



## Career Histories of PhD Graduates Faculty: Social and Historical 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?
Anthropology	Temporary Teaching Fellow	UCL	Not stated	Not stated
Anthropology	Research Position & Freelance Researcher	City University	Not stated	Not stated
Anthropology	Post Doc Fellow	Institute of Education	Not stated	Not stated
Anthropology	Self employed freelance researcher	Media industry	Media consultant	Not stated
Anthropology, 2007	Research Assistant	National Audit Office	Not stated	Not stated
Archaeology, 2005	Senior Trial Coordinator	Cancer Trial Centre, UCL	1. admin role, recruitment agency 2. Medical Secretary, Adam Brooks Hospital, Cambs.	NO
Archaeology, 2007	British Academy Postdoctoral Fellow	UCL	Not stated	Not stated
Archaeology, 2008	Freelance researcher	Not stated	Not stated	Not stated
Archaeology, 2007	Secondary School Teacher	City of London Academy	Not stated	Not stated (although subject knowledge used)
Economics, 2004	Civil Servant	OfGem	Economic Consultant	Desirable

Geography	Private Secretary to the Secretary of State for Transport	Department of Transport	Not stated	Not stated
Geography	Postdoctoral Researcher	UCL	Not stated	Not stated
Geography	Research assistant & some teaching	Institution not stated. Part of time spent in United Arab Emirates	Not stated	Yes
Geography, 2007	Postdoctoral Research	Geography, UCL	N/A	Not stated
Geography	Research Fellow	University of Birmingham in the Centre for Urban and Regional Studies	Not stated	Not stated
Geography, 2006	Team Adviser for Energy and Climate Change	Government Office for Science	N/A	Yes
Geography, 2007	Researcher	A Government Research Council	N/A	Yes
Geography, 2008	Lecturer in Science and Environmental Studies	Department of Geography, Birkbeck College, University of London.	Teaching position at Southampton University	Yes
History, 2006	Lecturer	Dept. of Latin American Studies, University of Bristol	N/A	Not stated
History, 2008	Part-time researcher and lecturer	University of Kent	Not stated	Yes
History of Art,	Writer	Freelance	Not stated	Not stated
School of Slavonic & East European Studies, 2003	Lecturer	University of Sheffield	Lecturer, University of Liverpool	Not stated

## Career Case Studies: Further Details

### C. – PhD in Anthropology

C. is currently holding a Temporary Teaching Fellowship at UCL. She found the role by networking whilst she was in the department she now works for. Chloe uses the factual knowledge gained during her PhD in her current position and feels that her PhD helped her to develop effective time management and organisational skills. C. attended three Graduate School modules covering 'Group work', 'Teaching' and 'How to complete a PhD', and believes the school offered an excellent and diverse range of courses.

- *Specific courses attended: Statistics for Researchers, APPMS Part 2 - Personal & Professional Management Skills Residential Course, Your PhD Part 2 - Management Skills for Researchers, Your PhD Part 3 - Managing and Producing Your Thesis and Reports, Stress*

*and Anxiety Management, Presentation Skills Workshops, Careers Adviser-Led Skills Workshops: How to perform well at interview, Careers Adviser-Led Skills Workshops: How to write CVs and fill in application forms.*

#### **A. – PhD in Anthropology, 2007**

A. holds two part time jobs – she occupies a research position at City University and is also a freelance researcher with a Non-governmental organisation. A. landed her role at City after having a formal interview for another job, which was not offered to her, but she was subsequently called back when a contract research opportunity arose. The NGO role grew out of some initial voluntary work that she had undertaken. A. uses a variety of transferable competences learnt during her doctorate in her daily work such as research and project management skills. She is grateful to the Graduate School for helping her to secure funding needed to undergo language training.

#### **R. – PhD in Anthropology**

R. is a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Institute of Education. She saw this role on jobs.ac.uk and successfully applied for it. R. applies a number of skills gained through studying her PhD to her working life including administrative, organisational, analytical and interpersonal skills. In addition to her PhD, R. also completed an MRes at UCL and went on the 'Personal & Professional Skills Development' course provided by the UCL Centre for Advancement for Learning and Teaching. She applied the generic social research methods and specific group work training gained through this qualification to the job application and interview process for the role.

