



Career Orientation for PhD students 1 Day Workshop, 09.10.2023



Doing a PhD opens many doors. The possibilities for what you can do afterwards are endless. By doing a PhD you prove that you can work independently, think logically, and finish a huge piece of work to high professional standards. But what comes next? You may wish to continue in academia, or explore other careers. You may not be sure what you want to do, or even what is possible. In this workshop we will explore those possibilities and identify what you can do now, to expand your options for the future.

A complex challenge. What are the advantages and disadvantages of doing a post doc? How do I start preparing for that now if it is something I want to consider? What alternatives are there if I want to leave academia? How do I critically evaluate job descriptions and places of work if I am not familiar with the role? How can I get additional training if I need to re-orientate myself? Do I want to start my own start up? How do I write a convincing job application or business plan?

Learning objectives. This workshop helps participants to explore and evaluate their own career and life goals. Participants develop a broad understanding of the different potential career paths after a PhD. You will have the opportunity to consider which career paths are most attractive to you and why, to improve your chances of succeeding in your plans, and to help others with constructive feedback.

After the workshop, participants can:

- Critically evaluate their own career and life goals and develop strategies for how to reach them.
- Identify and analyse potential career paths and compare these to their own range of skills and requirements.
- Optimise their CV and motivation letter for different purposes.
- Identify, analyse and summarise sources of information about alternative careers

Here is an outline of the workshop. I will contact registered participants in advance of the workshop with a questionnaire, which will help me evaluate the needs and interests of participants, and to tailor the content accordingly.

Morning (9:00-12.30) Exploring alternatives

- Analysis of your own life and career goals
- Brainstorming: what careers are possible after a PhD?
- Discussion and collection of ideas
- Evaluation: Which ideas are interesting to me?

Afternoon (13:30- 18:00) In depth analysis of specific examples

- Participants work in groups to discuss/ research selected examples in depth, with guidance from the trainer
- Group presentations
- How do I pitch my CV and application for different purposes?
- Final analysis and comparison of findings

The trainer, Prof. Dr. Leonie Ringrose

I am a scientist who never intended to be one. I chose to study biology at University because it was different to my family background (my family were actors, artists and teachers). Maybe because of this early dive into the unknown, I have had an unconventional career path. I am currently a British professor in molecular biology at Humboldt University, Berlin. Through many seemingly random events, and a curiosity for travel and learning new things, I have found myself working in international institutions in four European countries. Since 1990 I have been a patent examiner, a kitchen worker, a PhD student, a grape picker, a post doc, a junior group leader, and a full professor. I was also unemployed for a year between my junior and senior positions, and I found this to be one of the most productive years of my career so far. I have recently founded a start-up business as a freelance trainer in science communication, and through this I have become familiar with some of the challenges involved in running your own business. I am very curious to meet you and to see what comes out of this workshop!

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[Podcast interview](#)

