

L. PhD Population Health Sciences, 2009

Current Role:

- ➡ Postdoctoral Researcher

Previous Role:

- ➡ Research Assistant

Sectors:

- ➡ Higher Education
- ➡ Health

L. is a Postdoctoral Researcher in Epidemiology & Public Health. This involves carrying out research planning, analysing data and writing up research for publication. L. enjoys doing research and she undertook a PhD in order to develop her career in this field. Her PhD was essential to securing her current position.

Although L. has not held any other positions since completing her PhD, she feels that her research experience prior to her PhD was beneficial in enhancing her as a candidate for her current role. She regularly uses her PhD's technical skills in her work while carrying out interviews, developing questionnaires and analysing data. L.'s PhD also helped to develop non-technical skills, which she uses in her current role, such as leadership, presentation skills, teamwork, project management and communication.

Although L. felt she was equipped with all the necessary technical skills when entering employment for the first time after graduation, she faced challenges of adapting to a postdoctoral role that required more independence and responsibility. L. found her role by applying for funding and pursuing the opportunity that she created.

When at UCL, L. took part in lots of training, interviews, poster presentations and learned more about funding for conferences. Overall she benefited from the skills training at UCL, and found that opportunities for external training provided through UCL were beneficial and more specialist.

L. thinks that current PhDs should make use of any support on offer from their department and their supervisor, as this advice can prove very useful when applying for academic or non-academic jobs. Reflecting on her decision to do a PhD and her subsequent career path, L. says it is important to consider whether you really want to do research. She adds that some realise that they want a more patient-focussed role, but that she knew was interested in research. L. secured a Research Assistant's post first, and she could tell that was where she wanted to develop her career.

- ➡ Tags: Population Health Sciences, Researcher, Higher Education, Health, Academic