Before the Course—  **Getting the most out of this course**

**Learning better, together**

Even online, our team believes the best learning happens in a social context, and this is a social learning space. In this course you will have the opportunity to interact with instructors, guest speakers, experienced Wikipedians, and most importantly, each other. Your fellow participants are your best source for encouragement, accountability, and learning.

Some small steps can make a big difference in setting the tone for a welcoming and engaging space.

* **Introduce yourself** and say hi to others in the Introductions forum.
* **Login a few times a week** for shorter blasts of learning. Each week there will be a few things to do; you don't have to do them all at once.
* Please take the time to add a photo to your user profile.
* **Engage**. Online, with no one looking at you, you must take responsibility for your own learning and engagement. Chat, post, respond to the ideas and questions of your fellow participants, ask questions of anyone.

**Make a physical place to learn online**

Learning takes focus and time. Set yourself up for the best experience by setting aside dedicated time and creating a space for learning.

* **Dedicate time.**Especially for the live sessions, try to have time set aside from other duties so you can fully engage. We understand this is not always possible, but it is an important display of supervisor buy-in and support to allow dedicated time for staff learning and development.
* **Create space.** For many, your normal working station or desk is not a good place for uninterrupted, focused learning. If yours is not, find someplace else. And if more than one person on staff is taking the course, a dedicated room where you can attend together can make the learning more effective and interesting.
* **Let others know that you are "in session"** and thatfor the next 90 minutes you are going to be busy! Stay focused and intentional during your allotted learning time.
* **Turn off distractions while you focus and learn.** [Did you just check Facebook?] Be present to stay engaged. You'll be glad you did!

**Use the course homepage, your online course space**

* **Track your own progress.** Use the features of the course homepage to keep track of your learning.
* **Make the most out of discussion forums**. Your fellow participants and Wikipedia Guides are all there. The forums are a key tool for deepening your understanding and practical application of the ideas you're learning about.
* **Review session recordings**. For those who are unable to attend the live sessions, recordings of sessions will be available. There is going to be a lot going on in those sessions, between instructors, guest speakers, and chat. Even if you joined the session live, use the recordings as a resource to review things you missed or are trying to recall.