

PGR tips: Thinking of a career in academia?

Academia is a competitive field to work in - the following experience can help you to stand out from your peer group:

- Focus on trying to publish your work in as many high impact journals as you can. Collaborations with researchers in other places are a good way to get into more publications
- Get out there and present your work at conferences, seminars, poster competitions. Networking at conferences is your opportunity to develop potential collaborations and better understand the context of your own work
- Take on opportunities to supervise undergraduate students who are doing research as part of their final year studies. This gives you a chance to learn how to manage research effectively and to develop your mentoring and communication skills
- Try to gain experience of applying for and securing research funding
- Visit www.grad.ac.uk/academia for more tips on 'Launching an academic career'

To investigate current opportunities in academia have a look at the following this week!

- www.jobs.ac.uk (multi-discipline and academic related) and www.findapostdoc.com (science focused) are useful websites for job searches
- Visit The Guardian website (www.jobs.guardian.co.uk) and The Times Higher Education Supplement website (www.thesjobs.co.uk) for academic job vacancies

If you are at the application stage see how many of the following you can do this week:

- Use your University Careers Service and ask for advice on your CV
- Call potential employers for a discussion in advance of your application to show your enthusiasm
- Think about the qualities needed for the job and write down anything you've done that demonstrates how you fit the position e.g. teaching, supervision, training etc. Ask a colleague or friend to look at them with you to check you've included everything!
- Talk to others who are working in academia at your University and get their advice on what they would be looking for in a potential applicant

Careers in Academia one-day events

If you want to find out more about a career in academia why not attend a **Careers in Academia** event. These one-day events are free of charge and you will have the opportunity to meet with current academics from a range of disciplines, explore how to market yourself, look at how to write and win grant applications and find out what skills and strengths you need to succeed in academia. To find out more and to book go to www.grad.ac.uk/cif

If you have a question on careers in academia why not Ask The Experts!

July 2006 is the UK GRAD Ask the Experts Month. Throughout the month we will be holding a series of online chats and panel Q&A sessions on a variety of topics relating to your postgraduate research and beyond. Careers in academia will be the topic from 24-28 July. Other themes are writing up, CVs and applications and future careers. Find out more at www.grad.ac.uk/asktheexperts

Please email admin@grad.ac.uk if you have any feedback about PGR tips.