

M. – PhD Architectural History, 2010

UCL Faculty:

- The Bartlett, UCL's Faculty of the Built Environment

Current role:

- Lecturer

Previous roles:

- Lecturer. Conservation Adviser.

Sector:

- Higher Education

M. is a Lecturer at a School of Architecture in a Russell Group University. Her post involves teaching and research. Her previous roles have included working as a part-time (hourly-paid) Lecturer at another School of Architecture in the UK, and working as a Conservation Adviser in the heritage third sector, in one of the National Amenity Societies in London. Since graduating with a PhD, her career choices have been motivated by her aim to further develop her academic career.

M's PhD research examined the spatial philosophy of architecture of an American architect in the early twentieth century. She views her PhD expertise as essential for her current position, and she considers that having a PhD is crucial for her career progression. After completing her PhD, M. went on to gain full professional membership of the Institute of Historic Building Conservation, UK, for her previous role as a Conservation Adviser.

Having graduated with a PhD, M. recalls facing the challenge of a perceived lack of available job opportunities. She has since secured her positions using a range of methods, which include searching for adverts on online job sites, in industry/sector-specific publications, talking to personal contacts and sending speculative applications.

As a PhD student at UCL, M. accessed support from the Careers Service, the impact of which was significant for her. She tells us that she had one-to-one career discussions with an adviser, that she took part in careers adviser-led skills training and attended careers events open to all students. In M's view, the support she received from the UCL Careers Service in the year after her graduation was 'extremely helpful in raising (her) profile through (her) CV and job applications'. In terms of the results of this support, she adds that, 'I believe it was truly instrumental in my getting an academic post - my number 1 career choice.'

Reflecting on her career to date, the advice M. gives to those yet to decide on pursuing a PhD is to 'set specific targets and get advice about your options early on.'

Tags:

■ Built Environment, Higher Education, Lecturer, Academic