

Careers Away From the Bench

RESOURCES

Books

- Michael Shahnasarian, *Decision Time: A Guide to Career Enhancement*
- Susan Basalla and Maggie Debelius, “So What Are You Going to Do With That?” *Finding Careers Outside Academia*
- Cynthia Robbins-Roth, *Alternative Careers in Science*
- Peter Fiske, *Put Your Science to Work*
- Richard Bolles, *What Color is Your Parachute? A Practical Manual for Job-Hunters and Career Changers*
- Paul D. Tieger and Barbara Barron, *Do What You Are: Discover the Perfect Career for You Through the Secrets of Personality Type*

Career Inventories

- Myers-Briggs Type Indicators
- Strong Interest Inventory
- Career Beliefs Inventory
- Jackson Vocational Interest Survey

Other Resources

- LinkedIn
- FASEB Individual Development Plans—
<http://opa.faseb.org/pdf/idp.pdf>

QUESTIONS

Questions to Ask about Your Preferences

- What do you like to do?
- What energizes you?
- Do you want to do lab work?
- What would you miss about being in the lab?
- Where do you want to work? At home? In a certain city? At a desk?
- What do you want to wear to work? Jeans? Dress clothes? Scrubs?
- How often do you want to change projects versus focus on one?
- How much do you want to work with others?
- What sorts of hours do you want to work?
- Are you willing to travel?
- What sort of funding situation do you want to be in? Grant-funding? Freelancing?
- What nonscientist interests or skills do you want to make use of in your career? Writing? Helping people?
- How important are things like a high income or job security?
- What sorts of jobs do your nonacademic friends work in? Which of them like their jobs? Which of their jobs appeal to you?
- What sort of stress levels do you want to deal with at work?
- Do you want to work independently or as part of a team?

Informational Interview Questions

- What attracted you to this field?
- What do you like most or least about this position or field?
- Describe a typical day or week.
- What steps did you take to break into this field?
- What skills and attributes are most helpful in your job? How can I develop them?
- To what professional associations do you belong?
- What advice would you give somebody interested in pursuing your line of work?

Science Careers

From the journal *Science*



www.sciencecareers.org

Careers Away From the Bench

RESOURCE LIST

Science Careers

From the journal *Science* AAAS

www.sciencecareers.org

So, you've got your Ph.D. What now? Indeed a number of transferable skills are gained when completing a Ph.D. and postdoctoral research which can be applied when making your career transition. Some of these skills include:

- » Data Analysis
- » Budgeting
- » Written Communication
- » Presentation Skills
- » Problem Solving
- » Computer Skills
- » Project and Time Management
- » Idea Generation/Tangible Implementation—Entrepreneurship
- » Business/Research Grant Writing
- » Training/Educating Skills

Find these articles online by searching the archives at sciencecareers.org.

Careers in Communication

Roles: Science Journalism—Science Correspondents for Newspapers and Broadcast TV and Radio; Editor/Writer for specialist scientific newsgroups; Editing for research journals; Medical writing.

Skills to consider: Excellent command of written language, ability to work to tight deadlines, ability to write punchy prose, previous writing experience, National Council for Training of Journalism accredited courses, considerable research and publication experience in specialist field.

Relevant Articles:

- Found in Translation
- Working as a Medical Writer

Careers in Business and Finance

Roles: Financial analyst, quantitative analyst, entrepreneur, technology transfer associate

Skills to consider: Quantitative skills, understanding of business, strong communication skills.

Relevant Articles:

- Analyzing Scientific Investments
- Finance's Quant(um) Mechanics
- Opportunities: From PDF to IPO, One Scientist's Journey
- Transferring Skills to Tech Transfer

Careers in Education, Teaching, and Museums

Roles: Primary School Teacher, Secondary School Teacher, College Lecturer, Curator, Museum Scientist.

Skills to consider: Teaching certification or equivalent, prior work experience, excellent verbal communication.

Relevant Articles:

- Education Research: A New (Tenure) Track for Scientists
- Do You Wanna Be a VAP (Visiting Assistant Professor)?
- Community College Faculty: Must Love to Teach
- Darwin's Legacy: Rich Collections, Deep Expertise

Careers in Consulting

Roles: Associate Consultant, Business Analyst.

Skills to consider: Master's in business administration (MBA), strong analytical skills, excellent communication, business acumen, outstanding academic awards or achievement.

Relevant Articles:

- Mastering Your Ph.D.: A Career in Management Consulting
- Opportunities: The Accidental Consultant

Careers in Regulatory Affairs

Roles: Regulatory Affairs Associate, Regulatory Affairs Specialist (roles can be in the private or government sector and specialist areas include pharmaceuticals, veterinary medicines, medical devices, pesticides, agrochemicals, cosmetics, and complementary medicines).

Skills to consider: Prior pharmaceutical industry or clinical experience.

Relevant Articles:

- Regulatory Affairs Resource Page
- From Research to Regulatory Affairs—Long Journey to a Complete Life Cycle
- French Pharmacist Finds Career Niche at Regulatory Agency
- European Programs Offer Translational Training
- Regulatory Affairs Professionals Society

Careers in Law, Policy, and Nonprofits

Roles: Patent Attorney, Patent Analyst, Policy Adviser, Policy Analyst.

Skills to consider: Law conversion course, in-house training schemes, excellent verbal and written communication skills, ability to write concisely, involvement in policy forums, community outreach and policy arena, diplomacy and networking.

Relevant Articles:

- Scientist Lawyers: Test Tubes to Briefs
- In Person: Peter Brown, Patent Attorney Pending
- A Matter of Policy
- Mastering Your Ph.D.: Exploring Nonprofit Organizations
- Public Health Goes Global

Careers in Research

Roles: Graduate/Postgraduate Studies Coordinator, Research Manager, Programme Administrator, Research Administrator, External Liaison Manager.

Skills to consider: Organizational/administrative skills, fund management.

Relevant Articles:

- Become a Program Officer Your Own Way
- A European Career Tour, From Research to Research Management
- Careers in Research Support
- Working at National Labs: Oak Ridge
- More Commercial Awareness for the European Biotech Industry

Other Articles on ScienceCareers.org

- Mastering Your Ph.D.: Goodbye to All That
- Fitting the Job Market to a T