

Mohesn's lost 12000 pounds

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I am an international student, PhD in biology, from Iraq. I have been nominated for a scholarship by my government to pay everything, but to accept I have signed for 200 000 dollars as penalty if I did not completed this PhD or fail to go back to my country to serve there as I am employee .

I begin to look into web sites to find best university in UK, I received 10 offers from QUB, York, Leeds ,Reading, Newcastle, Manchester, Glasgow, St Andrewsetc .

I selected Barchester for good reputation, and the admin staff were very helpful and contacted me every step to get registered for this PhD and a supervisor.

I arrived after struggling 2 years in my country to finish documentation.

My supervisor who was very good scientist said "You want to finish in 3 years, so you have to work hard" .I agreed to work even in weekends and never go back to my family in Iraq. Then he said "We will begin by writing literature review and repeat other thesis"! I quickly said "I have downloaded 300 articles about the project". He said "leave these and stick to my published papers only"!

Q: list the issues hat have arisen and discuss how Mohesn should respond

Next meeting I suggested a long term project plan as my sponsor want for continuation of funding. But my supervisor said "No! I do not have a plan; I do experiments and look for results as a detective story". He will schedule experiments and control the work and I will only be his hands in Lab. No novel work. It is repeated work of pervious Pakistani student, although I am paying 23,000 pounds per year.

Then he began to ignore me whenever I go to him, and he works with undergraduates full time, and I am sitting there at a desk without doing anything after I finished literature review of 40 pages in 6 weeks.

Q. what should Mohesn do now?

My supervisor did not sign safety of the project, forgot to fill my progression on my official pages. Then he said I was to follow the instruction of his other Iraqi student who is a trouble maker and jealous and continues to annoying me because of ethnic conflict in our country. Also she goes to his office every 5 min to poison him against me saying I am complaining about being ignored.

After 4 months I could not continue like this, so I went to the head of department to ask for alternative supervisor, co-supervisor or another solution. She promised to help and to find another supervisor. But the Dean said "We all repeat projects, I repeated same work for 15 years and all our supervisors are like this".

A week after they send an email: "We did not find a supervisor and you have to withdraw". Although they have more than 50 supervisor and 250 student as PhDs!

Q: how should Moheesn respond? Discuss

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I began to look for a supervisor elsewhere, I contacted more than 100 people in almost all UK universities, but when they know I have withdrawn from previous one nobody accepts you, they contact the old one .

Only 3 agreed to admit me for new PhD, including Liverpool and Reading who requested 4 years of 23,000 pounds also. But, a witness, a nice PhD postdoc volunteered to help me and she sent an email explaining my problem is that I want to do novel work, work at weekends and keen to research .

Q: discuss Mohesn's strategy and university responses

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At that time, the supervisor refused to have me back again and forego bench fees but Barchester took 12,000 pounds for 4 months and my embassy said you have to return the money back because money is paid. They stop sending salary and I lived miserable life looking for a chance with my heart problem and diabetics from the stress.

I remembered I have 2 years left; I contacted a supervisor in Middlemarch University and I sent an email to him and he said come. After a tragedy from May to October without money, keeping emailing and applying day and night I found the new one is a gentleman. Without him I cannot continue. He is a new lecturer and looking for novel research.

Till this moment my embassy is trying to find a solution for 12000 pounds

Team task

List the lessons here for

Postgraduate research students,

Supervisors

Institutions.
