develop your research. The course will help you to understand the PhD process, develop your creativity, improve your communication and presentation skills, plan your research and manage important relationships, particularly that between you and your supervision team.

Course aims and objectives
• To prepare new students for the demands of the first year of a PhD
• To develop a network of new PhD students
• Improve their understanding of the demands of a doctoral research degree
• Identify their personal goals and commit to moving these forwards
• Learn the basics of project planning in a research environment
• Develop stronger communication and presentation skills
• Relate the principles of the course to their own research through experiential activities and discussions

Making Progress in Your PhD (year 2)
Dr Dave Filipovic-Carter
The course is designed to help you navigate this potentially extremely challenging middle-part of your doctorate. It is an opportunity to review what you have done to date, and how that relates to what you need to achieve overall, as well as looking ahead to what needs to be done in the short- to medium-term future.

It will focus in some detail on the requirements of a doctorate - the hypothesis, the thesis structure, and the assessment criteria. As well as looking at critical success factors for second year doctoral researchers, and issues relating to collaboration, networking and impact.

Course aims and objectives
• To review and recognize the progress you have made so far in your doctorate, and how this relates to the overall project, as a source of motivation
• To be aware of critical success factors for the second year FTE of a doctorate, from the perspective of supervisors, as well as from second and third year FTE doctoral students, and to consider how you might develop and implement some of these, including especially establishing collaborations and networking
• To understand the requirements of a doctorate, including the assessment criteria you will be judged against
• To begin to define and refine both your research hypothesis and your thesis structure
• To consider the possibilities for communication and other activities connected with impact, such as public engagement
• To develop a short- mid-term action plan on the basis of this coverage.

Finish Up, Move on (year 3)
Dr Tracey Stead
Aimed at PhD students expecting to submit their thesis in the next 12 months, this intensive one-day course is designed to equip you with the skills needed to successfully finish your PhD and make an effective transition to the next stage of your career.

Finish Up, Move On is designed to help you benefit from a huge variety of different skills in a very intensive day. The topics covered have been carefully selected to give you the best opportunity to finish your PhD on time and be prepared for the transition to the next stage of your career, with a focus on the leadership potential of doctoral candidates. The day is highly participative and you will work in groups with other researchers from similar disciplines, giving you the chance to meet a wide range of other research students from across the university.

We’ll take you through the final stages of your PhD in a day and help you to plan your best approach to thesis writing, viva preparation and career planning.

Course aims and objectives
• To prepare final year students for the demands of the final stages of a PhD
• To develop career management skills
• To build awareness of post-PhD career options
• Improve their understanding of the submission and examination of doctoral research degrees
• Understand how to write a thesis plan and manage the writing process
• Develop stronger communication and presentation skills in anticipation of the viva
• Articulate their skills and experiences to future employers