



TBSI 清华-伯克利深圳学院
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How to become a Qualified Ph.D.

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- Research
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- Study for Your Research
- Discuss with Your Senior Colleagues
- Allocate **Suitable** Time for Studying

How to Select Your (First) Research Area

Step 1. Select a General Research Direction: It is best to be consistent with that of your laboratory.

Step 2. Select a Specific Research Area: Read some of the **most advanced** reviews of your selected research direction to find a specific (potential) research area.

Step 3. Confirm Your Research Area: Read the first and representative works from your select area (mentioned in the survey). Probably reproduce some experiments of them. If you think the area is suitable, keep working on it. Otherwise, go back to Step 2.

Additional Suggestions about Selecting Research Area

- At the beginning, only read papers from the top journals or conferences would be a good choice.
- In general, it would be better not to choose cold-after-booming areas and over-booming areas.
- Feel free to change your research area if you think it is necessary. But it would be better select the one related to your previous areas.
- Always remember that your research should be systematic. It is a good choice to always follow (and update) your outline of Ph.D. dissertation.

Suggestions about Conducting Research

- Record and summarize all the papers you have read.
- Make good use of Google/Semantic Scholar, try to read all latest papers (at least from top journals/conferences/research groups) related to your research area.
- Try to complete the full cycle of your first research (topic selection + experiments + paper writing + paper polishing + submission + rebuttal + poster/slides/talk) as soon as possible.
- You don't have to require your first work have to be a top-tier one but it should be qualified.
- Academic writing is extremely important (>50%). Please learn it early.

Advisor(s)

- Have a regular one-on-one discussion with your advisor(s).
- Don't be afraid to ask your advisor(s) for help when you meet problems in both research, study, life, and planning.
- Listen their suggestions carefully and **critically**. A qualified senior Ph.D. student should know much more deeper than his/her advisor(s) or even every other people in some research sub-areas.

Colleague(s) and Collaborators

- Colleagues are different from your friends in most cases.
- Seeking cooperation is very important. But please **respect the time and contributions** of your colleague(s) and collaborator(s).
- It would be better to discuss the **authorship** and responsibility of each people before the cooperation.
- Communicate with your collaborator(s) timely, especially when there are major changes or problems.
- Listen their suggestions carefully and **critically**.

Research Community

- Always cherish your reputation. Please do not submit or open-source any unqualified paper and treat every invited talks as your job talks.
- Talk and connect with people in your research areas by email or in conferences.
- Don't be afraid to share your work. You can introduce and promote your work on Twitter, Zhihu, and other media.
- Actively undertake related academic services (e.g., reviewers, conference committee members).

Dealing with Pressure



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- Talk and have fun with your friends.
- Find a hobby and balance your life.
- Always keep in mind that **you are not alone**. Most Ph.D. students will meet the same problem as you.
- Getting rejected is usually the mainstream of your life. Keep working hard is the only way trying to change it.
- Comparing with yourself (half a year ago) rather than your colleagues is probably the best way to reduce the peer pressure.
- Don't be afraid to **seek help from a psychologist**. This is a normal and effective way to reduce stress.



Thanks

