PhD Student Experience: Amber Seaward

- Background & journey to the PhD
- Why I decided to do the PhD
- How I decided on my research

- My experience of the PhD
  - Positives
  - Challenges

- SECReT Society
My journey to the PhD

• Bachelors: Philosophy, Politics & Economics
• Masters: Countering Organised Crime & Terrorism
• Now: PhD
  • Research Assistant: Counter Terrorism Research Group, UCL
  • Post Graduate Teaching Assistant, UCL
  • President, SECReT Society
Why did I decide to do the PhD?

Me:

• Inspired by work done in the department

• Encouraged by MSc supervisor

• Brief taste of PhD-style research in MSc dissertation & Research Assistant work

General:

• Passion for specific research area

• Career progression: academic or otherwise

• Gain transferrable skills
How did I decide on my research?

Me:

• Inspired by CTRG work
• Gaps identified from literature & practitioners
• Projects ongoing & data available

General:

• Experience in industry
• Literature
• Contacts in industry/with data owners
• New/developing applications of models or technologies
My experience of the PhD

• The people

• Independent work

• Learning all the time
My experience of the PhD

• Work-life balance
• Imposter syndrome
• Deadlines & time management
• Keeping motivation going
SECReT Society

A platform run by students, for students: to socialise, exchange ideas and create a rewarding PhD experience

- Engage in social events
- Share experience and knowledge
- Gain research exposure

Create a collaborative and rewarding PhD environment
SECReT Society

https://uclsecretsociety.org/

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@UCLSECReTSoc
SECReT Society: academic events

- Mentorship & workshops
- Research seminars
- Messed Up!
SECReT Society: social