REASONS FOR GOING ON A STUDY VISIT
- To learn a new technique
- To experience different research cultures
- To explore post-doctoral options
- To start a collaboration
- To run a specific study

BENEFITS OF GOING ON A STUDY VISIT
- A great way to enrich your PhD and gain useful experience in a related but additional field
- Gives you a broader view of your research area
- Experience of working in another lab and with different people
- Networking opportunities
- A chance to live and work in a new city
- Can give you a welcome break from your thesis and a fresh start when you return

THINGS TO BEAR IN MIND
- It can take a lot of time to plan and prepare the application
- Quite often the work you do during a study visit needs to be completed when you get back

GENERAL ADVICE
- Plan ahead and make sure you are aware of funding deadlines
- Talk to other people who have been on study visits to get an idea of what to expect
Planning a study visit

DECIDING WHERE TO GO
- Research excellence
- Methodological expertise
- Personal recommendations
- Existing collaborations

DECIDING WHO TO VISIT
- It might be someone your supervisor knows
- Or someone you have met at a conference
- It might just be someone that you have read about in the literature

DECIDING WHEN TO VISIT
- During term time supervisors will have more teaching commitment, but out-of-term time they might be away on holiday
- If you want to run a study while away on a study visit you will need to think about when would be the best time to get participants; it is useful to check when the holidays are at the university that you plan to visit
- You might also want to think about when the holidays are in York, and to go on your study visit out of term time to avoid missing testing opportunities in York.
- Don’t leave it too late – second year or the beginning of third year is probably the best time to go

HOW TO APPROACH A POTENTIAL SUPERVISOR
- Easier if you or your supervisor already knows them
- Make sure you have looked at their website and know about their research
- Aim to find a supervisor with a close fit in terms of your interests
- Start with an explorative email explaining your background and general interest
  - Indicate when you would like to visit and for how long
  - Explain why you have approached them
  - Describe roughly what you want to do (i.e., do you have a specific project in mind, are you just looking for experience using a particular technique?)
- Initial emails should not be too long, but be prepared to send more information (e.g., a CV, detailed research proposal) at a later date

GENERATING PLANS FOR A SPECIFIC STUDY
- Plan the design
- Fill in ethics forms.
- Design the experimental program (but make sure that the department that you are visiting has the same software, e.g., e-prime)
- Discuss with your own supervisor his/her involvement and how much contact you plan to have while you are away

OTHER THINGS TO DO BEFORE YOU GO

Find accommodation
- University accommodation offices often have useful links. It can also be worth sending them an email to see if they know where to find short-term lets
- Ask your supervisor to send an email round their department
- www.gumtree.com and www.craigslist.com are useful sights for finding accommodation

U.S. Visas
- you can visit the U.S. on the visa waiver program for up to three months, but if is probably better to get a student visa (just to be on the safe side).
- Make sure that you allow enough time for the visa application process, and allow a little extra time in case there are problems with your application
Sources of Funding

FULBRIGHT SCHOLARSHIPS
• This is a visiting scholar grant for the U.S. only
• Visits must be a minimum of 3 months and a maximum of 6 months
• You will receive $1000 per month
• Must apply in your country of nationality
  http://www.cies.org/about_fulb.htm

ESCR OVERSEAS VISITS
• Offer overseas institutional visits of up to 3 months
• Your must already be an ESRC studentship holder in order to apply for this funding
• Your receive an extension of funding at the end of your final year that is equivalent to the amount of time spent on the visit
• Must allow at least three months between submitting the application and the proposed start date of the visit
• The visit must be completed at least three months prior to the end of your final year
• Applications consist of a research proposal, and letters of support from your supervisor in York, and the person you will be visiting
• Deadline for applications is 4pm on the last working day of the month, although it is better to get your application in at least a week in advance to allow time for it to be processed
• Applications are dealt with by a nominated ESRC contact on campus (check the website for details of who to contact)

EPS STUDY VISITS
• Offer overseas institutional visits of up to 3 months as well as visits within the UK
• Provides funding of up to £1200 (this is reclaimed after the visit)
• Must allow at least two months between submitting the application and the proposed start date of the visit
• Applications consist of a research proposal, CV, two letters of support from York, and a letter from the person that you will be visiting
• Deadlines for applications are March 1st and November 1st each year
• Note, the EPS will not award funding for work that is an integral part of your PhD, and they expect you to try other sources of funding (e.g., your own research council) before applying to them
  http://www.eps.ac.uk/index.php/study-visit-grants

BPS SECONDMENT TO THE PARLIAMENTARY OFFICES OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (POST)
• The purpose of a secondment is to write a 4-page briefing note for parliamentarians
• This briefing will be disseminated to all Members of the Lords and Commons
• Preparation of a briefing note involves summarizing an area of psychological science, summarizing current policy, and drawing out future directions
• The post involves conducting semi-structured interviews with academics, governing bodies, and charities
• To be eligible you must be:
  A postgraduate student registered for a higher degree by research by PhD or MPhil
  In second or third year of your studies at the time of application
• For a three month visit you will receive £5000
• Applications must include a 1200 word proposal for your briefing note
• The closing date for applications is usually the end of August
• The ESRC and BBSRC offer similar funding opportunities for students who already hold PhD studentships from them

USEFUL WEBSITES
• www.researchresearch.com
During and after the visit

WHEN YOU GET THERE
- Find out the expectations of your supervisor, and be clear about your own expectations (e.g., How much supervision would you like? How often would you like to meet?)
- Develop a work plan to ensure that you make the most of your time away
- If there are problems then let your supervisor know straight away (e.g., home-sickness etc.)
- Obtain a social security number (if visiting the U.S.)
- Look at whether you need to fill in any tax forms

THINGS TO DO WHILE YOU ARE THERE
- Don’t forget about departmental seminars, lab groups etc.
- Make an effort to join local PhD students, post-docs, and other visiting students
- Guest lecture (where possible)
- Ask about post-doc opportunities

WHEN YOU GET BACK
- Most funding bodies ask you to write a short report about what you did during your study visit
- Don’t forget to close your bank account

Looking for advice about an application?

Fulbright scholarships
Annelies Vredeveldt (a.vredeveldt@york.ac.uk)

ESRC
Lisa Henderson (l.henderson@psych.york.ac.uk)

EPS
Helen Brown (h.brown@psych.york.ac.uk)

BPS secondment to POST
Fiona Duff (f.duff@psych.york.ac.uk)

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