

S. PhD Science and Technology Studies, 2009

UCL Faculty:

- Mathematical and Physical Sciences

Current Role:

- Lecturer

Previous Role:

- Teaching Fellowship

Sector:

- Higher Education

S. works as a Lecturer at UCL, which involves lecturing, teaching, research and administration. Until last year, S. was a full-time Teaching Fellow. S. knew his career in academia was the right path for him, and this career focus was the main reason why he did his PhD.

S. found his position through personal contacts, and his PhD qualification was essential to securing his position. He was also required to gain a further qualification in addition to his PhD, the Postgraduate Teaching Certificate in Higher Education. As a Lecturer, S. uses the technical skills of his PhD such as research methodology and writing. S. also applies non-technical skills in his work such as presentation, collaboration, project management, influencing people and networking.

While at UCL, S. took part in several Careers Service and Graduate School skills development activities, which focused on IT and teamwork. As his PhD was part-funded, he was seconded to the Department of Trade & Industry where he worked as a civil servant for four months.

For those who are still considering the possibility of a PhD, S. has some important advice. He believes it is crucial to think carefully before you commit to it. While he accepts that some careers demand a PhD, he warns that such a commitment is expensive - even with funding. If you do decide to undertake a PhD, S. says that it is important to consider the future academic and non-academic job markets, and to develop a wider skill set that will be attractive to employers. 'Network. Give conference papers. Do things other than your PhD when you can.'

- Tags: Mathematical and Physical Sciences, Higher Education, Lecturer, Academic