

## L. – PhD Physics and Astronomy, 2010

### UCL Faculty:

■ Mathematical & Physical Sciences

### Current role:

■ Senior Researcher

### Previous role:

■ Postdoctoral Fellow

### Sector:

■ Engineering & Technology

■ Energy & the Environment

L. is a Senior Researcher in materials for photoresists and CMOS patterning. Previously L. held the position of Postdoctoral Fellow for two years, working with material characterisation techniques for lithography. He cites 'research intensity and autonomy' as being key motivations for the career choices he has made since graduating.

L's PhD examined interfacial physics in organic electronics. L. considers his PhD expertise to be essential for his role. In his view, completing his doctorate developed transferable skills that are vital for the work he now does. These include project management, analysis, experiment design and team working. L. tells us that having a PhD gives him credibility with key stakeholders, and that it is essential for his career progression. Regarding his PhD training, which L. believes serves him well in his current position, he adds that the 'more freely-set environment of a PhD allows for a healthy approach to research in general.' When L. entered employment, having completing his doctorate, he was required to develop further experience in industrial processing and further expertise in lithography and CMOS processing.

When L. entered the employment market after his PhD, he found that a lack of permanent positions was challenging. However he realised that he had the skills to apply for postdoctoral positions, whose quantity he considered 'abundant'. Since graduating with a PhD, L. has secured positions through a range of job hunting methods, which include searching for adverts on online job sites, and those in industry/sector-specific publications, talking to personal contacts and sending speculative applications.

For PhD students and graduates who will soon be entering the jobs market, L. recommends developing a thorough awareness of how you will 'sell and promote your skills'. He suggests considering the benefits of your PhD, and the reasons 'why having your PhD is better than not having it.' If you are mulling over the decision to do a PhD, L's advice consists of opting to undertake this degree solely for reasons related to 'personal interest'. In addition he cautions against expecting 'that people will automatically appreciate your degree.'

**Tags:**

■ Mathematical & Physical Sciences, Engineering & Technology, Energy & the Environment, Researcher, Non-Academic