

Julia Meek, self-employed research and evaluation consultant

Following an arts degree and several roles in computer based learning for higher education, I undertook doctoral research in evaluation of learning technologies.

Whilst writing up my doctorate I took several opportunities to work on evaluation projects, which led to my decision to set up my own consultancy.

I now work from home part-time, specialising in the use of technology for learning. I travel when necessary but most meetings and collaborations are conducted online. This flexibility works well for me as I have a young family and live in a rural location.

My doctorate gave me the necessary skills to become self-employed: self motivation, determination and research skills, plus a network of contacts in the university sector.

My advice to anyone considering self-employment in their research area would be to build up a wide base of contacts including university colleagues who can lead funding bids.