

Postgraduate & Early Career Researcher Series:

Career Resources

Whether you are hoping to stay in academia or considering options outside Higher Education, this leaflet highlights useful resources to research your options. A summary of the main resources cited includes:

- **Vitae.ac.uk** provides tailored information and resources for postgraduate researchers and research staff who want to pursue an academic career. It also offers advice and resources for researchers looking to make their next move outside academia
- **Jobs.ac.uk** is the leading international jobs board for careers in academic, research, science and related professions. It offers a number of useful resources on career planning, career options and marketing yourself effectively, whether you want to stay in an academic environment or move into another sector
- **The University of Manchester Careers Service** has a comprehensive website offering a multitude of resources for researchers looking for both academic and non-academic information and advice.
- **Prospects.ac.uk** is the leading careers site for information on job roles, sectors and employer profile; advice on applications and interviews; and job vacancies for all disciplines and subject areas
- **Other resources** including research on researcher destinations, articles, job vacancies in both the UK and abroad, and blogs covering the careers of PhDs

AN ACADEMIC CAREER

Key websites and resources for pursuing an academic career

An academic career is competitive. In preparation, you should focus on adding to your publication list, developing collaborations and gaining valuable teaching experience.

Vitae has a number of useful sections in their [Researcher Careers](#) area including:

- Applying for academic jobs
- Creating an effective academic CV
- Examples CVs
- Research funding
- Researcher career stories
- What do researchers do?
- What do research staff do next?
- Creating an action plan for your career development

Jobs.ac.uk has a [Careers Advice](#) section, which includes:

- Job seeking tips
- CV examples
- Interview tips
- Career articles and blogs
- Improving your LinkedIn profile

It offers a number of [Career eBooks](#) on topics such as:

- Career planning for PhDs
- A practical guide to planning an academic or research career
- How to apply for an academic job
- The 5 minute career action plan
- The global academic careers guide

There are also a number of [career videos](#) including:

- How to succeed at job interviews
- Getting your first academic job after your PhD
- Academic careers advice

- What's it like to be a global researcher

The University of Manchester Careers Service

is very comprehensive and has a number of useful resources on [academic careers](#) in its own mini-website including:

- Is an academic career for you?
- What do academics do?
- How do you become an academic?

The main Career Service website has a number of 'How to' guides including:

- Explore your strengths and add to them
- Find academic jobs
- Communicate your research to academic audiences
- Network without hassling your contacts
- Find potential career contacts
- Influence others
- Year by year guide for doctoral researchers

[Prospects.ac.uk](#) has a number of job profiles, articles and information, including:

- Higher education lecturer
- Getting an academic job
- Example academic CV

Other useful resources and websites include:

Job vacancy sites

www.findapostdoc.com

www.jobs.ac.uk

www.timeshighereducation.com/unijobs/

www.researchgate.net

www.researchiscool.com

www.academic360.com

www.academiccareers.com

www.academicpositions.co.uk

www.academicjobseu.com

www.careeredu.eu

www.computeroxy.com

www.euraxess.ec.europa.eu/jobs

www.inomics.com

www.psychoneuroxy.com

www.sciencemag.org/careers

www.phds.org

Research

Associate of Graduate Careers Advisory Services (AGCAS) published a report entitled '[Getting the first lecturing job](#)'

Blogs

Naturejobs run an '[Ask the Expert](#)' series exploring research careers

A CAREER OUTSIDE ACADEMIA

Key websites and resources for pursuing a career outside academia

As a PhD looking for a career outside academia, your options are varied. A key part of this process is to consider your skills, interests and potential career options. See our **PhD Career Planning Guide** for more about this.

Once you are ready to explore your options and look for jobs, the following resources will be useful.

[Prospects.ac.uk](#) offers advice on '[Your PhD, what next?](#)' as well as profiles of hundreds of jobs, sectors and employers.

[Jobs.ac.uk](#) has useful eBooks on career options and applications for jobs outside academia including:

- 10 career paths for PhDs
- Activities & advice to help you explore your options & succeed in a competitive job market
- Career change toolkit
- How to write a cover letter for management & administration jobs

[Targetpostgrad.com](#) has an article covering '[What can I do with my Phd? Jobs outside academia](#)'.

