Career Options for Researchers

Case Studies & Event Podcasts

The following document contains summaries and links to interviews with individuals in various roles and job sectors who all have a PhD qualification.

The interviews were designed to provide current researchers with information on the wide range of career paths available to them, how PhD level skills and experience can be applied in these areas, and practical advice on how to access these sectors.

In addition, we have provided links to a number of audio recordings of our researcher career forums where invited panels of PhD holders gave information and advice regarding their career areas and the value of a PhD and research experience.

Job Sectors Covered

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Academia

Professor of Physiology, Johns Hopkins University (PhD Biochemistry)

“To be successful in an academic research career, you must think of yourself as an entrepreneur. Your research should not only be productive, as evidenced by numerous peer-reviewed publications in high quality journals, but also innovative and at the leading edge of the field.”

http://blogs.ucl.ac.uk/ucl-researchers/2015/06/05/a-professors-take-on-academic-careers/

Dr Joe Devlin, Experimental Psychology
UCL. Interview Clips

What is your current position and what has been your career path?
https://mediacentral.ucl.ac.uk/Play/2813

How high is the success rate in your field in achieving a permanent academic position?
https://mediacentral.ucl.ac.uk/Play/2817

What is the usual academic career progression in your field?
https://mediacentral.ucl.ac.uk/Play/2816

What would expect credible applicants for a first postdoc and a first lectureship to have achieved?
https://mediacentral.ucl.ac.uk/Play/2815

What are the essential personal qualities and attributes for a successful academic career?
https://mediacentral.ucl.ac.uk/Play/2814

Dr Richard Freeman, UCL Institute of Education. Interview Clips

What is your current position and what has been your career path?
https://mediacentral.ucl.ac.uk/Play/2798

What would expect credible applicants for a first postdoc and a first lectureship to have achieved?
https://mediacentral.ucl.ac.uk/Play/2799

What are the essential personal qualities and attributes for a successful academic career?
https://mediacentral.ucl.ac.uk/Play/2800

What is the usual academic career progression in your field?
https://mediacentral.ucl.ac.uk/Play/2801

Dr Cadence Kinsey, British Academy Postdoctoral Fellow, History of Art, UCL. Interview Clips

What is your current position and what has been your career path?
https://mediacentral.ucl.ac.uk/Play/2797
What is it like to be a Postdoctoral Fellow?
https://mediacentral.ucl.ac.uk/Play/2794

What advice would you give for making a successful lectureship application?
https://mediacentral.ucl.ac.uk/Play/2795

What are the best parts of being a lecturer and what are the challenges?
https://mediacentral.ucl.ac.uk/Play/2796
Education & Public Engagement


- Mark Llewellyn - Director of Research, Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC)
- Marek Kukula - Public Astronomer, Royal Observatory Greenwich
- Mary Henes - London Regional Director, The Brilliant Club
- Rosalind Mist - Head of Education Policy, The Royal Society
- Steve Heggie - Institute Manager, UCL Eastman Dental Institute
- Steve Cross - Head of Public Engagement, UCL Public and Cultural Engagement

https://www.ucl.ac.uk/stream/media/swatch?v=78c90f1d6c34

Engineering Education Developer & Coordinator, UCL (PhD Computer Science & Electronic and Electrical Engineering)

Job focuses on developing and managing a comprehensive suite of engineering engagement and education programmes for children and young people aged 5 -19 years old from London and across the UK

http://blogs.ucl.ac.uk/ucl-researchers/tag/engineering/

Science Festival Placement, Science Museum, London (PhD Biotechnology) (Current UCL PhD student)

Research and develop the scientific content for the ‘You Have Been Upgraded’ festival on the topic of human enhancement technologies.

http://blogs.ucl.ac.uk/ucl-researchers/2016/04/08/alice-luis-festival-experience-at-science-museum/

Education Coordinator (S.E. England), Royal Society of Chemistry (PhD Biochemistry)

I communicate activities of the RSC to different stakeholders in the region – a lot of work with schools and teachers, higher education institutes and local industry. This might involve event organising or talking to students interested in careers in chemistry or introducing trainee teachers to the activities of the RSC for enhancement of the curriculum.

