

## C. PhD Biological Sciences, 2009

### UCL Faculty:

Life Sciences

### Current Role:

Senior Editor

### Sector:

Media

C. currently works at Nature Publishing Group as a Senior Editor. C.'s work involves selecting manuscripts for publication, within the framework of editorial policy, in Nature Communications. In doing so he communicates fair decisions to authors with the appropriate 'mix of tact and firmness.'

C.'s PhD examined mechanisms of pain processing and spinal protein translation in rodent pain models. This included using surgical procedures to produce nerve injury and then assessing how specific signalling pathways inside spinal neurons affect their function and pain-like behaviour. C. believes his PhD is essential for his role. He has not been required to gain further qualifications or work experience after completing his PhD. Since graduating C.'s main motivation in his career choices has been job stability.

In his current role, the non-technical, transferable skills C. uses are critical assessment of scientific manuscripts, immaculate attention to detail, strong communication and interpersonal skills, taking initiative, working independently, leadership, management and teamwork. C. believes that his PhD training was influential in developing these transferable skills, and that many aspects of his work bear similarities with his PhD training.

When entering employment after his PhD, C. met with challenges such as competition for jobs and a lack of relevant work experience. The job hunting methods that C. used to secure his position included looking for adverts on online job sites and in industry and sector specific publications, connecting with personal contacts, social media, looking for advertised positions on company websites, sending speculative applications and attending formal networking and recruitment events.

While at UCL C. took part in Careers Service events such as PhD-specific careers events and careers events open to all students. C. thinks the impact of this support helped him to make more informed decisions regarding his subsequent career. C. attended statistics training at the UCL Graduate School which he feels made him a better research scientist.

When giving advice to current PhDs who are about to enter the academic or non-academic jobs markets, or in his sector more specifically, C. recommends starting your research and making contacts as early as possible. Reflecting on his career to date C. advises those considering undertaking a PhD to decide to do it 'because you really love the subject, not because you just want to get ahead'. This is a factor that C. feels differentiates a Master's level qualification from a PhD.

■ Tags: Life Sciences, Media, Communication, Non-Academic