

Pre-call questions list

Thanks for booking a coaching call. Here are some (optional) questions you might like to think about before our call (ignore any questions which don't apply to your particular situation).

In order to set expectations, please realise that we are a very small team of generalist coaches. We are not experts in your academic field. It's likely that you will know more than we do about your specific topic area. Instead, we can offer general coaching, discuss your uncertainties and current options, and help you strategize about next steps in a general way. During our call we will probably recommend that you speak to others who are working within your specific field of research.

How to have impact

1. How are you planning to have an impact during your studies or later after you graduate?
2. Why/How do you think this will be impactful?
3. Is the topic related to any of the research directions on our website?
4. Have you considered the scale, neglectedness and solvability of your topic?
5. What do you think the most important global problems are and how have you formed those views?

Your Thesis

6. What does a successful thesis look like to you?
7. What prevents you from advancing with your topic choice right now?
8. Are you hoping to learn anything else during your thesis or studies, or acquire any other useful information or skills that might be relevant to your future direction?
9. Have you found a supervisor or have some initial ideas about who might be a good supervisor for you? (We think it's important to find a good supervisor who you get on well with and who can offer you good mentoring).
10. Do you have any significant deadlines approaching?
11. Are there any urgent or important decisions you need to make in the next few weeks or months?

Career in research

12. Are you planning to have a career in research?
13. If so, do you think you'd like to do research inside universities/academia, or outside (in government, think tanks, NGOs, charities, business, industry, etc)?
14. Are you hoping to test your fit for research with your thesis?

Additional Questions

15. What are you uncertain about?
16. How are you generally feeling about your answers to these questions?
Excited / nervous / unsure / confident / anything else?
17. Is there anything else you would like to get out of coaching?