#### **C. – PhD in Anthropology**

C. is a self employed freelance researcher for media companies, and was a media consultant before embarking on a PhD at UCL. She is on maternity leave at present but is actively applying for a Postdoctoral Fellowship at Cambridge. C. found that she was able to apply her social science research, general research skills, and specific interviewing and sampling methodologies acquired throughout her course, to work-related tasks. C. was very positive about the support she received whilst at UCL; she attended the 'PhD Employers Forum on Government and Social Policy' (organised by the Careers Service and Graduate School) and skills workshops focusing on 'presentation skills' and 'how to use your PhD skills after graduation' and affirms these helped her get a clear idea about 'what career options were out there'.

- *Specific courses attended:* Your PhD Part 1 - Reading for a PhD - The First Important Steps, Your PhD Part 3 - Managing and Producing Your Thesis and Reports, PhD Employers Forum - Government and Social Policy.

#### **E.– PhD Anthropology, 2007**

E. is a Research Assistant at the Department for International Development at the National Audit Office. She found this position via a friend although the post was also advertised. She still uses 'generic' skills gained in her PhD as well as her knowledge of quantitative research and specific knowledge of International Development. As a result, E. did not face any challenges when first entering employment. Whilst at UCL E. used the Career Service and had a careers consultation and mock interview with a Careers Adviser. E. also took part in a 2-3 day career development workshop in the Lake District. Overall she found the Careers Service very encouraging and wished she had started using the service earlier in her PhD studies.

### **P. – PhD Archaeology, 2005**

P. did not stay in the area of Archaeology after graduating from UCL. After graduation, P. returned to the recruitment agency she worked in prior to doing her PhD and worked in an administrative role. She then became a medical secretary at the Adam Brooks Hospital in Cambridge and was headhunted to work at UCL's Cancer Trial Centre as a Senior Clinical Trial Coordinator. Her PhD is not essential for the role but her background research knowledge is important - in particular her understanding of databases and computers. Time management, research and being able to self-guide and work independently are important transferable skills learnt during her PhD and applied to her current position. She would advise PhD students to start planning your career early. When you are going to interviews really sell yourself and focus on key skills relevant to the job description. It is essential to write good strong applications for each role you apply for – this makes it easier for employers.

### **E. – PhD Archaeology, 2007**

E. is a Secondary School teacher at the City of London Academy. Her scientific background has been useful for her role, as well as presentation skills that she developed from her PhD. She did not face any challenges when first entering employment.

- *Specific courses attended: Publishing your thesis, Career Planning and Job Searching, Interviews and Assessment Centres.*

### **S. – PhD Archaeology, 2007**

S. is a British Academy Postdoctoral Fellow at UCL. She took on this role after graduating from the same department she now works for. S. found the skills and knowledge learnt during her PhD vital for her role. One of the challenges she faced was gaining new skills for the research project. She attended numerous Career Service activities including interview skills and career development workshops, and found them to be beneficial.

- *Specific courses attended: Fundamentals of Teaching I - Strategies for Teaching in HE, The UK A&H PhD: Challenges and Opportunities, Applying for Post-Doctoral Positions, Career Planning Beyond Academia, Interviews Made Easy - with BT, Career Planning and Job Searching, CVs and Applications, Interviews and Assessment Centres, Planning your Career in Academia, High-tech Entrepreneurship - Starting a Moneymaking, High-Tech Business with Minimal Funding, Careers Forum - Getting into Academia.*

### **C. – PhD Archaeology, 2008**

Since graduating, C. has been working as a freelance researcher. She believes that her PhD has given her strong foundation to do the work at hand and her skills and knowledge in archive research, in conjunction with secondary research, are important as well as her writing skills - gaining confidence in writing creatively is important for her freelance work. The key transferable skills learnt during her PhD and used in her current role include learning to work independently, being responsible for your own work load, self-motivation and the ability to identify and use appropriate information sources. C. would advise current PhDs to get work published, particularly if they want to pursue a career in research. This will allow you to stand out amongst the competition. Talk to publishers and build your networks. She also recommends using the resources at the Careers Service and taking part in Graduate School activities that focus on career options. She found these services useful as it allowed her to think of alternative career paths and

reflect on her career options. She would advise current PhD students to stay determined, remain confident in their skills and explore other options.

