



Career Histories of PhD Graduates Faculty: Engineering Sciences

Note: Blue = academic role

PhD Subject or Department & Grad date	Current Job Title	Organisation & / or Job Sector	Previous Job (s)	PhD Essential for role?
Biochemical Engineering, 2007	Technical Manager	Biochemical Engineering department, UCL	No	Not stated
Civil and Environmental Engineering	Teaching Fellow	UCL	Office Manager and Research Fellowship at UCL	Yes
Chemical Engineering, 2007	Safety Engineer	NW Kellogg	Not stated	Yes
Computer Science, 2007	Software Developer	Silverbear Limited	Not stated	Not stated
Electronic and Electrical Engineering, 2005	Company Director	A software company (a business start up)	Software Engineer, British Telecom	Yes
Electronic and Electrical Engineering, 2007	Product Portfolio Manager	Deutsche Telekom	Not stated	Not stated

Career Case Studies: Further Details

G. – PhD Biochemical Engineering, 2007

G. is the Technical Manager in the Biochemical Engineering department at UCL. His role is also supervisory and advisory in nature and he helps students with their research. When he first started this role he did not face any challenges. He was qualified in that area as he undertook his

PhD in the same department although he had to learn how to work with new equipment. He used the Careers Service and took part in some Graduate School activities. He found the services useful.

- *Specific courses attended: Careers Networking Event - Alternative Careers in Science, Team Working - with Procter and Gamble, Career Planning and Job Searching, CVs and Applications, Careers Skills Workshops for PhD students - Public Sector: Civil Service, Interviews and Assessment Centres.*

T. – PhD Civil and Environmental Engineering, 2007

T. is a Teaching Fellow at UCL (maternity cover) and Lecturer in Fluid Mechanics. Before this he worked as an Office Manager and a Research Fellow at UCL. For his current role, his PhD is essential as is the subject knowledge. He currently uses the transferable skills of communication, decision making, planning and organisation and independence, although he has learnt more from on the job training than during his PhD. The main challenge T. faced after graduation was finding appropriate and relevant jobs. He found his current job through personal networks and grant applications. T. participated in Graduate School activities and used the Careers Service. T.'s key advice to current PhD students is to find a link with industry during the first year of a PhD. Ensure you know why you are doing a PhD i.e. access to academia and career opportunities.

- *Specific courses attended: Research Communication Workshop - Interviewing for the Radio, Presentation Skills Workshops*

M. – PhD Chemical Engineering, 2007

M. is the Safety Engineer at NW Kellogg. His PhD is essential for this role and he uses his knowledge of risk based analysis in his day to day work. One of the immediate challenges M. faced when entering employment for the first time after graduation was making the leap from academia to the practicalities of a work environment (which is far more advanced).

H. – PhD Computer Science, 2007

H. is currently a Software Developer for Silverbear Limited, a software solutions company based in Surrey. H. uses his problem solving, analysis and solution design skills for his role. One of the key challenges H. first faced after graduating was being able to adapt from an academic background to a business environment which included meeting deadlines and working as part of a team. At UCL, H. signed up for a one-to-one with a careers adviser which he found very useful and it gave him ideas about what to pursue and how to use his PhD.

- *Specific courses attended: PhD Employers Forum - Economics, Engineering and Science.*
- *Howard had one 60 minute careers discussion with a Careers Adviser*

A. – PhD Electronic and Electrical Engineering, 2005

A. runs his own company (a software organisation) which he developed from his PhD. Prior to this he worked at BT as a software engineer. For his current role having a PhD was essential in developing his skills, ideas and knowledge. His whole business is based on the work he did from his PhD. The key transferable skills developed from his PhD include communication, teamwork, problem solving and decision making. A. did not have any challenges finding work after graduating

as he was already employed by BT. His advice to current PhD students is to use their PhD effectively as a job marketing tool

J. – PhD Electronic and Electrical Engineering, 2007

J. is the Product Portfolio Manager at Deutsche Telekom. His background in electronics and electrical engineering prepared him for his current role. However the key challenges he faced when he started working for Deutsche Telekom were the lack of understanding from an organisational point of view of how to manage PhD graduates and how to use their understanding and skills effectively. He also stated that it was difficult overall to find a job role as his PhD was very specific to a certain market. J. used the Careers Service and attended management related workshops.

- *Specific courses attended: PhD Employers Forum - Economics, Engineering and Science.*