

Role: PhD student

Doing research for my PhD is so much more challenging than working towards the masters thesis. Not even my advisor knows what we will find out in the end! I am so worried whether it was a good idea to start a PhD. I feel so stupid!

Role: PhD student

In the masters program I was always one of the best students. Now that I work on the PhD thesis, I feel completely overwhelmed and unprepared. I am very upset with myself and am worried what my advisor will say when he finds out.

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I would love to go abroad for a semester or so, but I don't have many research contacts. My advisor is not very well connected in our community, and I've rarely been to conferences.

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I feel quite anxious about the next meeting with my advisor. The other PhD students seem to understand much more than I do, and I honestly don't understand anything. I hope she won't ask me to quit.

Role: PhD student

I got stuck in my PhD project. I've already explained the problem to my advisor, and in principle he sees the issue and says he's going to help me find a solution. But now he keeps cancelling every meeting, and I'm doubting he even has an idea how to solve it.

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Oh boy oh boy I just discovered a mistake in my calculations. Meaning that my only result so far is wrong. That basically means 6 months of work down the drain. My life is ruined. Seriously, this is the worst thing that ever happened to anyone in academia.

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A professor from a different work group called me “sweetie” at the office Christmas party. I mean, he was joking and it’s not a big deal, but I’ve been avoiding him ever since.

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I’ve seen a poster advertising a summer school overseas. It seems really interesting, but I can’t just ask my advisor if I can go, can I?

Role: PhD student

My advisor asked me to read one of his papers and I found a mistake. How do I tell him? I need to tell him because I’m supposed to build on his result, but I’m scared he’ll blow up at me.

Role: PhD student

My advisor is moving to a different university. Help!

Role: PhD student

I want kids. Do I have to wait until after I will have completed my PhD?

Role: PhD student

My mom was diagnosed with cancer and I want to support her. Can I ask my advisor if I can take a break from my PhD?