

February (2020) key points from Proffee with Martin Camirè

1. **Always learn from others but find your own balance:** Everyone does balance differently. Ask around, see what others are doing, and be open to learning new strategies from others. Take the best from everyone and do what works for you.
2. **Match your balance to the context you are in and to the goals that you want to accomplish:** Sometimes balance isn't 50/50. Know what your goals are and what you need to do to accomplish those goals, then figure out what balance means to you. For example, if you want to go into Academia, be aware that you might need to tip your balance scale to more research & publishing for the first few years.
3. **Don't be afraid to reach out to others:** Whether at a conference or over email, if you are interested in working or collaborating with someone at another university, reach out to them and maybe offer to visit them in person. You never know what doors you might open when you do this.
4. **Find time to do things you enjoy:** As grad students we have more flexibility in our schedules than most. Take a break from your screen to go to the gym, walk your dog, or find something else you enjoy.
5. **Don't move universities just because you think you "should":** Switching universities between degrees won't necessarily make you look better to future employers. Though there are benefits to both, staying at the same university allows you gain momentum with your lab & supervisor to start and finish more projects.
6. **Interested in doing a post-doc?** Don't be afraid to move to those universities that look good on your CV. Enduring short-term pain is sometimes worth the long-term gain. This might seem counter-intuitive to the previous piece of advice, but post-doc funding is different than Masters and PhD.
7. **Be physically present at school:** As grad students we have the flexibility to work remotely when we need, but there is no comparison to being physically present with your colleagues & professors. Try to show your face when you can. You never know what relationships you might gain that will be important now and in the future.
8. **When applying for external funding shape your CV towards the grid:** You've probably heard it before, but put everything that is pertinent on your CV when applying for funding. For example, did you know that taking part in the HKGSA conference will get you an extra 0.5 points on your total score for OGS?