

Top 10 Tips for Researching Advising

If you want to research personal tutoring and academic advising, follow these top tips to help you get started. Check out the [UKAT Research Bibliography](#) to connect you to other research in the field. Find inspiration for venues where you can publish your work in UKAT's list of [Where to Publish](#).

RESEARCH SOMETHING THAT INTERESTS YOU

It may be obvious, but the more interested you are in what you're researching, the more likely you are to see it through to completion.

COLLABORATE

Don't be afraid to ask for help. Talk to others about your topic and research questions, get guidance and feedback, present your ideas at a conference. If doing a research project on your own might be too much, why not look for a collaborator.

READ

Read as widely as possible and conduct a literature review at an early stage. Use bibliographies, including the UKAT Research Bibliography, to help you understand the research field.

FIND A MENTOR

Find someone who has experience in researching in your field to act as a mentor. They can offer guidance and feedback on all aspects of your research project, and also provide personal support. UKAT can support.

HAVE A RESEARCH QUESTION IN MIND

It is useful to have a research question in mind to frame and organise your early reading and research. It can be quite broad and you may not stick to it, but it helps.

RESEARCH SUPPORT

Use all the support available to you. Familiarise yourself with the support available and how you can access it, including funding from your institution or external bodies. Use research seminars and academic writing retreats.

PLAN

Identify a clear audience for your research. Make a plan for your research, including what you want to achieve and by when. Set yourself SMART (Specific; Measurable; Achievable; Realistic; Timely) objectives.

ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Ensure that you are aware of the ethical dimensions of your research early in the process, especially if you are conducting social scientific research. Familiarise yourself with the research ethics arrangements at your institution.

BE ORGANISED

Set aside time to work on your research. Identify tasks, make to do lists and do something, however small. Be organised in your (electronic) note taking, filing and referencing as you work. Use reference management tools to help. Use cloud file sharing to collaborate easily with others.

DON'T BE AFRAID TO START WRITING

Get into the habit of writing about ideas as soon as you have them. What you have written doesn't have to be perfect, but it's useful to have something to start with. Better than a blank page!