

G. Interdisciplinary PhD, 2010

Current role:

- Research Fellow

Previous roles:

- Research Associate
- Research Fellow

Sectors:

- Higher Education
- Health
- Charities & NGOs

G. is a Research Fellow at a government funded charitable foundation that specialises in neuroimaging, and he is a Medical Research Council Research Fellow at Oxford University. Prior to this, G. held a position as a Research Associate. G.'s PhD study in medical image analysis has been essential to his career. He is motivated to continue to work in fields where he can contribute to medicine and explore his scientific interests.

As a Postdoctoral Researcher, G. uses transferable skills gained through his PhD in giving presentations, writing and collaborating. G. is adamant he developed these skills during his PhD, but finds that this is 'not surprising given how close postdoctoral research is to doing a PhD, both in terms of specific and transferable skills.'

When entering the job market after completing his PhD, G. faced the challenge of competing for positions - especially for those which were more long term than a couple of years. G. was able to find his current position through personal contacts.

G. gained support through the Careers Service in several areas including Careers Adviser led skills training, attending PhD specific employer careers events and events open to all students. G. found that these activities helped to improve his CV and interview skills. He also took part in several activities offered through the Graduate School that covered presentation skills, how to write and review research papers, introduction to Mathematica (a computational software program) and a Life Sciences PhD induction. G. explains that this range of courses 'improved my presentation and written communication skills.'

G. advises students who want to continue working in academia to think about research fellowship opportunities early, and focus particularly on those limited to less than one year of postdoctoral experience, such as the Wellcome Trust Sir Henry Wellcome Postdoctoral Fellowship. He specifies that, 'you would want to apply for these immediately after or during the final year of your PhD.'

When considering a PhD, G. has two pieces of advice: 'Try to find out as much as you can about the different research groups in your area of interest, and your potential supervisor(s) within them.'

Tags:

▣ Interdisciplinary, Researcher, Higher Education, Health, Charities & NGOs, Academic