- *Specific courses attended include: Creating and managing the research project, The Research Argument: the four main paradigms, Seminar presentation skills, Referencing and footnotes; preparing a bibliography; MHRA style, Preparing for the upgrade, Your PhD Part 1 - Reading for a PhD - The First Important Steps, Publishing your seminar paper in a journal, Preparing for the viva, Publishing your thesis, Managing and Producing Your Thesis and Reports, Planning Your Career Outside Academia, Planning your Career in Academia, Leaving University: The Final Hurdle, Applying for post-doctoral positions - British Academy Postdoctoral Fellowships, Leverhulme Early Career Fellowships.*

### **C. – PhD Economics, 2004**

C. is a Civil Servant working for OfGem. For her current role her PhD was desirable. As she was already working prior to her PhD, C. did not feel she faced any challenges in securing a job after her studies. She found her role through a job advert in The Economist. Two transferable skills identified as important in her day to day work include analysis and being able to think quickly on your feet. Whilst at UCL, C. attended a number of career fairs to help her find out more about different roles in different industries. She found them informative and they helped her make new contacts. The key advice she would give to current PhD students, particularly those in Economics, is to not confine themselves to academia; go out and research different organisations where your PhD in Economics can be transferred to.

### **J. – PhD in Geography**

J. works for the Department of Transport as Private Secretary to the Secretary of State for Transport which he secured by applying to the Civil Service Fast Stream programme. Skills learnt during J.'s PhD that are being applied include; the analysis and use of evidence, awareness of parliamentary and policy making processes and written and oral communication skills. J. used the Careers Service quite a lot; he attended a couple of careers seminars including the Management Consultancy Forum sponsored by Deloitte. He also used the Careers Service Information Library which he believed to be 'well stocked'. In addition, he had a mock interview which was 'absolutely excellent' and helped him 'to focus his mind on what he needed to say'.

- *Specific courses attended: Careers Skills Workshops for PhD students - Public Sector: Civil Service, Careers Adviser-Led Skills Workshops: How to Perform Well at Interviews, Careers Adviser-Led Skills Workshops: Planning your Career Outside Academia, Employer-Led Careers Skills Workshops: Networking - with the BBC, Employer-Led Careers Skills Workshops: Interview skills - with Price Waterhouse Coopers, Finishing Your PhD: Practical Tips on the Thesis, the Viva and Moving On, Career Planning & Management for Research Students - Arts & Humanities, Laws and Social & Historical Sciences.*

### **F. – PhD in Geography**

F. Has taken up a research assistant role that involves lecturing and half of his time is taken up working in the United Arab Emirates. F. applied for the role after being encouraged to do so by his Tutor. The PhD helped to develop his teaching skills that are useful for the lecturing responsibilities.

### **A. – PhD in Geography**

A. is currently carrying out postdoctoral research at UCL following on from his PhD. He found this position through searching job adverts and states that he uses all of the skills learnt during his PhD in his current position including writing, analysing and computer programming. A. appreciated the fact that the Graduate School provided sponsorship to enable him to go to conferences that he would not otherwise have been able to attend.

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

### **L. - PhD in Geography**

L is Currently a Research Fellow at the University of Birmingham in the Centre for Urban and Regional Studies which she originally found advertised through an online vacancy site ([www.jobs.ac.uk](http://www.jobs.ac.uk)). L. is using her knowledge skills gained during her PhD, as well as the research, presentation and teaching skills. While she attended UCL, L. accessed a number of training opportunities via the Graduate School. She participated in courses like 'Personal and Professional Development', 'Small Group Teaching' and 'Presentation' and found the training and support useful. Indeed, L. attests that the management skills and presentation techniques she gained have proven very useful in all her jobs since her PhD.

