

PGR Tips on What do researchers do? publications

Are you informed and inspired about your career choices? Vitae have produced two publications called What do researchers do? to help you be just that. These follow on from the What Do PhDs Do? series that you may be familiar with. [What do researchers do? First employment destinations of doctoral graduates by subject](#) (WDRDS) is an analysis of the first employment destination data of people who have graduated with a doctorate, as the title suggests broken down by subjects. [What do researchers do? Careers profiles of doctoral graduates](#) (WDRDCS) is a collection of forty careers stories of doctoral graduates. These stories are on the [careers section](#) of the Vitae website, together with links to careers profiles held by other people. How can you use all of these resources?

Broaden your horizons

In 2007 about 14 500 people graduated with a doctorate from a UK institution. Of these, nearly 8000 were UK domiciled (WDRDS reports on UK-domiciled graduates only). Although 49% were employed in the higher education sector, over half went on to many and varied jobs in other sectors.

Check what jobs and sectors your peers have gone into

You can now see what jobs people have gone into, not just by broad discipline but by subject. WDRDS contains statistics on sectors and types of employment entered. WDRDCS also contains lists of job titles of first employment which may inspire you.

Remember that the data are only about first destinations

First destinations are only part of the story. You are unlikely to spend the rest of your career at your first employment destination. If you already have an idea of what you want to end up doing, WDRDCS may give you an idea of possible routes to get there.

Read the careers stories of people in similar positions to you

Whether you want to find out about the career path of someone who did a doctorate in the same subject you did, went on to do the sort of job you would like to do or set up their own company, there are probably some stories in here to inspire you.

Let your supervisor know about these publications

Supervisors are often the first or main source of careers advice for post graduate researchers. These publications will help them fulfill this role, especially if they have little experience or knowledge of employment outside academia.

Be inspired

In the careers profiles people reflect on the value of their doctorate. Having completed they can see the effect of the doctoral experience on their professional and personal lives. It can be easy to lose sight of the value while you are completing your doctorate, but let these thoughts reinvigorate your motivation!