http://www.ucl.ac.uk/careers/specialistsupport/researchers/videos/bc36382f6299

Senior Innovation & Skills Programme Manager, Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (PhD Fungal Genetics)

The role involves the strategic management of skills-related Studentships and Fellowship programmes. I help develop training programmes (including careers-related) for a variety of our areas including our Doctoral Training Partnerships (DTPs) and our industrial collaborative programmes (e.g. CASE studentships). Other activities I am heavily involved with include our young entrepreneurs scheme and our incentive programmes to get researchers to look at the impact of their work.

http://www.ucl.ac.uk/careers/specialistsupport/researchers/videos/20a79505b3a1

Head of Public Engagement, A UK University

The work is a skills – based creative job with a lot of time spent developing relationships with researchers as well as the creation of science exhibits. The role also involves grant writing, evaluation and reporting, marketing and training.
Public Astronomer, Royal Observatory, Greenwich (PhD Radio Astronomy)

The various functions of his role include organising exhibitions as well as engaging with arts organisations and the public to share knowledge of astronomy and science.

Curator, British Museum (PhD Archaeology)

I’m particularly responsible for the Greek Bronze Age collection. I’m involved both in researching it, and also making it available to the public both directly and through the gallery.

National Programme Director, The Brilliant Club (PhD Medieval History)

The Brilliant Club is a non-profit organisation which recruits, trains and places doctoral and postdoctoral researchers in non-selective state schools and sixth form colleges.

Employer Engagement, UCL Careers (PhD Ophthalmology)

“Although I always enjoyed carrying out research, I had moved on a lot since the start of my PhD, having a baby and acquiring a mortgage along the way and was keen to pursue stable, permanent roles. I had always enjoyed the University environment and working with students, so pursuing a career in this sector seemed like a great choice.”
Science Communications

Science Communications Manager (#1), Cancer Research UK (PhD Molecular Parasitology)

Lots of meetings and lots of writing. I meet with fundraisers to find out who, either individuals or companies, they’re pitching to, and what they need from our team. I’ll then search our research database for something that fits the bill, and write about it in language that will appeal to the potential donor. I also write updates on our progress for existing donors.

http://blogs.ucl.ac.uk/ucl-researchers/2015/05/28/communicating-science-for-a-living/

Science Communications Manager (#2), Cancer Research UK (PhD Molecular Biology)

I can be meeting with fundraisers to find out what they need for a particular fundraising pitch, searching our portfolio of work to find projects that might appeal to certain potential donors, or writing up projects that need support.

http://blogs.ucl.ac.uk/ucl-researchers/2015/03/19/a-science-communicators-story/

Communications Internship, Portland Press (PhD Cell Physiology) (Current UCL PhD student)

Role mainly consisted of qualitative and quantitative data analysis. This included carrying out extensive citation analysis, looking at which research is high profile and which areas could be improved.


Senior Life Sciences Editor, Thompson Reuters (PhD Biological Chemistry) (UCL alumnus)

My daily work routine typically entails the extraction, assimilation and content-integrity management of Life Science data from journals, patents and conferences. The data is subsequently updated in our multiple online databases, which are subscribed to by customers all around the world in both the pharmaceutical industry and academic institutes to aid them with their research.


Junior Medical Writer, IMC Healthcare Communications

Activities are varied. Includes writing up reports on drug advisory board meetings [for Pharmaceutical company products] as well writing product monographs and position statements. In addition, the work can also involve producing medical education material for patients and healthcare professionals (e.g. brochures, leaflets) and writing training programmes for sales representatives.

https://www.ucl.ac.uk/stream/media/swatch?v=08dd7e0ac2df

Medical Writer, Oxford Pharmagenesis (PhD Developmental Biology) (UCL alumnus)

Working for a healthcare communications agency I help develop publications and scientific documents in collaboration with clients.

http://www.ucl.ac.uk/careers/specialistsupport/researchers/videos/379c7b2cdb91

Senior Account Executive, Havas Life Medicom (PhD Biochemistry)

