



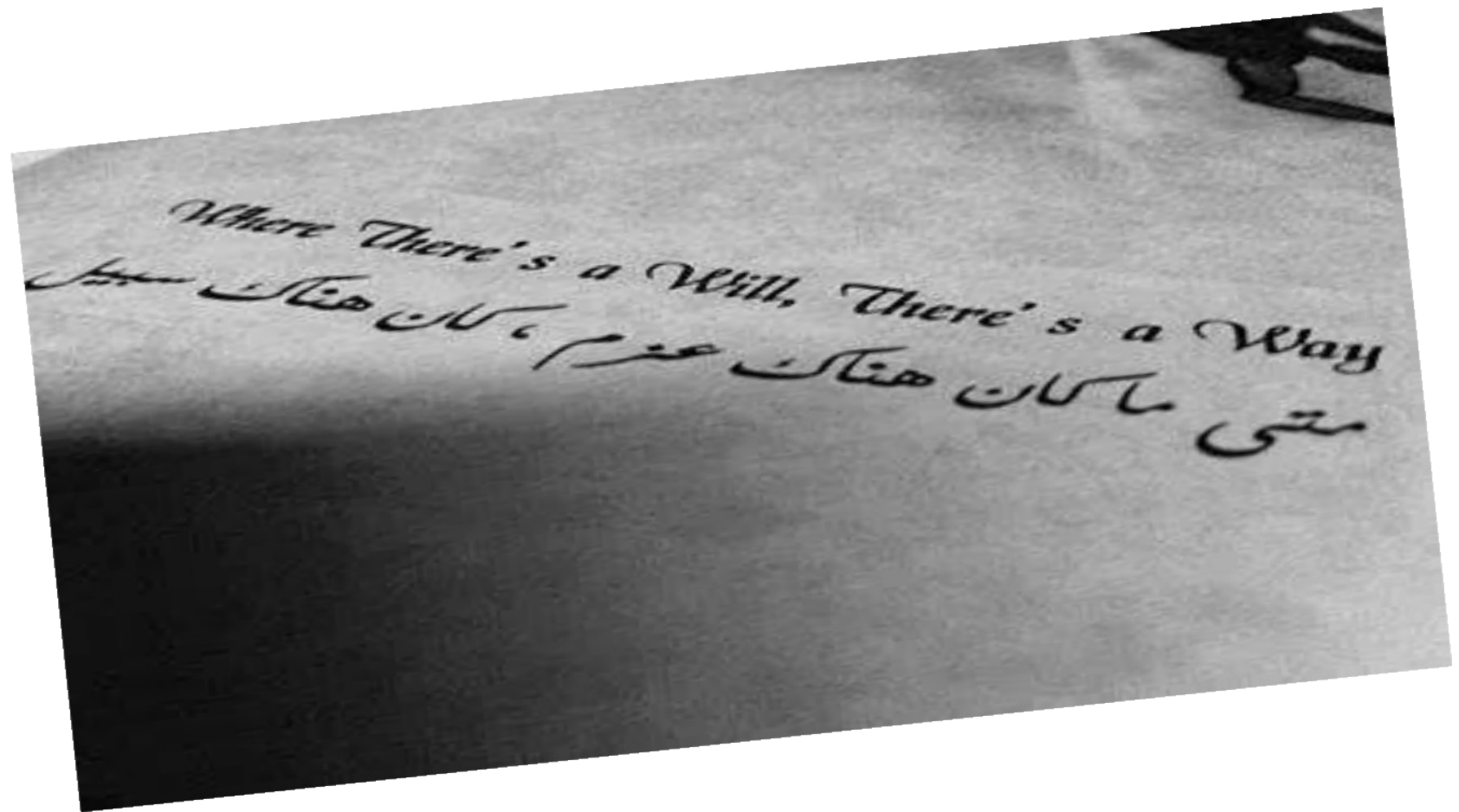
Scientific Research

Travelling abroad for research

Expectations and adaptations

Ahmed Naga







أساسيات البحث العلمي

	الندوة الأولى : رحلة تحفيزية حول البحث العلمي	
	1. Scientific research – A stimulating voyage	Sunday 26/1/2014
	الندوة الثانية : طريق البحث-رحلة توجيهية	
	2. Research avenue - A guided tour	Saturday 1/2/2014
	الندوة الثالثة : دور النزاهة المهنية - الأخلاقيات والبحث العلمي	
	3. The role of integrity – Ethics and Research conduct	Saturday 8/2/2014
	الندوة الرابعة : جزء التطبيق - التركيز على البحث	
	4. The doing part – Getting down to research	Saturday 15/2/2014
	الندوة الخامسة : النشر العلمي (1) الطريق إلى العالمية	
	5. Publications I – Your way to worldwide recognition	Saturday 22/2/2014
	الندوة السادسة : النشر العلمي (٢) فنيات وتقنيات الكتابة - هيكل البحث	
	6. Publications II – Technical writing: structure	Saturday 1/3/2014
	الندوة السابعة : النشر العلمي (٣) فنيات وتقنيات الكتابة - الاسلوب و اللاتكس	
	7. Publications III – Technical writing : Style	Saturday 8/3/2014
	الندوة الثامنة : الأدوات والوسائل	
	8. Tools, Tools, Tools	Saturday 15/3/2014
	الندوة التاسعة : السفر للدراسة في الخارج - التوقعات و كيفية التكيف	
	9. Travelling abroad for research – Expectations & Adaptations	Saturday 22/3/2014
	الندوة العاشرة : مناقشات وأسئلة وأجوبة	
	10. Panel discussion and Q & A	Saturday 29/3/2014

Some notes before we start!

