

CB Ph.D. Student Research Excellence Award 2023 - Student sharing by Emmanuel Ofosu



Hi everyone. I am Emmanuel Ofosu, currently a fourth-year Ph.D. student in Accountancy. I am honoured to be a recipient of the 2023/2024 College of Business Ph.D. Student Research Excellence Award.

I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to my Ph.D. adviser, Prof. Chen Yangyang, who has mentored me and shaped 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 help of my advisers, Ph.D. panel and co-authors have significantly shaped my understanding of what constitutes impactful research.

I would like to share briefly about some research approaches I have developed as a Ph.D. student to encourage fellow Ph.D. students.

First, maintaining a good relationship with your adviser(s) is key. As a Ph.D. student, you will work with your adviser(s) throughout your study period. Your success as a Ph.D. student largely depends on the support you receive from your adviser(s). Therefore, maintaining a good relationship is key to your success. First time impression matters! Make your adviser believe in your seriousness about research from the very beginning of your Ph.D. journey to ensure you get his/her support from the early. It is also important to accord your adviser(s) with the maximum respect and always read ahead so that at meetings your adviser(s) does not do the talking alone.

Second, reading papers that employ unique (or non-traditional accounting) datasets is important. This helps to understand important datasets distinct from traditional accounting data. Given the difficulties in publishing in top journals in the business field, employing unique data in one's research can positively impact the likelihood of top-journal publication. It is also important to read papers from non-accounting fields. Business is more than accounting. Knowledge from other business fields helps to shape understanding of the accountancy profession. Similarly, knowledge from these other business fields can generate interesting accounting research ideas to examine.

Third, learning from fellow Ph.D. students is beneficial. I ask fellow Ph.D. students to help me with things I do not understand, enabling me to always get different perspectives of my thoughts. Learning from people does not make you a weak student, instead it helps you to learn from others things you might not be able to learn on your own.

Fourth, be willing to collaborate with peers and Professors. This will help you learn from both peers and Professors other than your adviser(s). Different researchers have their unique capabilities, therefore the opportunity to work with different researchers helps to sharpen your research skills.

Finally, if possible, working on multiple projects can be helpful. This ensures that when any of the projects stales, the researcher is not staled.

I feel honoured to have the opportunity to share my thoughts about research. Receiving the College of Business PhD Student Research Excellence Award for the second time motivates me to be more committed to high-quality research. Thanks to the Department of Accountancy for all the resources they provide to PhD students.