The role is focussed on client handling. We receive projects from pharmaceutical companies and then I liaise directly with the client to work out what they want to do, and the look and feel of the product. I take these ideas and work with colleagues internally
e.g. creatives, medical writers, to create the product
[after further client liaison]

http://www.ucl.ac.uk/careers/specialistsupport/researchers/videos/ab4ed68f3496

**Technology Features Editor, New Scientist**
(PhD Computing) *(UCL alumnus)*

The job involves generating ideas for features for the magazine, and commissioning writers.

http://blogs.ucl.ac.uk/ucl-researchers/2017/02/01/read-all-about-it-life-as-a-magazine-features-editor/
Policy, Strategy & Research Management


- Dr Richard Malham - Policy Manager, Academy of Medical Sciences
- Dr Martin Turner - Policy Advisor, Campaign for Science & Engineering (CaSE)
- Dr Joseph Elliston – Higher Scientific Officer, Government Operational Research Service (GORS)
- Dr Rory Yeomans - Senior Research Analyst, Ministry of Justice
- Dr George Windsor - Senior Policy Researcher, Nesta
- Dr Caroline Harper - Research Fellow and Programme Leader of Social Development, Overseas Development Institute

https://www.ucl.ac.uk/stream/media/swatch?v=27db80744a06

Research Funding Manager, Cancer Research UK (PhD Cell Biology) (UCL alumnus)

I work on CRUK’s Clinical Trials Awards Advisory Committee, so the bulk of my role involves processing funding applications, and organising the scientific committee meeting that determines how funding will be awarded.

http://blogs.ucl.ac.uk/ucl-researchers/2015/02/27/moving-from-research-to-research-funding/

Senior Policy Officer, The Academy of Medical Sciences (PhD Molecular Biology)

I look out for my constituency (researchers) finding out about new therapies and new ways of transforming healthcare. I keep an eye on what’s going on in government and internationally that affect what they are doing, or things their research may affect (& thus putting them in touch with people they need to speak to)

http://www.ucl.ac.uk/careers/specialistsupport/researchers/videos/693d3a7365eb

Higher Scientific Officer, Government Operational Research Service (GORS), (PhD Cosmology)

Working within the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, I carry out a variety of analytical projects to support the decision making process. A wide variety of analytical techniques and tools are used to model, simulate or facilitate the process of capturing the complex systems within government.

https://www.ucl.ac.uk/stream/media/swatch?v=d21d4864c2cd

Policy Adviser, Ministry of Justice

The role involves meetings with ministers, attending debates relating to my subject areas, writing submissions and briefings that we send to advise ministers. I also speak to the experts; the judges and the legal experts that give us advice about what we should be telling ministers.

https://www.ucl.ac.uk/stream/media/swatch?v=42599b4894c

Science Policy Secondment, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS), (PhD Translational Cognitive Neuroscience) (Current UCL student)

I was always working on different projects simultaneously that appertained to a range of scientific topics and had real impact on the world. I was able to contribute to high level policy documents like the Science and Innovation Strategy which the Chancellor of the Exchequer mentioned on live television during the Autumn Statement.

http://blogs.ucl.ac.uk/ucl-researchers/2015/05/20/a-researchers-experience-of-working-in-science-policy/
**Senior Research Fellow**, The King’s Fund

The King’s Fund is a health policy ‘Think Tank’. The role is varied. I conduct research in particular areas such as governance, accountability, system reform and regulation. The research can take a number of forms such as long term research that’s internally funded or research grant funded projects. Other work includes consultancy and conference presentations.

[https://www.ucl.ac.uk/stream/media/swatch?v=9bbfba8f8874](https://www.ucl.ac.uk/stream/media/swatch?v=9bbfba8f8874)

**Science Policy Officer** Biochemical Society and Society of Biology (PhD Organic Chemistry)

I work as a channel between the science community and policy makers (parliamentarians, top level organisational leaders). We ensure that people making policy decisions have appropriate and up to date science advice and also work to ensure that the science community have the right conditions to carry out their research by, for example, championing funding, research infrastructure and disadvantaged groups in science.

