

CB Ph.D. Student Research Excellence Award 2023 – Student sharing by Emmanuel Ofose



Hi everyone. My name is Emmanuel Ofose, and I am currently a fourth-year Ph.D. student in Accountancy. I am honored to be a recipient of the 2023/2024 College of Business Ph.D. Student Research Excellence Award.

I offer my heartfelt appreciation to my Ph.D. adviser, Prof. Chen Yangyang, for his mentorship and for nurturing my research skills. I am also grateful to Prof. Tan Qin, my co-adviser, who has significantly contributed to my research experiences at CityU. The assistance from my advisers, Ph.D. panel, and co-authors has substantially enhanced my understanding of what constitutes impactful research.

Below, I share some thoughts on research approaches I have developed as a Ph.D. student. I hope that these will encourage and assist other Ph.D. students in their research.

First, maintaining a good relationship with your advisers is the key to success, as you will work with them throughout your Ph.D. studies. Thus, your success as a Ph.D. student largely depends on the support you receive from your advisers. Moreover, first impressions matter! You should ensure that your advisers understand that you are serious about research from the beginning of your Ph.D. journey, as this will help you garner their support. It is also important to accord your advisers the maximum respect and to always read ahead, such that you can make useful contributions in meetings with your advisers.

Second, reading papers that employ unique (or non-traditional accounting) datasets is important, as understanding and using such datasets can enhance your research. Moreover, using unique data in your research can increase the likelihood of its being published in top journals in the business field. It is also important to read papers from non-accounting fields, as business is more than just accounting. Thus knowledge from other business fields helps to shape understanding of the accountancy profession. Similarly, knowledge from other business fields can generate interesting accounting research ideas to examine.

Third, learning from fellow Ph.D. students is crucial. I ask my fellow Ph.D. students to help me with things I do not understand, thereby enabling me to obtain different perspectives. Asking other students for help does not make you a weak student; rather, it enables you to learn things that you might not be able to learn on your own.

Fourth, being willing to collaborate with peers and professors is important, as this allows you to learn from people other than your advisers. As each researcher has their unique capabilities, working with a range of researchers helps to sharpen your research skills.

Finally, working on multiple projects can be helpful, as it ensures that when a given project stalls, your research does not, as you can switch to a different project.

I feel honored to have the opportunity to share my thoughts about research. Receiving the College of Business Ph.D. Student Research Excellence Award for the second time motivates me to increase my commitment to high-quality research. I offer my thanks to the Department of Accountancy for all the resources they provide to Ph.D. students.