

Foreword

The *Improving Postgraduate Learning* (IPL) programme is a structured and cross-disciplinary framework that aims to equip postgraduate students with basic research and communication skills. It covers a wide variety of topics, such as information search and analysis, research data management, research ethics, laboratory safety, computer techniques, expository writing, and oral presentation, which serves to enrich students' postgraduate studies.

Postgraduate students are naturally deeply focused in the development of their specialized knowledge and expertise. However, it is equally important for them to pursue cross-disciplinary intellectual development. Through the IPL programme, students can broaden their minds and cultivate their creativity in research.

Over the past two decades, the IPL programme has been well received by postgraduate students. While most IPL short courses are optional for postgraduate students, all research postgraduate students should consider seriously taking every module that has potential relevance to their research endeavours, so as to build a solid foundation for their postgraduate studies. Supervisors and Heads of Graduate Divisions are invited to promote suitable courses to their students. Furthermore, students are required to take *Observing Intellectual Property and Copyright Law during Research* and *Research Ethics Training* for completion of graduation requirements. In addition, students are required to complete the following IPL modules in their first year of studies for completion of University- or programme-specified requirements: 1) *Basics of Research Data Management* and 2) *Laboratory Safety* covering "General Safety", "Biological Safety", "Chemical Safety", and/or other topics and, where appropriate, examinations the Thesis/Student Supervisor so prescribed for the students and as decided by the programmes.

The success of the IPL programme is a concerted effort of the Centre for Learning Enhancement And Research (CLEAR) and the Graduate School. I am most grateful to CLEAR for its tremendous support in organizing the programme as well as to the colleagues who will be teaching the courses.

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