

## **PGR Tips on making the most of your doctorate in the recession**

Because of the recession you may worry about your career prospects. But employers are still recruiting! With increased competition, how do you capitalise on your hard-earned doctorate?

### **Network to find out and gain job opportunities**

Attend recruitment events and make the most of [networking](#) to get work opportunities.

### **Remember that there are few doctoral graduates**

The recovery of the UK economy relies on people with highest order skills like yourselves. Currently about 8000 UK residents gain a doctorate a year. This number may increase as people take refuge in education in the economic turmoil, or decrease because of increased tuition fees. Unemployment among doctoral graduates is far lower than other education levels.

### **International mobility**

Employment opportunities in the Far East and emerging economies may be better than in the UK and are worth investigating. [Euraxess](#) is a one-stop shop for researchers seeking to advance their careers and personal development by moving to other countries. English tends to be spoken in many professions, so language needs not be a barrier. International experience will stand you in good stead in the job market here should you ever wish to return.

### **Articulate your skills**

You may be competing for jobs with people with equivalent experience in employment. You will have to justify why doing a doctorate is as valuable as work experience (or even more so!). Practise explaining your research in layman's terms. The [Researcher Development Framework](#) can help you identify and articulate your skills in a language employers will understand and respect. Do your research on the employer you are applying to and match your experience and skills to the competencies they require and have examples to hand.

### **Gain work experience**

Experience gained in internships is highly valued by employers. Several research councils now make internships outside academia compulsory during doctorates they fund. [Some opportunities are advertised on the Vitae website](#). Many companies offer their placements/ internships in summer but may have opportunities all year round. Experience in supervising and teaching undergraduates or organising conferences can be expressed as work experience.

### **Research the organisation you apply to**

Research the employers you apply to, whether in academia or outside. Websites will tell you about their vision and values which you should take into account in your application. Talking to people who work there is also very valuable!

### **Make the most of the job you get**

You may get a position aimed at graduates. However, our [longitudinal careers destination](#) study shows doctoral graduates are likely to progress faster than most graduates and you are able to capitalise on your research experience throughout your career.