

Tips for Grad School Success: Links to Resources on the web

Here are a few links to helpful resources, identified and described by Eamon Colvin (thanks, Eamon!)

General advice and things to consider

- [Modest Advice](#) by Stephen Stearns (Yale professor)
- [Designs for Learning](#) by Stephen Stearns, about living one's life in academia, and the challenges that come with it (quite long but very insightful)

How to conference

1) [An introvert goes conferencing](#) by Stephen Heard

2) A few BuzzFeed-esque lists from graduate students on how they've conferenced and found useful. A lot of this is obvious, but there are a few specific tips that you may find useful:

- [24 Conference Tips](#) by Emily Contois
- [10 Tips for grad students to make the most of scientific conference](#) by David Shiffman
- [Conferencing as a Graduate Student...](#) by Quinn Webber

Developing marketable skills during your PhD

- [5 Professional Skills](#) by Karla P. Zepeda
- [The beauty of transferable skills: How grad school prepares you for careers off the beaten path](#) by Christine Herman
- [PhD Transferable Skills](#), Michigan State University
- [Unpacking professional development for graduate students](#) by Rachel Cayley

- [The Graduate Game Plan](#), The University of British Columbia

Summary: the skills you develop during your PhD are transferable to a variety of contexts beyond academia.

A variety of [online modules](#) offered through McMaster's Graduate Studies website.

[Professional skills development portal](#) that teach practical skills.

Work habits that will keep you sane and successful

- This book is among the most influential I can think of for work habits: [“Deep Work: Rules for Focused Success in a Distracted World”](#) by Cal Newport, his blog his [here](#).
 - The gist is that being able to sit down and focus on something for an extended period of time is a dying skill, and is a skill that, if you make an effort to cultivate, will make your life much more productive.
 - [One article](#) that Newport suggests about one of his intellectual heroes:
- [John Grisham](#) follows the philosophy of “Deep Work”
 - A quick [video](#) on how building a John Grisham-esque writing ethic might look like.

Data management

- There are a lot of expensive storages backups that you can buy, but with your McMaster Email account you have **unlimited** storage on Google Drive. Definitely worth using. There is also an automatic sync option that saves everything automatically.
- [One strategy](#) to make sure you never lose your files.