

## D. PhD Chemistry, 2010

**Current Role:**

- ▶ Researcher

**Previous Role:**

- ▶ Postdoctoral Researcher Fellow

**Sectors:**

- ▶ Government
- ▶ Higher Education

D. is a Researcher for the Physics of Porous Media Group at the Laboratoire Navier with the French Institute of Science and Technology for Transport, Development and Networks (IFSTTAR). His area of work involves the development of magnetic resonance methodology for the study of contaminant transport in natural soils and building materials. Prior to this, D. was a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the University of Toronto for two years.

D.'s career choices have been motivated by gaining expertise, something he achieved during his postdoctoral research in Canada, and job stability which he has achieved in his current role in France. D.'s PhD expertise is essential to his current role and he explains that he has also been required to gain additional work experience and skills in order to carry out research across many different areas within his field.

D. says that his role as a Researcher requires transferable skills in analysing complex information, meeting deadlines, managing projects, solving technical problems and working collaboratively. He feels strongly that his PhD helped to develop this range of essential skills.

In entering employment after the completion of his PhD, D. feels he still lacked relevant skills. He explains, 'the postdoctoral work was slightly different to my PhD and therefore I had to acquire new skills to carry it out.'

When asked to give guidance to other PhD students about to enter the job market, D. cautions against simple comparisons stating, 'I feel that there are many differences between PhD students when they have finished [such as] the research field, number of publications, relevance of these publications, etc.' Given these considerations, D's advice is straightforward: 'work as hard as possible.'

For those considering a PhD, D. recommends that you are as sure as you can be that a PhD is what you want to do. He adds, 'A PhD involves a lot of work and dedication, but if they are really motivated it should be an amazing and really unique experience in any person's life.'

- ▶ Tags: Mathematical & Physical Sciences, Researcher, Higher Education, Government, Non-Academic