

PhD Vlog Week 2: Abigail Robertson Transcript

TIME	SPEAKER	AUDIO
00:00:06	Abigail Robertson	Are you trying to help make the Vlog? Hi! Welcome back to the PHD Vlog. Today is Sunday and I'm in front of my very messy desk and I'm getting some things planned out for the rest of the week. On Wednesday I have that presentation that I was supposed to have had last week on the Franks Casket. So I'm going over my notes and I'll be doing that here for a couple of hours before starting some reading for my classes that I teach.
00:00:36		Good morning, it's Monday, it's nearly 08:00 and I am making myself some tea and some yoghurt for breakfast and I'm going to head off to Latin. This afternoon I'm going to do a little bit of work preparing for the rest of my week – so answering some emails, getting things together for courses on Tuesday and Wednesday but I will bring you along with me and talk to you a little bit about my presentation that I'll be giving on Wednesday. Okay, so it's just about 10:00 now and I finished up my work for the day. I've done some grading, it's nothing really to write home about.
00:01:06		But tomorrow is my long day of classes. Tuesday I leave for Campus around 07:00 and I get home around 17:15 – 17:30. I will see you bright and early tomorrow. I thought I would take a few moments to talk to you about what it's like to apply to American Universities for both your Master's and your PHD. I've completed my Master's here and I'm now on a PHD Programme in the U.S. and I know the application process can be a little bit different than U.K. or other European Institutions. I applied to both
00:01:36		European and Institutions here in the U.S. when I applied to schools for my Master's and I noticed a couple of differences in the application process itself. First, to attend a Graduate School in the U.S. you typically have to take something called the G.R.E. which is the Graduate Record Examination. It measures your analytic and reading skills and also has a

		writing component. Typically people prepare for the G.R.E. at least a couple of months ahead of time. There are lot of books and online resources that are very helpful and also practice exams from the
00:02:06		past that you can take a look at. In addition to the G.R.E., students are typically required to have Statement of Purpose that tells Graduate Schools what you're interested in studying in the future and what you've done in the past to prepare you for that study – and also sometimes you'll be required to submit Teaching Statements. Teaching Statements are so that you can obtain a Graduate Teaching Assistantship. Teaching Assistantships are great because not only do you get experience in your field and have something to have on your CV as far as your Teaching and classroom experience, but they
00:02:36		also come with typically tuition remission and a stipend. Tuition remission means that your fees to the University are paid for and a stipend is money that you get from the University from teaching the courses. Depending on what University you attend and where that University is in the U.S. the dollar amount of your stipend will vary but typically it's enough to cover your rent and food and basically be a wage that you can live from. Having a Teaching Assistantship is great because it provides you with a source of income during your Graduate Studies and
00:03:06		also gives you experience in your field that maybe a regular job wouldn't or non-academic job wouldn't. The fall's about the time that people who would like to apply to Graduate School start putting together the lists of Schools they'd like to apply to and figuring out when the deadlines are for their applications. Those deadlines typically fall sometime between beginning and middle of December and middle to late January but they can be anywhere in between depending on the University – there's no standardisation across the board.
00:03:36		If you're applying to a lot of Graduate Schools,

		<p>those deadlines and what paperwork needs to go where can be hard to keep track of. Next week I'll show you some of the resources that I created in order to help me keep track of the application process. Having an organisational system like this really helps you stay on top of your applications and helps you keep your Advisors and Letter Writers in the loop. The whole process can be a little bit messy but having a good system of organisation really takes the stress out of the application process that is already inherently</p>
00:04:06		<p>stressful. It's just about 12:30, a little bit after, and I'm preparing for a presentation in an evening seminar that's tonight and that's called Beads World. The presentation that I'm giving is on the Franks Casket which is an eighth century box made during the Northumbrian Renaissance. I say box because we don't specifically know what the Franks Casket was used for. It's very beautiful, you can find great images of it on the British Museum's website – that's where it's currently housed</p>
00:04:36		<p>and it's a whale-bone box with carvings on each side of the box. So I'm giving a presentation on that particular medieval object this evening in my seminar. I also feel like my research is where it needs to be so I want to approach this more as a conversation. For the next hour or so I'm going to run through my presentation one more time – not so much the words but the timing of the slides and making sure that I have my outline matching what I actually want to do in my presentation in terms of when I should change slides, when I should go</p>
00:05:06		<p>back to another image. Hi! So it is the end of the day on Wednesday and I am back at home after having given my presentation in my Beads Seminar. It went pretty well – there are some things I know I need to change from the version that I gave to the paper that I'll turn in a week from today. There are things I need to hash out a little bit more that I understand having read a bunch of research on it right before I gave the presentation – or a couple of weeks before I gave the presentation – that someone who</p>

00:05:36		<p>hadn't done that research probably wouldn't know. So just adding a little bit more to the background was kind of the general feedback that I got after giving my presentation. I'm actually giving a presentation next week in my Arthurian Literature Course so I'm glad that I'm getting all of these repetitions and in terms of giving presentations before I give my presentation at R.M.M.L.A. the week of October – I think it's the fifth or the sixth – but it's the Thursday of that week. But I will let you know next week how my Arthur project goes.</p>
00:06:06		<p>Right now I'm going to have a cup of tea and hang out with this little guy but I will let you know how the rest of the week goes. Good evening, it's just a little bit after 17:00 on the Thursday and I'm finally home. I didn't get to update yesterday just because I got home from my Beads Seminar at about... What time? I got home from my Beads Seminar at about 19:30 and I ate and took a quiz, I started a quiz that I'm going to turn in for that</p>
00:06:36		<p>Seminar next week and just not rally a lot was going on – I was tired and a little bit grumpy and needed to feed myself! But it's Thursday, I have my full day of classes and Teaching and I'm home now. It's actually my birthday so I'm going to make myself some dinner and just kind of relax a little bit. I haven't really taken it easy at all this week so it'll be nice to kind of kick back and maybe talk to some friends and watch something on TV but right now I'm out on my patio with my dying Basil and Rosemary and Wibbin.</p>
00:07:06		<p>I'll check back in with you on Friday when I do my recap of what's gone on over the week but... Today's Friday so that means we're officially at the end of this week's PHD Vlog and I want to talk to you about what I've done this week and what's coming up next week. So this week I have my big presentation, I have a small presentation next week that won't require as much preparation but I'll bring you along with me for that. In addition, I'm doing a Writing Camp on Saturday and Sunday to help me prepare for a conference that I'm going to have</p>

		in two weeks
00:07:36		in Santa Fe, New Mexico – about an hour north from here. So next week you'll see the result of that Writing Camp, what I did to get my paper ready from being a long article-length paper to something shorter that I can present at a conference. Also I'll talk to you about Teaching and what it means in particular to be someone who's doing a subject history-related as part of a Humanities Degree. So although my Degree is through the English Department, I have to take a lot of history course. I had to have special
00:08:06		Language skills that aren't required for other... Typically for other English PHD Programmes. So I'll talk to you about what it means to be a medievalist in a PHD Programme. Thanks so much for tuning in and I will see you next week.

END OF TRANSCRIPT