

Career Plan Development

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This document aims at providing a basic guide for the career plan of most PhD students at UOC. Nevertheless, the PhD student should always check with his / her Supervisor and ask his / her help in the development of such a career plan.

General concepts and recommendations

- In most knowledge areas, publishing the results of your research in JCR/Scopus-indexed journals, books of prestigious editorials, and top international conferences is the best way to increase your options when applying for postdoctoral positions worldwide.
- Publishing your work in these sources is not an easy task (especially if you are targeting JCR-indexed journals that are classified in the first and second quartiles of their area). It typically requires a lot of work, original contributions to the state of the art, patience, writing skills, and a little bit of luck during the peer-review process. Many journals might require several months since submission to provide you with initial feedback, which means that publishing a journal article might become a long process that can even go beyond one entire year.
- Your supervisor is the best ally you have to develop successful research and disseminate it in the best possible way. Hence, it is important that you work hard while developing your research activities, and always pay attention to his / her recommendations.
- Completing a PhD goes much beyond completing a MSc degree, and you have to be capable of developing autonomous work and make significant advances in your research area. It is for this reason that you should choose a research topic that is both attractive to you (since you will have to invest many hours working on it) as well as to your supervisor (since he / she will also invest many hours supporting your research activities). Likewise, try to choose a 'hot' topic in your area, so you can make original contributions to it and, at the same time, it can open future career opportunities, either in the academy or the industry.
- As you start to publish your research, follow the evolution of your public research profiles (Scopus Author, WoS Publons, Google Scholar, etc.). Seeing other researchers worldwide citing your work will motivate you to keep up with your research activity.

- During your PhD, try to create your own network of researchers. This can be other PhD students or postdoctoral researchers that you meet in conferences and workshops, as well as senior researchers that have been introduced to you mainly by your supervisor(s). With this purpose, it is usually a good idea to complete some research stays abroad during your PhD (e.g., an Erasmus+ stay in another EU country). Nevertheless, always check with your supervisor(s) about these possibilities, since timing is also important.
- It is always a good idea to check, during your PhD, the requirements of postdoc positions across Europe and beyond, e.g., Marie Curie grants, postdoc / assistant professor positions in USA / EU, Juan de la Cierva grants, etc. Also, if you plan to target a position in the industry, try to keep an updated profile in your professional social networks and to establish a good network of contacts in different enterprises -especially those where your advanced knowledge can be of high value.

Design Your Personalized Plan with the Help of your Supervisor(s)

The following grid should be completed with the guidance of your supervisor(s). It can be helpful for you in order to establish a series of milestones that can support your future career plan.

Planned action	1st year	2nd year	3rd year	4th year *
Workshops / Conferences				
Books / chapters				
Journals				
Research / transfer projects				
Patents / IP				
Mobility grants				
Other networking activities				
Research stays				
Postdoc grants				

(*) Whenever additional years are needed.