



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 Science with and for Society programme under grant agreement no. 872483



**Project acronym:**  
DocEnhance

**Project title:**  
"Enhancing skills intelligence and integration into existing PhD programmes by providing transferable skills training through an open online platform"

**Grant agreement No: 872483**  
Project funded by the European Commission  
within the Horizon 2020 Programme

**Start date of project: 1 January 2020**  
**Duration: 36 months**

## Deliverable No. 2.2

### Index list of recommended online courses

Due date of deliverable	30/06/2021
Submission date	17/06/2022
File Name	D2.2 Index list of recommended online courses
Organisation Responsible of Deliverable	UCT Prague
Author name(s)	Mili Losmanová
Revision number	02
Status	Final
Dissemination Level	PU <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> PU: Public, PP: Restricted to other programme participants (including the Commission Services), RE: Restricted to a group specified by the consortium (including the Commission Services), CO: Confidential, only for members of the consortium (including the Commission Services)



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Revision History			
Version	Date	Modified by	Comments
1.	21/12/2021	Mili Losmanová	
2.	14/06/2022	Filip Faltejsek	Minor tweaks & finalization



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## **Deliverable D2.2**

### **Index list of recommended courses**

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## SUMMARY

This project describes the PhD courses available online that are open for doctoral candidates. The identified platforms excerpted from the Internet have been analysed especially with respect to the category of PhD program, availability, course length and price. The aim of this project is to search for all the possibilities that are here to expand knowledge of a doctoral candidate apart from university education.

The main aim of WP2 is to develop a career-oriented curriculum addressing future skills needs, and the description for D2.2 is: « WP2 will collect and index existing Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) of high relevance and quality, to feed into the DocEnhance curriculum. »



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## INTRODUCTION

PhD candidates perform their studies under the management of a supervisor, always according to an individual study plan. The study obligations differ in each country, and the doctoral candidates may benefit from getting involved in research projects. However, the question arises concerning to what extent is their research in fact applicable to real-world usage.

When it comes to choosing an online course on his own, there are not many possibilities for a PhD candidate. Many platforms offer a course that is intended for a potential PhD candidate about how to study a PhD program or how to be ready for the study itself but not for a current student. When a doctoral student wishes to learn some new skills, there are, however, many opportunities online. Those courses are not labeled as PhD course, that is the reason why they never automatically occur while searching for them online. What can also be discouraging for a student is the price of the course. Some courses cost more than 600 euros and not every student is lucky to have enough money for applying for the course. With respect to those facts and also with regard to the DocEnhance platform, it can be said, that there is a space for creating a new platform offering some PhD courses online, labelling them as part of PhD program studying. Young researchers would certainly welcome an opportunity to learn something new and deepen their knowledge.



## PHD ONLINE COURSES AVAILABLE ONLINE

**MOOC** platforms offered two courses. The first course *How to Survive Your PhD* is primarily designed for masters, PhD or research students and the academics who are tasked with helping them. The aim of this course is helping with student's emotional issues and understanding the common emotional experiences of research students and why they tend to have emotional issues in common. Students will learn how to discuss and create strategies and approaches to help research students cope with the emotional challenges of research study. Student can get a certificate for 41 EUR.

The second course *Determine Your Readiness for Doctoral Studies* is designed for helping students to understand and discover what it takes to complete a doctorate. Both videos and quizzes are part of this course to encourage class discussions. The length of this course is four weeks. Quizzes help students discover how their individual learning styles and personalities play a role in completing advanced graduate work. Reflective journaling on interesting reading assignments allow students to make sense of what they are learning. The course ends with an exploration of four PhD programs and an opportunity to ask questions of the program chairs of each.

However, both courses are no longer available but they are the only two that are mentioned in the PhD course category. Due to this fact we decided to mention them. It might be possible they become reintroduced or their modification again in the future.

Other websites that offer online learning for PhD candidates is **Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam**. Filtered by "study type", PhD programs are set to take place in January 2022 online. The three courses are: *Academic Writing Skills - From PhD Paper to Publication for Business School Students*; *Meta-Analysis: Know-how and beyond*; *Transform your qualitative data into an overview!* The price of each course is 600 Euros and the course length is 4 days.

The goal of the course *From PhD Paper to Publication for Business School Students* course is to help Business School students improve their academic writing skills.

The aim of the second course *Meta-Analysis: Know-how and beyond* is to help students get to grips with the basic and advanced skills required for analysing data in open-science software. Students will learn how to formulate a problem and analyse it during the course by conducting a meta-analysis in JASP, an open-science software package.

