

Research project management 101: insiders' tips from Early Career Scientists

Luisa Cristini (1), Katsiaryna Pabortsava (1), and Torben Stichel (2)

(1) National Oceanography Centre, Ocean Biogeochemistry and Ecosystems, Southampton, United Kingdom, (2) University of Southampton, Ocean and Earth Science, Southampton, United Kingdom

From the very beginning of their career, it is important for Early Career Scientists (ECS) to develop project management skills to be able to organise their research efficiently. ECS are often in charge of specific tasks within their projects or for their teams. However, without specific training or tools, the successful completion of these assignments will depend entirely on the organisational skills of individual researchers. ECS are thus facing “sink-or-swim” situations, which can be either instructive or disastrous for their projects.

Here we provide experience-based tips from fellow ECS that can help manage various project activities, including:

1. Communication with supervisors and peers
2. Lab management
3. Field trips (e.g., oceanographic campaigns)
4. Internships and collaborations with other institutions
5. Literature/background research
6. Conference convening

These are potential “life buoys” for ECS, which will help them to carry out these tasks efficiently and successfully.