Career Directions
After Your PhD

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What are your options?

- Continue in academic research
- Move into industry, related to your PhD
- Something else?
Common challenges regardless of your choice

- Articulating your motivation
- Communicating the value of your PhD
- Tailoring your applications
Motivation – What do you want to do?
A Potential Process?

Self Awareness

- What do you want?
- What have you enjoyed so far?
- What can you offer?
- External factors e.g. minimum salary, location

Awareness of opportunities

- Research!
- Speak to people - networking
- Where are the opportunities?
- How many are there?
- Do you have what they are looking for?

Take Action

- Making a decision
- Applying for vacancies
- Creating opportunities
- Attending Interviews

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Staying in Academic Research

- Research – speak to existing post docs
- Work/Life impacts – temporary contracts, location etc..
- What do you want to do? What is the reality?
- What happens after the first Postdoc?
- What is your area of expertise?
- Use & expand your network

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Moving into Physics Related Industry

- What is your area of expertise?
  - How can this be applied in industry?
- Who else has made the move?
  - Speak to colleagues, IOP, who is in your network?
- Research employers - [www.talentscotland.com/work](http://www.talentscotland.com/work)
- Setting up on your own – [www.sie.ac.uk](http://www.sie.ac.uk)
Doing something else…

- Reflect on what you have done so far – what do you enjoy?
- Review what you have to offer – speak to a Careers Adviser
- Research – use your connections/network, look at statistics on destinations of other PhD students
- The further away from the topic of your PhD you move the more important the **transferrable skills** you have become
Skills developed through a PhD

- Analytical thinking and problem solving abilities
- Ability to bring new ideas, curiosity and innovative approach
- Project management and organisation skills
- Leadership potential
- Ability to work in a team
- Communication skills – presentations, teaching, working with your supervisor
“Researchers have to manage tight and often conflicting deadlines. They have to manage complex relationships (supervisors / senior staff) and often need teaching / tutoring skills. There’s a lot in there but I think sometimes they don’t realise that this is what recruiters look for.”

Empress Survey, University of Leeds, 2005
Looking for Inspiration?

Physical sciences and engineering doctoral graduates from 2010 HESA survey looking at 2006/7 leavers:

- 34% were working in the higher education sector with 19% in research
- 22% worked in finance, business and IT
- 18% were employed in manufacturing and research industries

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Tailoring applications

- Who is reading it?
- What do they want?
  www.prospects.ac.uk
- Where are they sitting?
  www.goinglobal.com
How can your Careers Service support you?

- Helping you decide what to do
- Advising on job seeking strategies
- Providing links to employers – e.g. Careers Fairs
- Support with tailoring all parts of the application process
Your Careers Service

- University of Edinburgh – www.ed.ac.uk/careers/postgrad
- Heriot Watt University - www1.hw.ac.uk/careers
- University of St Andrews - www.st-andrews.ac.uk/careers/

Other Sources of Information Online

www.iop.org/careers/i-am-a-researcher/index.html
www.vitae.ac.uk