

## T. Interdisciplinary PhD, 2010

### Current role:

■ Research Associate

### Previous role:

■ Research Associate

■ Associate

### Sector:

■ Higher Education

T. has developed a career in the area of facilities and environment management research. She has worked as a Research Assistant and Associate prior to her current position as a Research Associate at UCL's Institute for Sustainable Resources (ISR).

T.'s career choices have been motivated by job interest and career opportunities and her PhD - which specialised in social aspects of industrial symbiosis networks - has been essential to her progression in this field. T.'s PhD qualification has also given her credibility with stakeholders.

After completing her PhD, T. found the competition for positions challenging and was able to secure positions through sending speculative applications.

In her role T. uses transferable skills in analysing statistical data, qualitative research methods, survey design, project management, meeting deadlines, conducting policy analysis and designing policy guidelines as well as interacting with a diversity of stakeholders. T. has also gained additional qualifications in project management and also learned webpage design on the job.

T. is adamant that her PhD training helped develop her range of transferable skills stating, 'It was a very good experience in terms of managing a complex project and the use of a diversity of research methods. It also helped me with being able to process a large quantity of data, analyse it and prepare reports [and] disseminate findings of research.'

While completing her PhD, T. took part in one to one careers discussions with a Careers Adviser who helped T. develop her prospective applications by revising her CV and personal statement. T. was 'very happy with the support given' and feels that it played a key role in helping her to secure her current position. T. also took part in several Graduate School activities including academic writing, English for academic purposes and teaching training, which she explains had a positive impact on her future career.

Reflecting on her own career to date, T. advises those considering doing a PhD that it is a good choice if you like conducting research and would like the possibility of a career in academia.

**Tags:**

■ Interdisciplinary, Researcher, Higher Education, Academic