

H. - PhD Chemistry, 2010

UCL Faculty:

■ Mathematical and Physical Sciences

Current Role:

■ Clinical Scientist

Sector:

■ Health

H. is a Clinical Scientist in the NHS, focusing on diagnostics in the laboratory. This is her first role since completing her PhD in Chemistry. Having gained experience in research, she made this career choice due to her motivation for working in applied science.

While H's PhD was desirable for securing her position, she has since been required to gain a further qualification of an MSc. The technical skills and subject knowledge of H's PhD are not directly used in her work. Despite the fact that H. does not use the same techniques in the context of her role, her research background has been beneficial and she is able to put into practice the project management skills developed during her doctorate. Other non-technical skills that H. draws upon are communication, writing and presenting.

Faced with the challenge of feeling like there was a distinct lack of jobs to apply to, H. ultimately found her current role through an NHS job advert. When at UCL H. took part in presentation workshops and journal clubs which enhanced her confidence.

For those entering the academic or non-academic job markets H. underlines the importance of thorough research and of showing that you have taken initiative to stand out as a candidate. In her speciality she recalls that evidence was needed to show that she had successfully researched the role and understood the relevant career pathways. She believes that if she had not previously engaged with the workings of the lab and visited a lab, she would not have secured her current position. If you're considering the prospect of a PhD, H. encourages you to locate a PhD group that is well-established and to ensure that you really do want to make the necessary commitment.

Tags:

■ Mathematical and Physical Sciences, Health, Technical, Researcher, Non-Academic