The third and last course *Qualitative Analysis: from Interviews to Results* will focus on developing the skill of qualitative data analysis, through interviews for example, using an interpretative approach. Students will prepare and transform their findings into a clear and relevant overview, which is essential for conducting PhD research.

Very interesting PhD courses which will run in the spring and autumn 2022 are available on the Danish website: <https://phdcourses.dk>. A PhD candidate may choose a course from a wide range



of courses that will be significant for his future career. The topics are *Academic Writing* (the only course that will run online), *Acquisition and processing of seismic data*, *Advanced Mathematical Physis (AdvMathPhys)* or *Advanced Operations Research: Stochastic Programming*. The remaining courses will have a physical form in class.

All of the three courses mentioned above are very appropriate for a PhD candidate and address the future needs and competences of researchers. The aim of the courses is to focus on transferable skills, as these skills facilitate the transition into employment and are widely applicable, regardless of scientific field and chosen career path. Also, making PhD candidates feel better prepared for a job outside academia after graduation and combining practical exercises with theoretical contents are parts of those courses. It must be said, that all of the courses provided a great opportunity for self-development and a potential future career of a PhD student.

The last online course that was found online was available this autumn and took 12 weeks. The name of the course is *PhD Success Lab* from **Tressacademic.com**. This course is rather very complex since it combines all mentoring, supervision task, writing skills and time and project management. This course is designed to help students and prepare them for studying without unnecessary stress and struggle.

The detailed depiction of these courses is listed in the table below.





### PhD courses - available online

Name of the course	Available on	Course Length	Open	Course Type	Course is for	Price	Website
<b><i>How to Survive Your PhD (edX)</i></b>	MOOC	4 weeks	tba	sessions	PhD candidates	Certificate price 41 EUR	<a href="https://www.mooc-list.com/course/how-survive-your-phd-edx">https://www.mooc-list.com/course/how-survive-your-phd-edx</a>
<b><i>Determine Your Readiness for Doctoral Studies</i></b>	MOOC	4 weeks	tba	videos	PhD candidates	non-profit (no certificate)	<a href="https://www.mooc-list.com/course/determine-your-readiness-doctoral-studies-canvas-net">https://www.mooc-list.com/course/determine-your-readiness-doctoral-studies-canvas-net</a>
<b><i>Academic Writing Skills - From PhD Paper to Publication for Business School Students</i></b>	Vrije Universiteit (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam)	online (10-14 January 2022)	once in a year	online	PhD candidates from Business Schools	600 EUR	<a href="https://vu.nl/en/education/professionals/courses-programmes/academic-writing-skills-from-phd-paper-to-publication-for-business-school-students">https://vu.nl/en/education/professionals/courses-programmes/academic-writing-skills-from-phd-paper-to-publication-for-business-school-students</a>
<b><i>Meta-Analysis: Know-how and beyond</i></b>	Vrije Universiteit (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam)	online (10-14 January 2022)	once in a year	ZOOM	PhD candidates	600 EUR	<a href="https://vu.nl/en/education/professionals/courses-programmes/meta-analysis-know-how-and-beyond">https://vu.nl/en/education/professionals/courses-programmes/meta-analysis-know-how-and-beyond</a>
<b><i>Transform your qualitative data into an overview!</i></b>	Vrije Universiteit (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam)	(10-14 January 2022)	once in a year	interactive seminars		600 EUR	<a href="https://vu.nl/en/education/professionals/courses-programmes/qualitative-analysis-from-interviews-to-results">https://vu.nl/en/education/professionals/courses-programmes/qualitative-analysis-from-interviews-to-results</a>
<b><i>PhD Success Lab</i></b>	Tress Academic	12 weeks	registration now open	online	PhD candidates	797 EUR	<a href="https://tressacademic.com/learn-with-us/phd-study/ps/">https://tressacademic.com/learn-with-us/phd-study/ps/</a>
<b><i>Academic Writing</i></b>	PhD Courses in Denmark	4 days	registration now open	online	PhD candidates	DKK 6,250.00	<a href="https://phdcourses.dk/Course/85808">https://phdcourses.dk/Course/85808</a>



<b>Acquisition and processing of seismic data (Gl. NAT)</b>	PhD Courses in Denmark	N/A	not now available	N/A	PhD candidates	N/A	<a href="https://phdcourses.dk/Course/5643">https://phdcourses.dk/Course/5643</a>
<b>Advanced Mathematical Physis (AdvMathPhys)</b>	PhD Courses in Denmark	4 hours of lectures and 2 hours of exercises each week for 9 weeks.	registration now open	sessions	PhD candidates	N/A	<a href="https://phdcourses.dk/Course/85013">https://phdcourses.dk/Course/85013</a>
<b>Advanced Operations Research: Stochastic Programming</b>	PhD Courses in Denmark	2x2 hrs of lectures /week, 2 hours of classroom exercises or project work supervision.	registration now open	sessions	PhD candidates	N/A	<a href="https://phdcourses.dk/Course/85014">https://phdcourses.dk/Course/85014</a>



