

S. PhD Life Sciences, 2010

Current Role:

- Postdoctoral Research Associate

Sector:

- Higher Education

S. is a Postdoctoral Research Associate at UCL where she conducts research on the development of sensory and nociceptive pathways. S.'s role requires writing papers on her research findings and also supervising undergraduate and graduate students.

S.'s PhD specialised in biological sciences, where she researched the developmental regulation of neurons in rats. Her motivation since completing her study has been to remain within the academic field of pain research. S. also had a desire to stay within a laboratory setting where she can strengthen her CV by completing studies and publish a number of papers in a short period of time.

S. explains that her PhD expertise was essential for several reasons including being a requirement of her current role, developing key transferable skills and supporting career progression.

S. uses many transferable skills in her job, such as managing multiple projects simultaneously, meeting short deadlines, supervising students, networking, trouble shooting and analysis. S.'s PhD helped develop many of these skills. 'I had already been assigned summer students to work with and had a technically difficult PhD project, which required a lot of analysis and problem solving through lateral thinking,' she explains.

S. found her current role through personal contacts. She took part in Graduate School activities on how to write research articles and using statistics in biomedical sciences. S. notes that a course on using Word for long documents was especially helpful when it came time for her to write her thesis.

S. is adamant that PhD graduates about to enter the job market should network at conferences. S. feels it is a key way to secure important future collaborative connections, stating, 'the earlier you start the better!'

For those considering a PhD, S. suggests you carefully consider your topic, explaining, 'it's not easy, so making sure you love the subject is worth it.'

- Tags: Life Sciences, Researcher, Higher Education, Academic