
Career Planning for Scientists

Good career planning is about being able to make choices along my professional path that will bring me the most joy and satisfaction in my work and broader life. It is first about renewing my purpose, remembering what I want to contribute to the world, remembering what I am passionate about and what gives me satisfaction at the end of the day. And how does this fit within my wider view of a successful, happy life? Then it is about finding positions that fit my priorities and values: which other people and institutions also care about these things, how do I discover them, how do I make connections with these people? Finally, it is about becoming visible and self-confident within the community and during the application process so that the others will realise, “She is exactly who we need in our team!” In this workshop, you will receive tools to help you make these choices and take these steps; the goal is that you can find a position that is truly fulfilling.

Workshop objectives

- You identify your current professional strengths and weaknesses and can create opportunities to polish and develop your skills in your current position.
- You identify your own values, needs and priorities for your professional life and can formulate a clear statement which will help you connect with like-minded people.
- You know the similarities and differences between different professional contexts (academia, the private sector [for example, industry or a startup] and the public sector) and can choose wisely the context that best fits your goals, personality, temperament and needs.
- You can use professional situations to find potential “kindred spirits”, those people who share your values and professional goals.
- You can present yourself well in job interview situations.

Programme

- What skills are necessary for success?
- Possible future professional contexts: academia, private sector, public sector – where do I fit best?
- Networking as forming professional friendships and finding kindred spirits
- Family and professional life – how do I thrive in all spheres?
- Proactivity – how can I take the initiative in creating my professional path?
How can I become visible within my professional community?
- Factors in success for job interview and other presentation situations
- Job application check with focus on the letter of motivation
- “This sounds great, but where do I find the time to do all this?” Practical tips on how to add this layer of multi-tasking into an already very busy schedule.

Methods

Highly interactive seminar using a wide variety of learning methods such as group, pair and individual exercises, plenary discussions, case studies, coaching, and feedback, complemented by theoretical input on the relevant topics.

Trainer

Dr. Sarah Shephard