

Becoming a PhD Scholar: A personal reflection

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Introduction: Have you ever wondered what it would be like to become a PhD scholar? If you think that "doing a PhD" sounds both daunting and titillating, then maybe you are like me. As an experienced, practical occupational therapist, I always thought that Higher Research Degrees were aimed at someone smarter.

Aim: This presentation aims to share the personal experience of transforming one very practical occupational therapist into a scholar, with a lot to offer the profession. Through examining the process and reflecting on personal experience, this presentation aims to demystify the occupational role changes one might encounter in becoming and being a PhD scholar.

Method: This author approached her PhD research journey creatively. As an artist, this scholar used art to help understand the learning process. Artistic production helped to reflect and analyse the occupational stages noted as the researcher developed. The production of art, undertaken digitally, via collage and paint-on-canvas provided clarity in becoming a research scholar.

Discussion: From her unsteady start to deep emersion, this author will share her researcher's journey through her art. In sharing the highs and lows inherent in becoming a PhD scholar, it is anticipated that this creative reflection of one PhD scholar's experience will provide some insight into the experience of scholarship.

Conclusion: This insider's view of becoming a PhD scholar aims to inspire more OT practitioners to seek the challenge of Higher Research Degree research, that provides greater depth of knowledge to the occupational therapy profession in Australia.