[http://www.ucl.ac.uk/careers/specialistsupport/researchers/videos/76aad160c551](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/careers/specialistsupport/researchers/videos/76aad160c551)

**Research Fellow** (Environment), Policy Exchange (PhD Ecology)

A typical project might start with the brainstorming of an idea which is followed by the development of a research proposal. The actual research may involve talking to stakeholders, conducting literature reviews and novel analysis. Reports are then written which are submitted for external review followed by publication and a ‘media hit’. A key next stage is ‘Advocacy’ – getting ‘by in’ on the report recommendations from MPs, Civil Servants, the press etc. The aim is to get a ‘Policy win’.

[http://www.ucl.ac.uk/careers/specialistsupport/researchers/BESThinktank](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/careers/specialistsupport/researchers/BESThinktank)
Intellectual Property

**Trainee Patent Attorney, JA Kemp (PhD Organic Chemistry)**

Combines law with a much more technical understanding of the inventions underlying patents.

[http://blogs.ucl.ac.uk/ucl-researchers/2016/07/15/how-a-phd-can-lead-to-patent-law/](http://blogs.ucl.ac.uk/ucl-researchers/2016/07/15/how-a-phd-can-lead-to-patent-law/)

**Patent Attorney, Reddie & Grose LLP (PhD Condensed Matter Physics)**

My core, day-to-day, role involves writing patent applications and arguing before patent offices. Also, we advise clients on their ‘party rights’, e.g. they may be launching a new product and wish to know whether they might be infringing on a competitors patents. We also conduct ‘due diligence’ work if a client is thinking of buying another company.

[http://www.ucl.ac.uk/careers/specialistsupport/researchers/videos/c501e437f00](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/careers/specialistsupport/researchers/videos/c501e437f00)

**Partner, J.A Kemp (PhD Molecular Cell Biology)**

Working in the Biotechnology and Life Sciences team I do a wide variety of things. I work with individual scientists who think they have an invention, giving them opinions on patentability. This can lead us to drafting a patent application for them. With an application I will prosecute them before the European Patent Office and I also work with agents in other countries e.g. The USA.

[https://www.ucl.ac.uk/stream/media/swatch?v=1fabd8a9ae3c](https://www.ucl.ac.uk/stream/media/swatch?v=1fabd8a9ae3c)
Bioscience Industry & Healthcare

Forum: UK & Global Health Sector, Dec 2016

- Dr Rick Cousins - Research Director, RD Alternative Discovery & Development, GSK (GlaxoSmithKline)
- Dr Natalia Barkalina, Principal Medical Writer, imc Integrated Medhealth Communication
- Dr Amina Udechuku, Senior Research Consultant, Mapi Group
- Dr Julie George, Public Health Consultant (Surrey County Council) & Honorary Research Associate (Farr Institute of Health Informatics Research - UCL)
- Dr Om Prasad Gautam, Technical Support Manager for Hygiene, WaterAid UK
- Dr Jonathan Best - Head of Insight and Analysis, Wellcome Trust


Senior Health Economist, A Major Pharmaceutical Company (PhD Molecular Genetics)

I demonstrate the value of drugs we produce to the NHS. That involves assessing the clinical evidence, but also looking at things from an economic perspective.

http://blogs.ucl.ac.uk/ucl-researchers/2016/12/14/moving-into-pharma-a-case-study-2/

Bioinformatician, NHS Clinical Scientist Training Programme (PhD Molecular Cell Biology) (UCL alumnus)

To develop bioinformatics within Nottingham’s regional genetics department, advising on the best tools to analyse data - using the results of past and present academic research to bring benefits direct to patients.

http://blogs.ucl.ac.uk/ucl-researchers/2016/02/09/training-to-be-an-nhs-bioinformatician/

Bioinformatics, Genomics, NHS Clinical Scientist Training Programme (PhD Interdisciplinary Biology)

