TRAINING IN CAREER PLANNING FOR PhD STUDENTS AT UQ: FURTHER INFORMATION AND REGISTER YOUR INTEREST

What is the program?
• **Career Control for Researchers**, a tightly-focused career planning course with core material delivered online, designed specifically for graduate students and early career researchers working full time.
• A framework for making sure you consider thoroughly your own drivers, strengths, priorities and employment options, so you can make active, well-informed career choices.
• An opportunity to ask yourself searching questions early in your career, to understand the paths that are open to you and establish realistic goals, whether within or outside academia.
• Practical training that encourages you to view post-graduate training as a platform for a broad range of approaches to developing your career, and diverse career options.
• Free of charge to all participants who secure a place, funded by the Graduate School.

What will the program do for me?
• Help you to become clear about where you intend to take your career, and to map where and how you should focus your efforts to accelerate your progress.
• Guide you through creating a career plan that aligns with your strengths and personal preferences, using practical exercises and tools. The plan you create by the end of the program will capture both specific destinations and actions you need to take to reach the goals you select.
• Give you the motivation, information and tools to take charge of your own career, whether you don't yet know your preferred path or you already have a goal and are looking for the best way to reach it.
• Give you access to a database of case studies of career pathways for people with PhD-level qualifications (the *Career Options Masterlist*).
• Offer an opportunity to be matched with another UQ PhD student on the course to exchange career-related ideas; and give you access to a private LinkedIn group of PhD peers on career topics.

What won’t the program do?
• Do the tough part for you. It’s a part-time, on-demand program, but there is real work and commitment involved on your part. Planning your future is not easy!
• Tell you what jobs are currently available, what roles to apply for or how to write applications for specific jobs - though it will give you the platform for making informed choices about these things, including how to present your transferrable skills.
• Gain you a certification: the focus is on practical tools and self-awareness, rather than a qualification.

Program timeframe and main elements
• The course runs over 8 weeks twice each year. The Graduate School will confirm the next available start date.
• Four online modules in text, downloadable PDF and audio formats. One new module is released every two weeks, involving a commitment of no more than two hours each to complete. Once published, content is accessible on demand to avoid diverting you from core study and research tasks.
• Three webinars of around 45 minutes each to allow for live discussion of your questions, career strategies, pathways and key skills to support your progress.
• You retain long-term access to all the resources, so you can revisit the modules, download fresh copies of exercise templates and planning tools, and review webinar recordings whenever you wish.
• Your total commitment of time should not exceed 15 hours over 8 weeks including webinars, even for those taking advantage of contact with another PhD student and the program’s private LinkedIn group.
Summary of components

- 4 online modules spaced over 8 weeks, in text and audio formats (1½-2 hours each to complete)
- 2 live, facilitated webinars for career planning-related Q&A, led by PostdocTraining
- Additional final live module for all participants on transferrable skills, led by PostdocTraining
- Access to a Masterlist of career options for people with research backgrounds
- Voluntary matching with other UQ PhD students to encourage career-related peer discussions
- Opportunity for all participants to join a LinkedIn career development forum moderated by PostdocTraining
- Open-ended access to course material, webinar recordings and the Masterlist, for continued support for your career planning and development.

Course content of Career Control for Researchers

To register your interest and ask any questions not answered here, please contact the UQ Graduate School on graduateschool@uq.edu.au

What participants say about Career Control for Researchers (comments from 2019)

"I was feeling anxious of not having a proper control on my own options when finishing my PhD. It helped me to understand that there are other path options for my career and more importantly to map where and how I can focus my efforts to be 'My Best'."

"I think it's important to take the time to do this career planning. The modules were structured and realistic. It's a very practical exercise."

"I found myself thinking of things I hadn't considered before. I spent a long time reflecting on my strengths and weaknesses and identifying how that would fit with my proposed career. I also appreciated ideas around the best way to make things happen. That section was excellent."

"Before undertaking the program I was struggling to work out where I wanted to go with my career. CC4R has made it very clear which direction to go in!"

“The process of the program is amazing. It really helps you to put on paper your career goals and plans”

"I think every PhD candidature needs this program ... to [bring an] awareness of future directions of the PhD students as well as the post doc."