### **J. – PhD Geography, 2006**

J. works in the Government Office for Science where she is the Team Adviser for Energy and Climate Change. For this she considers her PhD essential for the role in particular her knowledge of past climate change. She applied for the role after graduation and did not face any challenges.

### **G. – PhD Geography, 2007**

After graduation, G. went directly to MERC (?) – a Government Research Council, where he works as a Researcher. His PhD was essential for the role and his subject knowledge was important. He sees this role as a continuation of his PhD therefore did not find any challenges moving from the PhD to MERC, although G. mentioned that funding is always challenging. The key transferable skills highlighted for this role include: team work and communication (especially when teaching and giving lectures).

### **K. – PhD Geography, 2008**

K. is a Lecturer in Science and Environmental Studies at the Department of Geography at Birkbeck College, University of London. Previous to this role, K. taught at Southampton University for a few months. For her present role, her PhD is essential for the work she does. Her subject knowledge allows her to continue publishing work in her field and her skills in interviewing and social science are important. Top transferable skills necessary for her role include personal organisation, writing skills, independent research and being able to think quickly on your feet (to answer seminar questions). The main challenge that K. faced after graduating and starting her role at Southampton University and Birkbeck was to develop her teaching style and multitasking activities – you have to understand, learn to prioritise and do many things at the same time. While at UCL, K. took part in face-to-face appointments with a Careers Adviser and underwent mock interviews. She found this very useful in getting into the right mind frame for job searching. The key advice K. would give to current doctoral students thinking of going into teaching is to grow your personal networks in your chosen field. Also try to get at least two works published in order to stand out against the competition before you finish your PhD. And finally, be constructive and practical with interviews. Learn from them and see them as an opportunity to better yourself.

**A. – PhD Geography, 2007**

A. is currently a researcher at UCL in the Geography Department. The key skills and knowledge needed for this role include geographical information systems, social science and quantitative research. He did not face any challenges entering the role of a researcher.

**J. – PhD History, 2006**

J. is a lecturer in Latin American Literature at the University of Bristol. She got this role straight after completing her PhD. Key skills for her role include research, communications and presentation to help with her teaching. The only challenge she faced when entering employment the first time was working in a different environment and working with different student's experience. Joanne secured this role partly through contacts and networking. She had previously taught a course part-time at the University and her supervisor at UCL recommended her for the position. J. attended training through the Graduate School (not stated). One key piece of advice she would give doctoral students thinking of teaching/lecturing is to think broadly and be open to different departments to work for. Be flexible and willing to adapt your programme area to teach another area i.e. look at how your research can be relevant to lots of places and industry such as Latin American Literature but using History.

**M. – PhD History, 2008**

M. is a part-time Researcher and Lecturer in the Late Antique Archaeology Department of the University of Kent. His PhD is essential for this position, as well as his understanding of Geographical Information Systems. The key transferable skills used on a daily basis include planning, quick thinking (in order to respond to questions in seminars), communication when presenting research in front of class, and information gathering. Entering academia was challenging. M. found his current role through personal networking. He attended careers fairs in his own time and attended a presentation on careers in academia. M. stresses that when job hunting it is essential to emphasise what transferable skills you can bring to a role.

**G. – PhD History of Art, 2007**

G. is not employed by any company but is in the process of getting a book published in her area of study History of Art. She undertook her PhD for personal reasons, not with the intention of working for a company but to publish her own work. Her PhD has given her the skills and knowledge to write her book. The structured way of thinking has aided her writing. There was no particular challenges faced once she graduated, rather finding a publisher is proving difficult.

**M., PhD School of Slavonic & East European Studies, 2003**

M. has been a Lecturer in 20th Century Russia/Modern History at the University of Sheffield since 2004. Before that she was a lecturer of history at the University of Liverpool. For both roles her PhD has been essential, as too her research skills and subject knowledge of Russian History. When first entering employment M. was challenged by the fact that there was a limited job market in academia. She found her role through jobs.ac.uk.