Boot Camps for Graduate Student Success

By: John Cotton Dana Library • Graduate School-Newark • Learning Center • Writing Center

https://libguides.rutgers.edu/bootcamps

Who

Graduate students (n = 335) in these disciplines registered:

- Business: 33%
- Social Sciences: 22%
- Sciences: 19%
- Humanities: 7%
- Law: 1%
- Health Sciences: 13%

Most were in their 1st, 2nd, & 3rd years of graduate study:

- 1st year: 33%
- 2nd year: 24%
- 3rd year: 19%
- 4th year: 8%
- 5th year: 9%
- 6th year: 3%
- 7th year+: 4%

What & When

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theme</th>
<th>1-2017</th>
<th>5-2017</th>
<th>8-2017</th>
<th>1-2018</th>
<th>5-2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Data skills (2 days; max. 20 students)</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grant skills (2 days; max. 30 students)</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literature Research skills (2 days; max. 30 students)</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentation skills (1 day; max. 30 students)</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Impact &amp; Promotion (1 day; max. 30 students)</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing &amp; Publishing skills (2 days; max. 20 students)</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Where

Dana Library Dana Room & Electronic Classroom #1

Why

Provide opportunities for graduate students to learn important skills that may not be part of their graduate program curriculum, but are valuable for timely degree completion & competitive career advantages.

Boot camp themes were identified through graduate student surveys and interviews with graduate program directors, previous experiences of PI and co-PIs, and a literature review.

Student feedback from Grant Skills Boot Camps:

"thank you. the great thing about the January workshops is that they also get students back in the swing of things on the heels of classes starting back. So it's a win-win - acquire new skills/knowledge and also get ready for classes!"

Identified as most valuable: "Learning the factors that are most important in writing grants and tips and tricks to increase my odds".

Student feedback from Literature Research Skills Boot Camps:

"Great boot camp...it should be mandatory for all students."

Identified as most valuable: "identifying the different categories of features that serve as pros and cons for different indexes/databases. these are key features and before this boot camp, I did not really know how to distinguish and rate the features."

Identified as most valuable: "Using citation software. It really helped me in understanding how to manage citation and organize them properly."

Student feedback from Writing & Publishing Skills Boot Camps:

"I thoroughly enjoyed the boot camp and the excellent lunches."

"Excellent course!"

"Instruction format for publication is very helpful."

Questions? Contact PI Bonnie L. Fong (bonnie.fong@rutgers.edu), co-PI Marne Benson, co-PI Al Brown, co-PI Kinna Perry, co-PI Minglu Wang, or co-PI Ann Watkins (ann.watkins@rutgers.edu)