



## INTRODUCTION TO CAREERS IN DEVELOPMENT ECONOMICS

See links and further advice on my web site at [www.danrogger.com/teaching.html](http://www.danrogger.com/teaching.html)

### ACADEMICS

**GENERAL:** Focus on economics or at least specialise and develop a unique skill set.

**Undergraduate:** Economics first! Focus on technical skills. Take courses that will allow you to be well versed in the tools and theories of economics. Then get some breadth. Get a good mark.

**Masters:** Get a masters in something you will not read at home!

**PhD:** Get some development experience first. Prepare well, apply high, have a good idea, and then implement rigorously. Get to know the literature: EconPapers, Journal of Development Economics.

### KNOWLEDGE

**GENERAL:** Complement specific skills with detailed institutional and contextual understanding. Great complements and not really substitutes.

**Read widely and well:** Paul Collier's 'The Bottom Billion'. DFID's systematic reviews. MIT-Poverty Action Lab publications and policy lessons. What is the academic literature underpinning this work? Is it reliable? What are remaining questions that you might be able to research/act on?

**Get informed:** News sites (BBC, globalinfo.org, This Day (Nigerian), The Hindu (Indian)), E-mail alerts (IRIN), World Bank/IMF research/policy alerts, ELDIS, focused on your subjects of interest)

**Take a real interest in something:** Find your passion and go after it with vigour. Depth will lead to breadth (whilst the reverse is not true). Impress in interviews with your knowledge of an area.

### EXPERIENCE

**GENERAL:** Spend time working, studying, or travelling in the developing world.

**Jobs:** Consultancy work in international development. Any firm or organisation that has dealings with the developing world. See list of opportunities at [www.danrogger.com/teaching.html](http://www.danrogger.com/teaching.html).

**Overseas Development Institute fellowship:** Unique entry point into development. Breaks the 'must have experience to work, need work to get experience' cycle.

**Volunteer:** Abroad (unique perspective on country you are visiting), At home (easy way to work on development whilst in the UK)

**Travel:** Get a sense of why things work the way they do. How do people respond to different incentives? Why? Make traveling worthwhile! Do a study, piece of research, essay for an essay competition. UCL travel and expedition grants.

FINALLY, you can always contact me at [d.rogger@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:d.rogger@ucl.ac.uk). Good luck!