

J. PhD Population Health Sciences, 2009

Current Role:

- Senior Clinical Trials Manager

Previous Roles:

- Study Manager
- Senior Research Fellow

Sectors:

- Higher Education
- Health
- Bio-Pharma

As Senior Clinical Trials Manager, J. oversees the running of clinical trials at Queen Mary University of London. Previous roles she has held include Study Manager at the Medical Research Council (MRC) and Senior Research Fellow at UCL.

J. believes that her PhD was desirable in securing her current academic role, and that there is only so far you can go without a PhD in her field. She decided to pursue her career path because of her interest in the project management side of research.

None of J.'s current or previous roles required her to gain further qualifications or work experience in addition to her PhD. In her current position, she uses the technical skills of her PhD, which include project management and writing. Key non-technical skills that J. developed through her PhD, and which she currently uses in her work, include organisation, the ability to prioritise, communication, presentation and writing.

J. was working full-time at UCL while completing her PhD so she did not face particular challenges when entering employment after graduation. She found her current role advertised through a job advert at jobs.ac.uk. When at UCL, J. took part in leadership and management courses, communications and writing courses, and she enjoyed the interactive aspect of training in groups. Overall J. found the skills training at UCL useful, and she has been able to use this training in her job.

J.'s advice for current PhDs includes making the most of support and opportunities on offer at UCL. Reflecting on her decision to do a PhD and her subsequent career path, J. suggests that a PhD is worth doing if you want a career in academia. She feels there is 'only so far' you can rise up the career ladder, but that a PhD is an excellent opportunity to apply yourself, and that it will 'stand you in good stead for any future job.'

- Tags: Population Health Sciences, Health, Higher Education, Bio-Pharma, Managerial, Researcher, Academic, Non-Academic