Most recently I have been working on putting together an analysis pipeline for one of our targeted gene panels (basically a list of genes that we will sequence, usually these are involved in a particular disease or phenotype, e.g. a retinal dystrophy panel). This has involved trying out tools and analysing the results to select the best ones for our particular data set.

http://blogs.ucl.ac.uk/ucl-researchers/2015/10/26/from-phd-to-the-nhs-scientist-training-scheme-part-one/

Associate (Life Science Practice), L.E.K Consulting (PhD Neuroscience)

I do a lot of the primary and secondary research tasks, the analysis and synthesis of that information into presentations. We work on a variety of projects (business and strategy consulting) for clients such as pharmaceutical companies.

https://www.ucl.ac.uk/stream/media/swatch?v=19e7e0392e9e

Founder and CEO, Repositive (Research Exp. in Genetics and Epigenetics)

The Repositive platform enables researchers to browse through multiple repositories for the human genomic data they need to power their research. The interviewee (who didn’t complete her PhD) gives advice on starting a business, but also how to find jobs with existing life science companies.
Product Specialist, Scientifica (PhD Electrophysiology)

The company manufactures and sells products for the electrophysiology and imaging research markets. My role involves both selling and technical advice. I consult with life scientists and find out what their needs are, advising on the products we sell.

Head of the 3D Model Laboratory, L’Oreal Research & Innovation (PhD Stem Cells)

Our objective is to use tissue engineering techniques to produce, in-vitro, 3D model tissues to answer cosmetic questions such as anti-ageing and UV protection. Using such in-vitro models allows us to avoid using animals.

Senior Scientist, Pfizer (PhD Synthetic Organic Chemistry)

Although now a Careers Consultant, the interviewee worked for many years as a research leader within Pfizer. He gives advice about the benefits of a PhD within the sector, as well as what recruiters in the area are looking for.

Trainee Clinical Psychologist, NHS

Training to be a clinical psychologist. The course involves splitting time between lectures, a research project, and working within the NHS with service-users.

Data Scientist, IBM (PhD Neuroscience) (UCL alumnus)

“I still publish in academic and non-academic settings; use my doctoral skills (clinical neuroscience) in Watson Health; and a must of this job is knowing that the more you read the less you know! So very similar to an academic post. However, there is a divergence in my responsibilities compared to my doctoral and post-doctoral experience, in that I am regularly meeting with clients and developing business opportunities.”

Account Manager, Circa Healthcare (PhD Cell Biology)

“I work within the accounts team and am a point person for both national and global pharmaceutical brand managers. My roles include developing strategic (short and long-term) marketing plans for the products and defining the tactics that need to be developed to drive the marketing initiatives. I then work with my creative team (writers, designers, web developers etc) to create the tactics, on time and within budget, and liaise with our clients to ensure, prior to being released to market, the content created communicates the messaging they desire.”
**Business Related & Management Consultancy**

**Management Consultant, McKinsey & Company (PhD Neuroscience)**

My work is to help companies to improve their performance which can take many different forms, from helping CEOs design new business strategies to working on the factory floor helping to improve one process at a time.


**Senior Research and Development and Innovation Consultant, Deloitte (PhD Theoretical Physics) (UCL masters alumnus)**

The daily activities consist of elaborating EU proposals (scientific, managerial and EU impacts parts), discussing with consortia or clients about new innovative project ideas, and setting up consortia made of universities and enterprises.


**Management Consultant, Boston Consulting Group (BCG) (PhD History)**

Consulting covers a wide range of activities, but essentially our job is to help companies to improve their performance, working with them to find solutions for existing problems and develop their strategy to move forward.


**Management Consultant, McKinsey & Company (PhD Cancer Immunology) (UCL alumnus)**

Recently appointed to the position, based in Brazil. Focus of this case study is on how they got into consultancy (e.g. relevant work experience and activities) and the recruitment process.

