

C. – PhD Science and Technology Studies, 2010

UCL Faculty:

- Mathematical and Physical Sciences

Current Role:

- Research Fellow

Previous Roles:

- IT Engineer
- Sales

Sector:

- Arts & Cultural Heritage

Between 2011 and 2013, C. was a Research Fellow in History of Science in the Department of Science and Technology Studies at UCL. This was her first role after completing a Master's in History of Science, Medicine and Technology, and a PhD from the department of Science and Technology Studies. However, as C. admits to being an 'older Post-doc,' her first career gave her experience as an engineer in information technology. She worked in this remit for ten years, eight of them in sales. C. says that her motivation for pursuing this career path can be traced back to her decision to go 'back to studying to do something I wanted to do.'

C's PhD was, in her view, highly desirable for securing her current position. In her current role she uses the techniques, extensive theoretical skills, social historian skills and a general knowledge regarding the history of science that were all developed as part of her PhD. C. also uses a range of transferable skills that were honed in her previous career in IT engineering and sales. Since graduating with her doctorate, C. has not been required to gain further qualifications or work experience for her role; nor has she received additional training but she has engaged in further, ongoing study.

When looking for employment for the first time after graduating, C. recalls feeling that it was a challenge to find a job within the field of science history. With children and other commitments, C. says that she 'was locked in London when trying to find a job.' The breakthrough came when C. secured her position through a competitive application for a research fellowship, in which she was sponsored by the department of Science and Technology Studies at UCL.

During her time at UCL, C. remembers taking part in all the research ethics and oral history interviews workshops offered by the Graduate School, and during her training she helped with teaching and seminars. Having worked in sales for eight years, C. felt familiar with many of the skills that are typically sought-after by employers.

For those current PhD students and graduates who are entering the job market, C's advice is to address the way in which you target your job search. C. urges you to carry this out 'as if it were a sales process. She adds, 'When you apply, consider where you are applying to; target the job and the organisation you are applying to.' Reflecting on her own decision to do a PhD and her subsequent career, C. advises those who are yet to make the decision to undertake a PhD to decide to do it when they are sure it is something they really want to do. C. cautions emphatically against doing a PhD for reasons relating to a lack of certainty about your future career, adding, 'Don't do a PhD just to add to your CV. If it's just that, find a job!'

Tags:

■ Mathematical & Physical Sciences, Arts & Cultural Heritage, Researcher, Non-Academic