
What do you need to do to get the job you deserve?

Course Overview

There is never a good time to start to think about what you are going to do once you have finished your PhD. The trouble is, by the time you have space to think about it we often find that we should have started several months or even years ago. But it doesn't have to be that way.

This highly pragmatic, interactive and intense 5-day residential programme will focus on the following key areas:

- Understanding the key elements of a career and identifying what it is that you want from your career.
- Understanding your strengths, what you have to offer, and making sure that you can sell yourself effectively and accurately
- Discovering what motivates you and your own personal career drivers, making sure that your career has the focus and direction that you need.
- Knowing how to work towards getting the right job for you, including identifying and actively pursuing new career possibilities.
- Improving your CV and interview techniques.
- Exploring how to make the most of your last months as PhD students to help you to be highly employable at the end of your PhD, including learning to articulate your competencies, consider a spectrum of employment possibilities and thinking about how you may become more strategic in your professional development approach.

The programme will include:

1. Monday - Taking Stock of your achievements to date and understanding your own personal career drivers and what your career needs to give you.
2. Tuesday - Careers in Universities - exploring the realities of staying within the University sector, and the different possibilities for deploying your skills, knowledge and experience in this sector and wider.
3. Wednesday - Making an Impact - exploring how to market yourself successfully both in the job application and interview process, including interview skills and practice.
4. Thursday - Putting Yourself Out There, looking at how to find your perfect job, and then how to make your application stand out for all of the right reasons, focusing on getting the perfect CV and covering letter.
5. Friday - Closing the Gap, looking at what we need to and can realistically do between now and the end of your PhD.

You will work with your peers and experienced academics to explore everything about how you can secure the next rewarding step in your career, whether you know clearly where you are



heading or have no idea. You will have plenty of time to explore career concepts, have your questions answered and hear from those more established in their careers as to how they made their decisions, how they secured their posts and what they know now that they wish they had known towards the end of their PhDs.

By the end of the programme you will:

- Understand what you need to do to take your career from where it is now to where you want it to be, and how to feel comfortable with the actions that you need to take in order to achieve your aims.
- Have identified your career drivers, how to find and apply for your next role, how to articulate your employable assets and how to deliver when asked challenging questions on the spot by potential future employers.
- Understood your employable assets, and how to articulate them in a way that sells you to future employers.
- Have received feedback on your CV and had time to update and revise it, draft a hugely impactful personal profile and know how to construct a powerful cover letter.
- Have had in depth exposure to the interview process, and know where and how you can improve your interview performance and feel more comfortable when selling your experience and potential.
- Had the opportunities to talk to peers, colleagues and seniors both formally and informally on their views about careers and the current job market for PhD graduates.
- Had your career questions answered.