[http://blogs.ucl.ac.uk/ucl-researchers/2015/02/24/transitioning-from-phd-to-consulting/](http://blogs.ucl.ac.uk/ucl-researchers/2015/02/24/transitioning-from-phd-to-consulting/)

**Freelance Consultant, Social Media Research (PhD Sociology)**

When I’m working on social media, I spend the first half of the day liaising with clients or their partners and stakeholders if we’re collaborating on a community event, a product launch, or cross-promotions. I constantly monitor and analyse social media metrics (what works, what doesn’t, industry trends and so on). I write blog articles, which means conducting research and writing, or I otherwise write social media posts and respond to reader questions on Twitter, Facebook and so on. I tend to leave the second half of the day to work on design, like making posters and artwork for clients, as well as taking photographs and making videos for their Instagram and blogs.

[http://blogs.ucl.ac.uk/ucl-researchers/2015/06/01/turning-social-science-research-into-a-business/](http://blogs.ucl.ac.uk/ucl-researchers/2015/06/01/turning-social-science-research-into-a-business/)

**Senior Consultant, Oxera (PhD Quantitative Finance)**

Oxera provides economic consulting services. As a Senior Consultant in the Corporate Finance and Regulation Team of Oxera I advise companies, policymakers, regulators and lawyers on competition, finance and regulation.

[http://www.ucl.ac.uk/careers/specialistsupport/researchers/videos/5bfe0200286d](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/careers/specialistsupport/researchers/videos/5bfe0200286d)
Associate Director of Competition
Economics, KPMG (PhD Economics)

Provide economic analysis and strategic support to private sector clients.

http://www.ucl.ac.uk/careers/specialistsupport/researchers/videos/88a570363a77
Data Science and Information Technology


- Jonathan Nelson, Sports Statistician, ATASS Sports
- Salvatore Scellato - Software Engineer, Google
- David Houseman - Quantitative Analyst, G-Research
- Jack Wright - Strategic Analytics Consultant in Business Dynamics, IBM
- Robert Sackin - Patent Attorney, Reddie & Grose LLP
- David Snoswell - Senior Research Scientist, Schlumberger

Data Scientist, Row Analytics (PhD Particle Physics) (UCL undergraduate alumnus)

Data Science is an emerging field, and it involves using a mixture of coding and statistical analysis to answer questions using big datasets.

http://blogs.ucl.ac.uk/ucl-researchers/2016/04/01/what-is-data-science-and-how-can-you-get-into-it-tips-from-a-data-scientist/

Quantitative Analyst, An asset management firm (PhD in Financial Computing) (UCL alumnus)

A normal working day is split between coding, writing, absorbing external research and market data, and the day-to-day mechanics of portfolio management.

http://blogs.ucl.ac.uk/ucl-researchers/2016/06/02/life-as-a-quantitative-analyst/

Software Engineer, Google (PhD Computer Science)

I specifically work on mobile projects related to location and context awareness – trying to understand from your phone where you are and what you are doing. I am the technical leader of a small team of four people.

https://www.ucl.ac.uk/stream/media/swatch?v=7ada504f61e9

Strategic Analytics Consultant, IBM (PhD Condensed Matter Physics)

I assist clients on extracting value from whatever data they have access to. Clients could be private sector or public sector. I might work at the senior, strategic level or the shop floor – with e.g. data that factories generate.

https://www.ucl.ac.uk/stream/media/swatch?v=623b3db47f63

Co-founder & Director of Technology, GeneIX (PhD Theoretical Physics) (UCL alumnus)

I have overseen the building of an app, from idea to demo product, showcasing it to potential customers and hoping to win business. I have been involved in managing overseas development teams, freelancers and have written large amounts of code. The app is aimed to help personalise medicine for doctors and patients and provide a new prescribing platform.

http://www.ucl.ac.uk/careers/specialistsupport/researchers/videos/5b22ce923694

Associate Analyst Programmer, Tessella (PhD Physics & Astronomy) (UCL alumnus)

Part of a small development team. The role principally involves writing code and developing software for technical applications and to solve scientific problems (for a wide range of industries). This can involve a degree of mathematical analysis, debugging code or making improvements depending on customer requirements.

http://www.ucl.ac.uk/careers/specialistsupport/researchers/videos/3af2317f2ddd
**Associate**, Capco (PhD Theoretical Physics) *(UCL Alumnus)*

Capco is a financial services business and technology consultancy. I’m part of the data science team and I work on data visualisation and creating and providing tools for clients.

