Perspective of a supervisor

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Why do a Master’s or a PhD?

- To get an academic / R & D job
- To contribute to the Computing discipline
- To postpone working in the “real-world”
- To learn more about (and do) really cool work
- To hang out with really cool people
- .....................
You & Your Supervisor (Two of the Most Important People in your Academic Life)

- Supervisor or Advisor?
- Principal Supervisor, Associate/Adjunct Supervisors, Co-Supervisor – the lot
- Is your supervisor really interested in your topic?
- Supervision Styles & Personalities
- Establish a supervision arrangement right off the start
You & Your Research Topic

- Now that you have decided on that a research topic you are passionate about

- Decide on type of research (theoretical, experimental, applied) – seek advice

- MRes – Develop a full proposal & plan in MRes–2

- MPhil / PhD – Develop a full proposal & plan within 6 months (setting the agenda for the rest of the program)

- Keep in mind that research is normally done in small steps (milestones)
Writing & Publishing

- The old adage “Publish–OR–Perish” (and “Publish–AND–Perish”)
- Write down your ideas / seek feedback
- Clarity is paramount (Richard Hamming, a Turing award winner, said 50% presentation, 50% research)
- Start from a specialised forum (e.g., a workshop organized by your supervisor(s))
- Target 3–5 forums and work to their deadlines
Networking

- Engage with the people in your research group
- Socialize with your peers, academic staff members, admin, tech support
- Attend departmental / group seminars to meet even cooler people / visitors
- Attend workshops / conferences, visit established people in your research area
Web Presence

- Do you already have a website?
- Copy/be inspired by the structure of good websites
- Place your CV, papers & software on your website
- Social networks: LinkedIn, ResearchGate, Academia.edu etc
Your Thesis

- Time-honoured rule: Normally written and submitted (just) before your scholarship runs out

- MPhil theses are assessed by two experts external to the university; PhD theses by three experts

- MRes theses are assessed by a panel

- Traditional (monograph) versus publication-based theses
  - There is no simple rule for publication-based theses; seek advice
Food for Thought

- Reading for next week: “How to do research at the MIT Lab”
  http://dspace.mit.edu/bitstream/handle/1721.1/41487/AI_WP_316.pdf?sequence=4

- Reading any time: “You and Your Research” by Hamming
  http://www.cs.virginia.edu/~robins/YouAndYourResearch.html