- The reason we have this lecture
- Thanks for many who helped shaping this lecture with their valuable input
- Limitations and an apology
- We are here to build tomorrow! Hope we can avoid politics
- Nothing is free, and there is a price you will have to pay!

Wrong thoughts and beliefs



Preparing for the Journey



The beginning of the
Journey



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Journey



The Journey



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Wrong thoughts and beliefs!

- Movies do not give you the right picture! What you see are the singularities and the odds!
- Every nation has its own problems!
- Life is hard and people are not enjoying it all the time!
- There are good and bad professors!
- There are good and bad universities (institutes!)
- No nation has perfect people!
- No nation owns creativity and smartness!
- Things are not as smooth as you think! Routine is always around the corner!

Wrong thoughts and beliefs



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Academically

- Yes you can, but you need to work hard
- Know what you want. Undergrad is a good chance!
- Focus in your classes
- Your classes are not isolated islands!
- Need good grades, but first and last doesn't matter!
- Educate yourself (Reading and online courses)
- Hands-on experience (internships)
- Master research tools and writing

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Life Skills

- Learn how to depend on yourself. Work in summer
- **LANGUAGE**
- Driving
- Communication skills

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Prerequisites

- Know the prerequisites needed to join a school abroad (TOEFL, IELTS, GRE,, etc.)
- Work on the prerequisites as early as you can
- How to prepare the applications? (CV, cover page, statement of purpose, ..., etc.)
- Accredite your degrees!

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Application process

- **Why do you want to study abroad?**
- Search for the supervisor!
- Don't accept any chance! It is not about getting out! It is about your future!
- Send your applications to more than one place
- Know when to apply. Time is important
- Know all the details about the PhD/Master program! Know the prerequisites.

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Things need to know/consider?

- Living standard
- Health insurance
- Can you work outside the school?
- Minorities and their situations
- Can my family join me?
- Kids education!
- Contact Arab/Egyptian/Muslim/Coptic associations
- Religious practice

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Things to do after getting an acceptance

- **LANGUAGE**

- Know the country that you will go to (books, internet, culture institutes, ..., etc.)
- Know your rights and responsibilities.
- Translate all of your official paperwork
- Try to get the international driving license
- Don't plan taking your house with you □
- If married, the spouse needs to learn about her/his rights and responsibilities.
- Prepare to arrive early. This is your chance to get things in order before starting your main battle

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Reasonable expectations

- You will work hard □
- Your perspective on life will change
- You will gain a great experience
- You will depend on yourself
- You can build good skills, creativity, critical thinking.
- You will have a lot of research resources
- You will struggle at the beginning
- You will get what you want when you work for it
- You are just starting a new stage in your life
- Need some cash for the beginning

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- **LANGUAGE**

- New life
- Don't rush in your judgments especially under the effect of the first impression! Act like a battery with a long charging time ☐
- Cultural shock. Stop complaining, and adapt!
- Your background. Small things matter!
- Facing many questions
- Getting to know the meaning of MINORITY
- Nostalgia and home sickness.
- Politics and events around the world may/will affect you

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- I'm really way behind □
- You need to prove yourself. Forget about "I'm the first!" It is a new start
- There is no stupid question
- Getting to know the school and your professors. This is EXTREMELY important
- You need to minimize the effect of all that on your academic life

The beginning of the Journey

- You need to know the means that will help you (library, lab, gym, office hours, seminars, ..., etc.)
- You may need to study two, or more, courses in one course
- Mind your own business
- Integrate but not assimilate
- Pay attention to your compass! You may lose your direction!
- Hard work always lead to great results. So, be patient and be optimistic.
- You are not alone! Know your rights
- From time to time, try to relax ☐

Wrong thoughts and beliefs



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- Evaluate yourself at the end of the first semester!
- Should I move to another school?!!!!!!!
- Should I change my major?!!!!!!!
- Should I change my supervisor?!!!!!!!

Wrong thoughts and beliefs



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Research

- **There is a gap between the academic level and the expected academic level. You have to bridge this gap on your own!**
- Don't expect a lot from your supervisor.
- Listen to your supervisor and follow his directions. If you can't, let him/her know
- Build a good relationship with your supervisor. Be honest and open
- Your supervisor needs you as much as you need him
- Innovation. You need to think beyond what your supervisor asks you to do.
- Keep your word! Always be on time.

The Journey

Research

- Don't let the past lead you to despair
- Your supervisor expects you to hit the ground running. However, it may take you years to be productive!
- **Never ever get despair!**
- If you can, participate in conferences and workshops.
- It will be great to get internships. Let your supervisor know if you get one, or if you want to get one. He may be able to help you.
- **Your research MUST be number 1**

The Journey

Life

- Be prepared for tough times!
- Don't always think that people are not respecting you, or they are waiting for your mistakes. Don't develop high sensitivity!
- Attention if you have kids!
- Summer!
- The rule of law!
- Practicing your religion

Wrong thoughts and beliefs



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Post the Journey

- Industry, academy, or get back? It is your decision...a tough one ☐
- For academic positions, Postdoc is recommended
- Don't rush money. Just be patient while looking for a good chance
- There are classes for how to look for a job
- There are job fairs
- Know the job-search engines in your field
- Start looking for a job before your defense! Know when to apply
- You can stay in your school to teach/research for 1-2 semesters.
- You are responsible for what you learned!

Your importance is not in
what you achieve for
yourself, but it is in what
you do for others