

## Finding employment after a PhD

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## Postgraduate Destinations 2004

- 88.1% of all PhD graduates in full-time employment (79.9% for bachelor degree)
- Median starting salary for research masters/PhDs was \$56,000

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## Breakdown by Industry

- Education (52.8%)
- Government (17.8%)
- Private (15.9%)
- Health (10.5%)
- Other (3.2%)

What happens to postgraduate students  
and how do we know?

Postgraduate Destination Survey 2004  
by Graduate Careers Australia

## Career Planning

Career planning involves two steps

1. Assess what you have to offer
2. Research your options

## Self Assessment



Consider what you've gained from PhD:

- Specialist skills related to your discipline
- Generic/Transferable skills developed as a student (not discipline-specific)

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## Transferable skills



- Employers look for evidence
- Evidence is in the examples you can give them of what you've done
- Useful website is <http://www.bom.gov.au/careers/guide2SC.shtml>

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## Specialist skills



- Think about which organisations would have a need for your expertise
- Speak to your supervisor and other academic staff

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## Other factors to consider



- Values & Attitudes
- Occupational Interests
- Personality Attributes
- Goals

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## Transferable skills



4 skills clusters:

- Communication/presentation skills
- Managing/organising and planning skills
- Intellectual and creative skills
- Teamwork and interpersonal skills

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## More on Self Assessment



- For more information go to the Careers Centre web site and look under "Self Assessment" (detail on skills)
- Another good site <http://www.myfuture.edu.au>

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## Useful Guide



### “A Degree of Certainty: Career Options for Postgraduate Research Students”

- Published by the Graduate Careers Council of Australia, 2004
- Reference copy available at Careers Centre

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## Higher Education



- General positions within the university which will use your research and management skills
- These can be found on university's web sites, *Higher Education* supplement or *Campus Review*

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## Career Planning



### Part 2 Research your options

### Career options outside of academia

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## Public Sector



- Can apply to a Graduate Recruitment Program or to an advertised position
- Check out various departments' web sites for information about vacancies or go to the Commonwealth and State Government job search databases

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## Career options outside of academia



- Higher Education Sector
- Public Sector
- Private sector
- Not-for-profit sector

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## Public Sector



### Job search databases

- Commonwealth Government  
Go to <http://www.australia.gov.au> and click on “job search”
- NSW Government  
Go to <http://www.jobs.nsw.gov.au>

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## Private Sector



- Options are linked to your discipline and areas of expertise egs.
  - Pharmaceutical companies
  - Scientific products companies
  - Management consulting
  - Consulting work related to your discipline eg. environmental consulting

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## How to find a job – advertised vacancies



- Professional association web sites eg.  
<http://www.eianz.org> (Environment Institute of Australia and NZ)  
  
<http://www.apesma.asn.au> (Association of Professional Engineers, Scientists and Managers, Australia)

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## Not-for-profit sector



- Includes international organisations such as Greenpeace and Red Cross where your management skills can be utilised
- Organisations related to your discipline eg. World Wildlife Fund <http://wwwf.org.au>

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## How to find a job – other ways



- Work out which organisations would be interested in your expertise - approach them directly
- Join professional associations – network
- Seek advice from lecturers
- Internet search (job ads)
- Yellow Pages

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## How to find a job – advertised vacancies



- Register on Careers Centre Job Alert
- Look at job vacancy databases eg. seek, mycareer or <http://www.nrmjobs.com.au> (environment, water and natural resource management jobs)

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## How we can help



- 24 hour cv checking service
- 20 minute appointment with a careers adviser
- Lots of information on <http://www.careers.usyd.edu.au>

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