

V. PhD Greek and Latin, 2009

Faculty:

- Arts & Humanities

Current Role:

- Between jobs at the time of survey

Previous Role:

- Lecturer
- Teacher

Sector:

- Higher Education
- Teaching & Education

V. was a part-time lecturer in Greek and Latin at UCL, where she completed her PhD. At the moment, she is looking for new job opportunities that will further develop her career in research and teaching. Her previous roles include teaching part-time at a public school in southeast England and teaching as part-time Assistant Lecturer at the University of Kent.

V.'s PhD was essential to securing her roles. She had the option to work towards a Postgraduate Certificate in Education but she was not obliged to do so at the time because she was working in a public school. In her previous roles V. used both the subject knowledge and the technical skills of her PhD. The process of her PhD developed V.'s generic skills such as communication and teamwork. Seminars, presentations, conferences and having discussions with PhD students and colleagues were also helpful in enhancing these non-technical skills.

Towards the end of V.'s PhD, she used the support of the UCL Careers Service, which she found very helpful. She benefited from careers advice focused on interview performance, CV writing, completing applications, presentation skills and giving presentations during interviews. She also found using Moodle, an open source learning platform, and e-learning useful. When entering employment for the first time after graduation, V. did not face particular challenges as she was fully equipped for the type of role she wanted and she found her first role through a job advertisement on the TES website.

For those current PhDs about to enter the academic or non-academic jobs market, V. encourages a flexible approach so that you're ready to do jobs that may not be totally relevant to your subject. The importance of resilience is not to be underestimated either. 'Never lose hope!' she urges.

For those considering a PhD V. feels it is important to be completely committed and passionate about your topic so that you are truly willing to invest the necessary time and money. She goes on to say that if you have a love of your subject you should just do it. Reflecting on her own career path V. warns that the job market is very unstable, competition is fierce and it is very difficult to secure a permanent job. Nevertheless V. does think that UCL is the best place to do a PhD because of its excellent facilities.

■ Tags: Arts & Humanities, Higher Education, Teaching & Education, Lecturer, Teacher, Academic, Non-Academic