

PhD Vlog Week 1: Sana Rahim Transcript

TIME	SPEAKER	AUDIO
00:00:00		[TITLE BOARD]
00:00:05	Sana	Today was officially the first day of my PhD and I did absolutely no work and what I did do, though, actually, was I proofread a PhD thesis, around four chapters, which was quite a lot of reading, for a friend of mine who has her two-year exam. And I'm actually quite happy that I did that because it gave me a bit of an idea of how much work it actually is
00:00:30		and to hopefully, when my time comes, she'll return the favour. So, yes, but in terms of me, I just printed out the email, the welcome email that I got, and apart from that, I did nothing else. But there is a student schedule on there which, by looking at first glance, was just so overwhelming that... This one is ...
00:01:00		This is my PhD Vlog. Today is officially day three for me being a registered PhD student and so far today, I went shopping in the morning to pick up a few bits for the kids and then I came back and I sorted out this application; printed out five copies of it, which is what they've requested. And it's basically an application for a £500 grant for travelling expenses and other expenses for carrying out research. It's worth giving a shot and worth experiencing, well practising, how it is to start filling out applications to grab any sort of research grants that are out there. I had sent my supervisor a copy of it
00:01:30		and today he sent back a really nice reference, so I'm really happy about that. And I'm just going to send that off before I pick up the kids. I went onto the university blackboard and I looked at the modules that we are enrolled on and mostly they are sort of just leading towards your research anyway. So the first one is giving you practice or telling your, sort of directing how to start your literature review and then the other ones
00:02:00		are sort of like a reflect statement that you need to do and then I think the third and fourth are qualitative and quantitative methods training.

		So, yes, I'm going to slowly start to go through them. Today is officially day four and I have spent the day reading a little bit about how to start, what the module includes, and the first module which is basically teaching
00:02:30		you how to write like a social scientist. And they gave us a link to this book and, to be honest, I haven't really read it, to be fair, but I have skimmed through it and I have also downloaded the module handbook and I also just sort of... What else did I do? I think I tidied up a little bit. I wanted to organise upstairs a little bit because I recently made Imaad's cot into a bed
00:03:00		and everything that was under the cot is now... Needs to be sort of tidied away. They have so much books in their room. I have this personal thing where I end up actually more on the dining table than I do here, and there's a lot of reasons for that. Reason number one is that it's right next to the kettle and that's really, really important. Number two, because in the day, I usually like the sunlight that comes onto the dining table and also
00:03:30		it's just me at home, so really it doesn't matter where I sit as long as I'm comfortable and there's tea and I like to move around. Yes, I think it's really, really important that the kids learn the map and the flags and just get this sort of interest in travelling and seeing the world. So, me doing international relations as my subject, I really like maps and countries and a little bit of geography. So that's my world map, which is quite big, to be honest, but there it is.
00:04:00		And then I have my desk here. At the moment, because I'm at the fairly beginning days of my PhD, I just have random books here that I feel like reading or checking out or I want to get around to read.
00:04:12		[TIME FOR SCHOOL]
00:04:25	Sana	Once you are a registered student with your university, you need to go onto the SCONUL website and click on the university library that you intend to visit. So in my case, that would

		be... Hi! In my case, that would be Manchester University Library. So if you go onto the website and you fill the forms in, then they will give you a reply pretty soon. They replied to me two days later to say that I was accepted and that I need to print the form out and take my ID, my student ID, to the library to get
00:05:00		an ID card with that library. My friend's here now, so I'll... Hi, everyone. Today is Friday and I am just sat outside in the garden supervising the kids playing and we have a... Bye! We have a... Okay! We have a secure car park where I sometimes let them go outside the garden to play, but then I have so sort of keep an eye on them, as well, just to make sure. So, yes, I'm just sat here and I just thought it would be nice to reflect on the week that we've had.
00:05:32	Boy	[Unclear 00:05:32]
00:05:34	Sana	And I thought it would be nice to reflect on the week as a first-week distant learner. There was a lot of sort of looking through the module handbook and looking through the set of instructions and sort of getting a feel of the blackboard and things like that that I think that was the main thing, so I did pretty much do that every day a little bit.
00:06:00		I guess next week, I will be doing a lot more sort of planning my literature review or sort of getting into some sort of subheadings of what I want to... How I want to theme or split or separate whatever my topics, my main reading, and stuff like that. Apart from that, I sent the grant off this week, the grant application, which I'm really happy that I did. And apart from that, the most important tips and pointers that I'm going to give for a distant learner is send any documents that need sending,
00:06:30		any registration forms, straight away. And don't wait for replying to any emails or anything like that. Make a note of your IT account, your username, password, for library, for postal loans and all that. It's really, really...

END OF TRANSCRIPT