



Non-Academic Careers for PhDs

Packaging Your PhD to Find a Job
Survival Skills Workshop for Postdocs
November 15, 2005
Argonne National Laboratory

Some Options

- I. Research Positions in Industry or Other Settings
 - a. Research and Development
 - b. Quality Control
 - c. Manufacturing and Production
 - d. Process Development
 - e. Computation
 - f. Product Testing

- II. Non-research Positions that Use Your Scientific Expertise
 - a. Scientific Writing and Editing
 - b. Computer Programming
 - c. Marketing of High-Tech Products and Services
 - d. Training Specialist
 - e. Regulatory Affairs
 - f. Policy
 - g. Patent Agent/Advisor
 - h. Sales
 - i. Teaching: Community and 2-year Colleges, K-12 Private and Independent

- III. Using Your Skills, but Not in Science or Research
 - a. Financial Analyst
 - b. Consultant
 - c. Grant Writer/Administrator
 - d. Higher-ed Administration
 - e. Anything Else YOU Want to Do!

The Job Search Process

(note: all handouts on the CAPS website at <http://caps.uchicago.edu/resources/handouts/>)

- I. Know Thyself
 - a. Identify Skills, Interests, and Values
 - b. See Handout: Skills ID for PhDs
 - c. Excellent Book: Outside the Ivory Tower, by Margaret Newhouse
 - d. Career Counseling: call CAPS at 773.702.7040 to make an appt. (phone appts. are available)

- II. Research Industries and Positions of Interest, Create an Employer List
 - a. See Handouts: Industry/Field Information, Generating Company Lists, Employer Research
 - b. Career Fields A to Z (http://caps.uchicago.edu/careers_a_z.html)
 - c. Professional Associations

- III. Conduct Informational Interviews and Build a Network
 - a. See Handout: Informational Interviewing
 - b. University of Chicago Alumni Careers Network
(https://alumniservices.uchicago.edu/Careers/network_main.asp)
contact Heather via email for username and password

- IV. Write Resumes and Cover Letters
 - a. See handouts: Transforming Your CV Into a Resume, Cover Letters for Grad Students, Resumes for MAs and Recent Alums
 - b. Resume/CV/Cover Letter Review available via email w/Heather
 - c. Tailor to Each Position!!

- V. Contact Employers
 - a. Chicago Science Career Forum- March 15, 2006 at University of Chicago
 - I. Deadline for Submissions is February 10- registration forms will be available soon!
 - II. You may attend without registering to present
 - b. ScienceCareers.org, ScienceJobs.com, etc.

- VI. Practice Interviewing Skills
 - a. See handout: Employment Interviews
 - b. CAPS Practice Interviewer Service- to schedule, call 773.702.7040

Need More Information?

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