



**Interview Training for PhD Students:
Academia and Beyond
1 Day Workshop, 9:00 – 16:00, 22.09.2025
IMPRS, MPIIB Berlin**



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. But what comes next? You may wish to continue in academia, or explore other careers. You may know what jobs you want to apply for, or you may not be sure what you want to do, or even what is possible. In this workshop we will identify what you can do now, to increase your chance of success for whatever path you choose in future.

A complex challenge. How do I critically evaluate job descriptions and places of work if I am not familiar with the role? How do I write a convincing job application and present my CV to its best advantage? How do I prepare for an interview and how do I make sure I perform at my best? Once I have one or more job offers, can I negotiate salary and working conditions, and if so, how do I do that?

Learning objectives: After the workshop, participants can:

- Critically evaluate job descriptions in different sectors (industry, academic, other) and compare the requirements to their own skills and interests.
- Optimise their CV and motivation letter for different purposes.
- Plan strategically for an interview and practise answering and asking questions.
- Use negotiation strategies to discuss salary and working conditions.

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.

Morning (9:00-12.00) Applications

- Analysis of job descriptions in different sectors.
- Do I have what it takes? Do they have what I want? Comparing job descriptions to your own profile.
- Polish your CV: How to make sure your CV and application letter fit the job.

Afternoon (13:00- 16:00) Interviews and negotiation

- Preparing for an interview
- Mock interviews for different scenarios
- Negotiation tactics
- Free discussion (time for questions about other careers, startups, patent examination, and academia)

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.

From 2015 to March 2024 I was a professor in molecular biology at Humboldt University, Berlin. Through many seemingly random events, and a curiosity for travel and learning new things, I have found myself working in international institutions in four European countries (France, Austria, Germany and UK).

Since 1990 I have been a patent examiner, a kitchen worker, a PhD student, a grape picker, a post doc, a junior group leader, and a full professor. I was also unemployed for a year between my junior and senior positions, and I found this to be one of the most productive years of my career so far.

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](#)

