

Dear English Graduate Offer Holders,

My name is Camille Stallings and I am the 2020–2021 Teaching and Careers Officer (TCO) at the English Faculty. I am also a second-year DPhil candidate, and I study friendship (*philia*) in the Victorian novel; Prof. Helen Small is my supervisor.

I would love to extend a warm “Hello” and a hearty “Congratulations!” to you all for your achievement in receiving an offer to pursue postgraduate work at University of Oxford. You will find a great intellectual home here at the English Faculty, and I warmly welcome each of you.

One of the incredible resources available to you as a postgraduate student is the professionalization programme, which is organised and hosted by the TCO. As a PGT or PGR, I encourage each of you to attend as many TCO events as you can because each event is intended to provide you with valuable opportunities to build professional and academic skills, as well as build your network and community of scholars.

This academic year, I have organised and hosted the following events:

- A “Guide for New MSt and DPhil Students” event in Michaelmas 2020, which was comprised of a panel of PGRs that discussed “**Putting Together a DPhil Application**”; “**Thriving as a Postgraduate Student During Covid-19**”; “**The Entrepreneurial Academic**”; and “**Navigating the Student-Supervisor Relationship.**”
- A “Call for Papers” Workshop, comprised of a panel of PGRs who discussed their successes and struggles around applying to present at conferences. We then did a brief introduction on “**How to Write and Submit A Successful Abstract,**” and paired students up with peer-editors.
- Two separate events, one for first-year DPhils: “**A Guide to the Transfer of Status**”; and one for third-year DPhils: “**A Guide to Confirmation.**”
- A three-part series on “**Getting Your Work Out There: How to Get Published.**” We held three events throughout Hilary 2021 on Friday afternoons: (1) **Writing as a Public Intellectual: How to Get Published with Julie Summers**; (2) **How to Get Published in an Academic Journal with Prof. Colin Burrow**; and (3) **How to Turn Your DPhil into a Book with Prof. Laura Marcus.**

In addition to these various workshops, the TCO also organizes and hosts our annual **English Graduates Conference**, held every year in Trinity. This is an invaluable opportunity for postgraduates to participate in learning how to put on an academic conference. It is also a key opportunity for professional development, as all who participate learn how to write a CFP and an abstract, build the skills of public speaking and presenting, and asking questions during the Q&A sessions. This year’s conference theme is “Inside/Outside” and will be held online, via Zoom, on 4 June 2021. Please [visit our website](#) to find out more details, and to consider attending.

Another vital opportunity offered to postgraduates is the “**Preparing for Learning and Teaching at Oxford**” (PLTO) training session, which is open to all first-year DPhils upon passing Transfer (offered each year at the end of Trinity). PLTO prepares postgraduates to

teach tutorials and classes through the “**Teaching and Mentoring Scheme**” (TMS). TMS provides the invaluable opportunity of being mentored by a member of the teaching staff and the chance to teach and receive feedback from your mentor.

If you have any questions about professional opportunities and training, please feel free to email me at camille.stallings@st-hildas.ox.ac.uk. I would be happy to help, and I would warmly welcome the opportunity to meet you.

Warmly,
Camille L. Stallings