

PGR tips: Thinking of a career outside academia?

If you are interested in exploring the options available to you outside academia why not:

- Visit your **careers service** to investigate different careers, many now have advisors that specialise in postgraduate researcher careers advice
- Visit **Just for Postgrads** for tips and information on building a career plan and strategies for finding your job www.grad.ac.uk/careerplanning
- Arrange **work shadowing** for a half day/day in an area of work you are interested in
- **Talk to as many people as you can** about their careers. Try to track down postdoctoral alumni from your department through colleagues; ask them about their career choices

To investigate current opportunities for PhDs you could have a look at the following today!

- **Visit** www.phdjobs.com or www.jobs.ac.uk
- **Explore** two job sectors you are interested in on the Prospects website at www.prospects.ac.uk

If you are keen to continue in your research field, but prefer to work outside academia:

- **Talk to your supervisors.** They will have a reputation and a network of contacts in this field that you can use to your benefit. They should be aware of companies, agencies or other bodies that carry out research in your field and may have contacts in these organisations - or know someone who does!
- **Find funding to attend a relevant conference** and network with the representatives from bodies other than universities

Want to practice your interview technique, improve your CV or define your career goals?

Why not attend a GRADschool! You will also have the opportunity to work closely with people from a variety of employment sectors and occupations who can talk about their own career choices and tips for success. The next available GRADschool is in the **Midlands from 22-26 May 2006**. Book your place now at www.grad.ac.uk/pgapply

Are you a final year researcher looking for work outside the HE sector?

The UK GRAD Programme and National Institute for Careers Education and Counselling would like to invite you to take part in an e-focus group based around best practice in recruiting newly qualified PhDs. The web based discussion will cover your experience of looking for work outside HE, what would make a difference to you in terms of better information or advice, and what you wish you had known before you started looking for a job. If you would like to take part, visit www.grad.ac.uk/PGRfocusgroup (**please note** that this page will not be live until 5pm on Tuesday 2nd May).

July 2006 is **Ask the Experts Month!** Themed online chats and panel Q&A sessions for postgraduate researchers throughout the month. For more information and to post a question in advance, see www.grad.ac.uk/asktheexperts

If you have some useful tips to share with other postgraduate researchers please send them to admin@grad.ac.uk