[https://www.ucl.ac.uk/stream/media/swatch?v=fc041dc11d5c](https://www.ucl.ac.uk/stream/media/swatch?v=fc041dc11d5c)

**Data Scientist** *(also in Health section above)*, IBM (PhD Neuroscience) *(UCL alumnus)*

“I still publish in academic and non-academic settings; use my doctoral skills (clinical neuroscience) in Watson Health; and a must of this job is knowing that the more you read the less you know! So very similar to an academic post. However, there is a divergence in my responsibilities compared to my doctoral and post-doctoral experience, in that I am regularly meeting with clients and developing business opportunities.”

[http://blogs.ucl.ac.uk/ucl-researchers/?p=4885](http://blogs.ucl.ac.uk/ucl-researchers/?p=4885)
Energy and Environment


- Sally Watson - Principal Hydrogeologist, Atkins
- Alun Roberts - Senior Associate, BVG Associates
- Antony Froggatt – Senior Research Fellow, Energy, Environment and Resources, Chatham House
- Paul Van Heyningen - Head, EU Emissions Trading System, Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC)
- Gareth Rice - Head of Environment UK & Europe, Telefónica UK O2
- Graham Hopkins - Principal Ecologist, The Ecology Consultancy


Research Leader, RSPB Conservation Science (PhD Ecology ?)

Unlike academia, the science done is set by the priorities of the organisation where conservation is the end goal. A lot of time is spent working with policy makers, such as DEFRA. Because of this you have to translate the science into policy in a way that both internal and external stakeholders can relate to.

http://www.ucl.ac.uk/careers/specialistsupport/researchers/BEScharityres

Research Scientist, Schlumberger (PhD Engineering) (UCL alumnus)

We supply technology to oil & gas companies (e.g. exploration, drilling, production), in 85+ countries and invest ~$1.2bn annually in research. I don’t use my very specialist knowledge, but I do use my grounding in physics and engineering. Lots of analytical skills are also transferable (e.g. after learning fluid mechanics, electromagnetics is quite similar!). My practical experience during my PhD is very valuable, and above all my ability to analyse is essential to my job (including to the level of peer reviewed journal papers).

http://blogs.ucl.ac.uk/ucl-researchers/2015/03/24/being-a-research-scientist-in-schlumberger/

Senior Ecologist, The Ecology Institute (PhD Invertebrate Ecology)

Leads on invertebrate work across the company, undertaking field work and leading teams of sub-consultants. As well as managerial / office work, he is the technical specialist for invertebrates. Technical report writing requires the ability to access and assimilate information to produce work of a high standard quickly and efficiently.

http://www.ucl.ac.uk/careers/specialistsupport/researchers/videos/971cc099958

Senior Scientist, Schlumberger Gould Research Centre (PhD Colloid Science)

Carrying out long range research looking at technologies for stability within the drilling department, within one of the six research centres belonging to the company. Entered the company at a senior level due to the amount of academic research experience. A well as technical expertise, other skills gained from academic research include tackling difficult problems, being innovative and pushing boundaries and interacting with a wide range of people (essential in a large company)

http://www.ucl.ac.uk/careers/specialistsupport/researchers/videos/3ee3fa7dc7a0

Senior Associate, BVG Associates (PhD Entomology)

The organisation is a renewable energy consultancy. I have the job of winning work from clients and then dealing with the client. Then I manage, lead and deliver on projects. Work can entail writing reports, statistical analysis and research within the industry.

http://www.ucl.ac.uk/careers/specialistsupport/researchers/videos/7f986c279786
**Geoscientist, Neftex Petroleum Consultants Ltd**

(PhD Geology)

“My current role enables me to apply the skills (both geological and transferrable) gained from my undergraduate and postgraduate degrees to a range of problems. Overall the position is a great combination of research and industry.”