

## A. PhD Electronic and Electrical Engineering, 2010

### UCL Faculty:

■ Engineering

### Current role:

■ Lecturer

### Previous role:

■ Research Associate

### Sector:

■ Higher Education

Prior to becoming a Lecturer at Cranfield University, A. was a Research Associate at UCL's Department of Electronic and Electrical Engineering. A. explains that both roles have expanded on his PhD research in biologically inspired radar and sonar target classification, which is essential to his work.

Two fundamental components to A.'s career choices have been job stability and financial gain, and his PhD qualification has worked in his favour by giving him credibility with stakeholders and enhancing career opportunities. When considering a role, A. also considers prospective employer profiles and motivations as well as what opportunities they can provide.

As part of his probation as a new Academic, A. was required to complete a Post Graduate certificate in Academic Practise for teaching in Higher Education. Apart from this additional qualification, A. has not faced any particular challenges in seeking employment after completing his PhD and found his current position through searching advertisements listed on job websites.

A. uses transferable skills that were significantly developed throughout the course of his PhD study in analysing complex information, meeting deadlines, managing projects, technical problem solving, and collaborative working. He also gained skills in communication, giving presentations, managing people and supervising students. A. also found that through observing how supervisors dealt with problems during his PhD, he was more prepared for his own career in academia.

During his time at UCL, A. took part in various Career Service activities including one to one career discussions with a Careers Adviser, mock interview practice, employer-led skills training and career adviser-led skills training. A. felt this had great impact on his subsequent career path, and always had his CVs and cover letter reviewed by the Careers Service before submitting applications. A. found mock interviews provided an excellent opportunity to prepare in advance of meeting with prospective employers. He also took part in presentation skills, academic writing, writing research proposals and networking courses offered by the Graduate School, which all had a great impact and which he personally gained from.

A. advises PhD students applying for roles that, 'in order to be successful nowadays you need to be very proactive and enthusiastic about the job.' A. feels that that the academic and non-academic job markets are both 'very competitive and standing out from the crowd is a must. Transferable skills are key to this.'

Reflecting on his own PhD experience, A. states, 'I had a very positive experience I will always recommend doing a PhD [and] not only for academic reasons. It is a great experience and an excellent opportunity for personal development.'

**Tags:**

■ Engineering, Higher Education, Researcher, Lecturer, Academic