Graduate & PhD specific schemes

Some employers have specific PhD entry programmes but not many. These are mainly big corporate firms. However, areas such as teaching now offer opportunities for PhDs to share their expertise with schools and offer fast track leadership development programmes:

- Management consultancies: e.g. McKinsey, Boston Consulting Group
- Industrial research organisations: e.g. Astra Zenica, BP, Microsoft Research, GSK
- Banks and quantitative finance departments of investment banks: e.g. Bank of England, JP Morgan, Deutsche Bank
- Charitable teaching organisations: e.g. TeachFirst and The Brilliant Club

As a PhD, you are eligible for 'graduate schemes', which are fast track one to three year leadership programmes for anyone who has left university with qualifications from degree level upwards.

These employers look for transferable skills, found from studies, extra-curricular activities and work experience. You can use your c.3-4 years (or more if p/t) to demonstrate your suitability for the roles but your PhD does not necessarily mean you are 'more qualified' than the other candidates. On the contrary, you may have to persuade an employer that you are interested in a non-academic field and have the commercial awareness they are looking for.

On the most prestigious graduate schemes, successful candidates will often have had one-two jobs already post-university, and the majority will have a number of internships under their belt. They will not all have recently graduated from an undergraduate degree. In reality, once you have been hired, you will rotate through different business areas and your colleagues will be of all levels of experience; you will have a high level of responsibility and expectation placed on you from your induction onwards.

If you don't have relevant experience then a graduate programme is an excellent entry point to a company who will invest heavily in your training, development and ensure fast progression. Anecdotally, PhDs can progress quickly, sometimes 'rolling off' graduate programmes earlier than other candidates. This is, of course, dependent on the experience you are offering and your success on the programme.

PhD and Graduate schemes often recruit annually, some all year round. To find vacancies, visit the following sites:

www.prospects.ac.uk
www.targetjobs.co.uk
www.milkround.com

Graduate jobs

These are 'entry level' roles, which require candidates to be of graduate level. They are less likely to involve intensive training, a structured career path and/or fast track route to management. However, there are many more graduate 'jobs' than 'schemes' so they are worth considering to get your foot in the door of a company or sector you're particularly interested in. Once hired, PhD graduates can, anecdotally, impress and progress quickly so think about your career aspirations long term and view these opportunities as a 'way in' and first step on the ladder.

Experienced hire jobs

If your PhD equipped you with a set of skills and expertise that can be easily transferred into a particular role or sector, for example research & development in the pharmaceutical industry, then you can present these accordingly and apply for jobs where they ask for experience. This may well be more straightforward for the FEPS and FHMS disciplines, who are likely to have worked in partnership with a funding organisation, potentially on site and/or in a similar working environment. For FASS disciplines it will depend on the role and organisation, and your expertise and experience.

[The University of Manchester Careers Service](#) has a comprehensive guide on '[How to find adverts for PhD jobs outside academia](#)'.

Job sites often requesting a PhD

www.jobs.ac.uk
www.ecmselection.co.uk/phd-jobs
www.quantfinancejobs.com

[The University of Surrey Employability & Careers](#) website has a number of leaflets, videos, events and jobs.

Other useful resources include:

Research

Research Councils UK (RCUK) '[The impact of doctoral careers](#)' confirms the crucial role doctoral graduates play in UK Businesses

LinkedIn

Join the [University of Surrey](#) LinkedIn page and use the 'Career Insights' alumni page to search for PhDs to see what types of jobs they do now.

Blogs

The following blogs provide information, insight and career profiles from PhDs who have moved out of academia.

www.jobsontoast.com
www.fromphdtolife.com
www.beyondthephd.co.uk
www.phdsatwork.com
www.biosciencecareers.org
www.phdcareersday.com
www.researchstudentscareers.wordpress.com

CAREERS SUPPORT

WHAT WE OFFER

- **45 minute 1:1 appointments**
A confidential discussion on topics such as career options, career planning, CVs, covering letters, application forms and interview preparation including practice interviews. We also offer appointments via Skype and telephone for those not regularly on campus
- **20 minute Quick Query sessions**
Shorter sessions to review your CV, covering letter or application form
- **Interactive Workshops**
1 hour and 2 hour interactive workshops run in the Doctoral College

WHEN CAN I BOOK

- 1:1 appointments are available Monday to Thursday
- Quick Query sessions are on Mondays and Thursday 2-3pm
- Workshops are run throughout the year

HOW CAN I BOOK

- Book 1:1 appointments by popping into Employability & Careers, Philip Marchant Building or called 01483 689001
- Quick Query session sign up opens at 1.30pm on the day and are run on a first come, first served basis
- Workshops are booked via the [Doctoral College website](#)