PhD Vlog Week 3: Andy Pearson Transcript

TIME	SPEAKER	AUDIO
0:00:01		[MUSIC/TITLES].
0:00:06	Andy Pearson	Hi, so in this video, I'm gonna be talking about the most important aspect of my PhD for the next few months, which is the lab work section of my PhD. One of the key aspects of getting lab work right, and making sure that you're resourceful with your time, is planning. And one of the things that the university forces you to do, quite rightly, is to plan your whole PhD within the first six months.
0:00:35		So, you write a big literature review, and you also write a plan of your methods that you're intending to use as well. And why your PhD project is important and valuable. So one of the key things to focus on was the lab work in this section. And when I had to give this proposal, and present the 20 minutes to a panel, and then they would give me feedback, and point out bits that could be improved, or bits that were good.
0:01:05		And this was really helpful for me, and really allowed me to get some good feedback, and understand the best way to move forward with my lab work, and know that it was more likely to be successful. Because I've got so much lab work to do - both using different instruments, and different techniques that I've never used before, and because the science is quite complicated, it's impossible for me to cover that in this five minute video.
0:01:35		So I'm just gonna try and give a general overview of the kind of things I do in the lab, that might be more useful to a wider audience, and give some background around the planning, and the time spent in the lab.
0:01:48		Hi, and welcome to my office. As you can see, I'm right next to the sink, and the fridge, so I've got the best desk in the whole office. And as always, my desk is a complete mess. So, here's the office. And in total, I share with six people, which is a good amount of people, there's always someone to talk to - well, normally, there's someone to talk to. But it's not too distracting, as I've seen with other offices,

		which are big, open plan ones, and plenty of people come and go.
0:02:18		One of the other good things about this lab is that - about this office - is that it's located right next to the lab, which you can see through there. That's the environmental chemistry lab, where I've spent quite a lot of time already, and will, undoubtedly, spend plenty of time, yet, in the rest of my PhD. So, I'll now go and show you one of the other labs, because I'm going to use, spend time in several different labs, and this other lab is pretty important. It's got two insulants that are gonna be really pivotal for my whole PhD.
0:02:50		This is another lab where I'm spending a lot of time. It's got two insulants that are quite important to my PhD project. And before I get into that, I'd just like to show you this, which is a speleothem sample, which is from a cave. This is a flowstone sample, from Waikuna in the North Island. And then, also, I'd like to show you something which I made earlier. Which is this sample here. And we don't know how old this sample is yet,
0:03:20		but we know that some of the samples are getting to around a hundred thousand years old at the base. So, this is a speleothem sample, as well, which has been encased in resin, and polished. And we hope to tell the amounts of dissolved organic carbon through time. So you see all these colour changes, and they will correspond to the amount of dissolved organic carbon in the sample. [Unclear 0:03:45], and phorescence is a good indicator of the characteristics.
0:03:50		So what actually makes up dissolved organic carbon in the sample. And we've also got this total organic carbon online, which tells us about the amount of organic carbon. And we hope to understand how that's obviously changed through time, over the past thousand years or so. So it's a good idea, I think, to mix up lab work, and spend different amounts of time in different labs. Because sometimes you can get a bit overwhelmed, and a little bit bored of doing the same thing.

0:04:20		And luckily for me, I've got quite a large array of what I'd like to do. So when I'm not in the environmental chemistry lab, next to my office, I can come here and do some samples. And there are also a couple of other labs where I spend my time, as well.
0:04:33		So, I'll probably be spending a lot of time in the lab, probably 20 or 30 hours a week in the lab over the next six to twelvemonths. And then, when I start to get a lot of my data back, I guess I'll start working on it, analysing it, and trying to write, and publish some papers. In the next video, I'll be talking about some of the challenges that I'll face, with regards to trying to publish, for example.
0:05:03		And I'll also talk about how I think that I can make myself more employable, throughout my PhD.
0:05:10		[MUSIC/CREDITS].

END OF TRANSCRIPT