## TREE OF SCIENCE

Tree of Science (<https://www.treeofscience.com/>) is a service created in 2013 and its aim is to provide digital solutions to researchers, including PhD candidates. The service stated mission is *dedication to help researchers and research organizations around the world to use digital research tools, digital strategy, open science, science crowdfunding, and open innovation and to offer a guidance that helps those involved in research and innovation to familiarize themselves with digital tools for researchers (Science 2.0) [...] and to integrate open science principles and practices in the current research workflow.*

The offered services are:

- Online training in digital tools for scientific research, science networks, professional networking, collaborative work, digital strategy, online presence, personal branding, open research, digital communication;
- Consulting in digital tools and platforms implementation and development, digital strategy, ad hoc training, virtual teams, open science and citizen science projects, science crowdfunding, and open innovation;
- Coaching tailored to needs in digital strategy, professional networking, managing online presence and personal branding.

All training and coaching are delivered through virtual classes on-line. Although the coaching is in a more fluid form from its nature, we identified the Individual coaching offered as one that deserves mentioning. The coaching could develop the missing and needed transferable skills in PhD candidates that are missing in current curricula, especially in regard to topics such as Open Science and in using various digital tools to boost PhD candidates research and their career prospects.



## OTHER PLATFORMS

There are many platforms that offer online learning as part of lifetime education. Most of them are flexible courses that are online with world class universities and industry experts as being the mentors or lecturers. Not only students, but also adults or seniors may develop hobbies, new skills and career-changing expertise. Some of those platforms offer courses for free, but most of them are paid. The successful student receives a certification as a proof of finishing the course. However, the level of such courses is rather for beginners. Therefore, these courses cannot be openly advertised for PhD candidates, but they may in a way help them to expand their knowledge in some field they are interested in.

TuDelft platform offers useful guidelines for PhD candidates:

### Guidelines when taking a MOOC/Online course

- Consult with your supervisor first before enrolling into a MOOC/Online course that you want to use as part of your DE programme.
- Courses should be on an intermediate or advanced level, preferably tailored for PhD candidates who already have a MSc.
- Contact your department to see whether they can pay for the possible costs involved (course registration, certificates).
- To determine the amount of credits: please follow the guidelines in the document [Requirements, Conditions & Costs](#): "If you follow an online course, you can calculate the number of GS credits by dividing the study load, stated on the organizer's website, in hours by 12 (e.g., A study load of 24 hours would be equal to 2 GS credits)"
- There is a maximum of 5 credits for any given course.
- Pursue a certificate.

These practical guidelines are not present in any other platform, though they are important and should be incorporated as basic steps of how to sign for a concrete course by a PhD candidate.



The online platforms are described in the table below:

Canvas Network	no special course for PhD	<a href="https://www.canvas.net/">https://www.canvas.net/</a>
Cognitive Class	no special course for PhD	<a href="https://cognitiveclass.ai/courses">https://cognitiveclass.ai/courses</a>
Coursera	no special course for PhD	<a href="https://www.coursera.org/">https://www.coursera.org/</a>
Edx	no special course for PhD	<a href="https://www.edx.org/">https://www.edx.org/</a>
FutureLearn	no special course for PhD	<a href="https://www.futurelearn.com/">https://www.futurelearn.com/</a>
Iiversity	no special course for PhD	<a href="https://iversity.org/en">https://iversity.org/en</a>
Kadenze	no special course for PhD	<a href="https://www.kadenze.com/">https://www.kadenze.com/</a>
Khan Academy	no special course for PhD	<a href="https://www.khanacademy.org/">https://www.khanacademy.org/</a>
Udacity	no special course for PhD	<a href="https://www.udacity.com/">https://www.udacity.com/</a>
Udemy	no special course for PhD	<a href="https://www.udemy.com/">https://www.udemy.com/</a>
Seduo	no special course for PhD	<a href="https://www.seduo.cz/">https://www.seduo.cz/</a>
TuDelft	no special course for PhD	<a href="https://www.tudelft.nl/">https://www.tudelft.nl/</a>

The majority of the courses are labelled as for bachelor or master students. Also, people from non-university sector are able to start learning a new skill.



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