



Career Orientation
for First Semester PhD Students
1 Day Workshop, 9:00 – 18:00, 07.10.2024
IMPRS, MPIIB Berlin



The course is targeted at first year PhD students with the aim to put “career” on your horizon from day one and to give you the opportunity to think about activities and choices that are important along the PhD for your future entry into the job market.

Doing a PhD opens many doors. The possibilities for what you can do afterwards are endless. By doing a PhD you prove that you can work independently, think logically, and finish a huge piece of work to high professional standards. You may not know what you want to do after your PhD, or you may know exactly what you want to do afterwards (which might change along the way). In this workshop we will analyse different career paths both inside and outside academia, and compare them to your personal goals and interests.

Bench and beyond. Whichever career you choose, you will need to show that you have skills beyond those you have developed for your research project. You want to do a post doc? Your supervisor will expect you to work and think independently, be a role model for others, and get your own money. You want to work in industry? You may need skills in communication, project management or programming.

Start now. The great news about doing a PhD is that you can learn many more skills beyond those you need for your PhD project, throughout the journey. In this workshop we will identify what skills you might need, and how you can create and take opportunities to learn them, starting now. We will identify what you can do now, to increase your chance of success for whatever career path you choose in future.

Learning objectives: After the workshop, you can:

- Identify your own core values, skills and interests.
- Critically analyse job descriptions in different sectors (academic and non-academic)
- Compare the requirements to your own personal goals and interests.
- Identify what is missing from your profile and how to get extra training in specific areas.

Here is an outline of the workshop. I will contact registered participants in advance of the workshop with a questionnaire, which will help me evaluate the specific needs and interests of participants, and to tailor the content accordingly. The program is planned for 9:00 – 16:00 including breaks. **From 16:00 – 18:00 the trainer will be available for optional feedback and questions.**

Morning (9:00-12:00) Analysis of your goals and values

- Who am I? What do I want? What is important to me? What is not?
- Group brainstorming: What kind of jobs do we (collectively) already know about?

Afternoon (13:00 - 16:00) Strategic planning

- Specific careers: We will investigate real job descriptions in different sectors.
- How well does a given career path match what I want?
- Do I have what it takes? If not, what else do I need?
- Additional skills and how to learn them.

The trainer, Prof. Dr. Leonie Ringrose

I am a British scientist who never intended to be one. I chose to study biology at University because it was different to my family background (my family were actors, artists and teachers). Maybe because of this early dive into the unknown, I have had an unconventional career path.

After my bachelor's degree (UEA, Norwich , UK) I spent two years as a patent examiner at the European Patent Office in Munich. I then went back into academia to do a PhD at the EMBL, Heidelberg. I did two post docs before becoming a junior group leader at the Vienna Biocentre (Austria). From 2015 to March 2024 I was a professor in molecular biology at Humboldt University, Berlin.

I have recently founded a start-up business ("Science Kitchen") as a freelance trainer in science communication, and through this I have become familiar with some of the challenges involved in starting and running your own business. I am also currently learning software engineering to develop digital learning platforms for scientists. Let's see where that goes....

I am very curious to meet you and to see what comes out of this workshop!

www.science-kitchen.net

[Podcast interview](#)

