

# Dissertation

Things what to do

By: Mattias Appelgren and Adam  
Jenkins

[m.r.appelgren@ed.ac.uk](mailto:m.r.appelgren@ed.ac.uk)

[s1126761@sms.ed.ac.uk](mailto:s1126761@sms.ed.ac.uk)

# Time Management

- Start now....
- Make a plan.
  - Be aware of Dates such as Supervisor's time, Coursework Deadlines, and Social Life.
  - If you can write something (anything) up, DO IT!
- Plans do not need to be rigid, be prepared to adapt it.
- Prioritise the right things!
  - Learn to say 'No' and to say 'Yes'
- Take a break... (more on this later)
- Final Month -> PLAN EVERYTHING OUT!

# Tips for citations

- Use Bibtex
- Use (Last name, year) (Turing, 1936) (natbib in Latex)
- Never write “[1] says x and y” do “Turing [1] says x and y”
- Google Scholar’s Bibtex sucks
  - Semantic scholar ([semanticscholar.org](https://www.semanticscholar.org)) is good for searching for papers
  - DBLP has excellent bibtex entries but bad search

# Make use of your supervisor

- They know what a good dissertation looks like
- Learn how to communicate with them
  - Meet regularly
  - Send them some questions beforehand
  - Send them your drafts
- If you are stuck, ask your supervisor for help to get unstuck!

# Understand your procrastination

- Tim Pychyl - procrastination researcher  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mhFQA998WiA> (search Tim Pychyl procrastination - first video)
- You don't work better under pressure
- Emotional Intelligence
- “Task Aversion”
  - Inception/planning stage: Lack of Meaning
  - Implementation stage: Lack of Structure
- Think about things concretely
- Simon Payton Jones - how to write a great research paper  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WP-FkUaOcOM>

# Keeping on Top of Stress

- In the Final Month - Create a Routine.
- Don't Compare yourself to Others.
- Take a break.
  - Learn to step-back and rest.
- Chip away at things!
  - Any contribution is still a contribution, and a step towards completion.
- If you are really struggling <https://www.ed.ac.uk/student-counselling> or email [inf-sst@inf.ed.ac.uk](mailto:inf-sst@inf.ed.ac.uk)
- Try to Enjoy it!
  - This is one of the biggest learning experiences that Informatics provides us as Students.
- Remain Calm. You are more than capable of doing this!