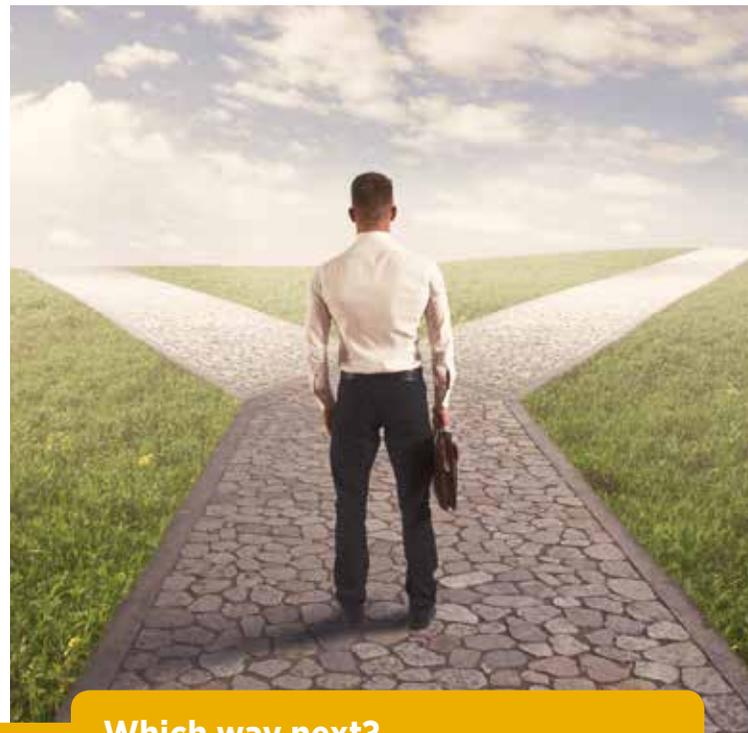


Career planning and preparation are key:

- Take time throughout your doctorate to explore career options
- Make good use of valuable time to find the best fit career for you
- Make use of the careers support, training and development opportunities available to you as a doctoral researcher at the University of Bath
- Identify skills gaps and set goals for development
- Be prepared – high levels of competition are inevitable in career paths both inside and outside academia
- Consider how to market your research skills effectively for the job sector you are targeting
- Finding a good career match involves considerable research – but this will be easy, because this is what you do and are good at, and you may be able to draw on previous experience and contacts



Which way next?

Careers
Service



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This publication is available online at www.bath.ac.uk/students/careers/information-resources/helpsheets

If you need this information in another format, please contact us.

www.bath.ac.uk/careers
<https://myfuture.bath.ac.uk>
careers@bath.ac.uk
 01225 386009

Career planning timeline for postgraduate research students



1

Year 1 (F/T) to 1/2 (P/T)

- Settle in as a research postgraduate
- Start to build networks with team members, colleagues in your department cohort, people working in similar research fields and in fields of work that interest you
- Familiarise yourself with the training opportunities provided by the Doctoral Skills Programme, and plan which ones to attend
- Use the Postgraduate Training Handbook for Doctoral Students to record your training and development needs, goals and progress
- Start to investigate career options for after your doctorate:
 - What type of work inspires you?
 - What are your strengths?
 - What matters to you in a job?
 - see the 'Choose a career' section of the Careers Service website, and the pages dedicated to researchers
- Build your transferable skills portfolio, which will be relevant to a wide range of employers – this can be through work experience, public engagement activities and personal interests as well as your research – and reflect on your achievements and skills development
- Make an appointment with a Careers Adviser to consider possible career options – remember you don't need to have any specific ideas in mind before you speak to us!

2

Year 2 (F/T) 3/4 (P/T)

- Identify jobs and sectors you are interested in pursuing after the doctorate:
 - to help you generate ideas, see the discipline-specific pages on the researchers section of the Careers Service website and read the Vitae 'What do researchers do' publications
 - Research these roles and select those most desirable
- Seek guidance from a Careers Adviser to:
 - Clarify career selection
 - Identify good fit between you and the role/s that appeal to you
 - Identify your unique selling points
- Expand your networks, and use these to build contacts and to help you look into possible career ideas. Talk to people already doing the jobs you are interested in – Bath Connection is a good resource for this
- Identify suitable work shadowing opportunities
- Start getting your CV in order – see tips and examples from Vitae and the Careers Service website, and attend a Doctoral Skills Programme applications webinar
- Consider how to market yourself and your research skills effectively for your target sectors/employers
- Continue to build your transferable skills portfolio, especially those relevant to your desirable career path
- Make use of the training and development activities provided by the Doctoral College, across the University and externally
- Attend Careers Fairs and employer presentations
- Attend conferences to expand your network, become comfortable talking about your research and promote your research externally
- If an academic career is your long-term aim, start to make plans for publications, and get some teaching experience

3

Year 3 (F/T) 4 onwards (P/T)

- Identify specific job roles you are interested in pursuing after the doctorate
- Plan regular time for job searching
- Identify key and/or desirable employers in your chosen sectors
- Familiarise yourself with appropriate job-seeking strategies for the jobs and sectors that interest you, and find out where, when and how suitable vacancies are advertised – Careers Advisers can help with this
- Seek advice on interview preparation
- Apply for some jobs to develop good practice – remember practice makes perfect!
- Feedback on CVs and applications and practice interviews are available from Careers Advisers
- Check out careers fairs and employers' presentations