PG Essentials: Becoming an academic

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Becoming an academic

- Why become an academic? (see podcast for video clips)
- Academic roles
- Academic pathways
  - SET path to a permanent academic role
  - Humanities path to a permanent academic role
  - How to progress into academia – advice (see podcast for video clips)
- What are your chances of making it?
- What can you do now?
- Further support
What do academics do?
Could I focus on research or teaching only?

Academic staff in UK HEIs (excludes "atypical")

- Research only
- Teaching only
- Teaching & research

Depends on institution (research intensive vs teaching focused)
Academic Pathways - Manchester

Research focused

Research Fellow

Senior Research Fellow

Reader

Professor

Teaching and Research

Lecturer

Senior Lecturer

Reader

Professor

Teaching focused

Lecturer

Senior Lecturer

Reader

Professor
Pathways to Lecturer - SET

Undergraduate

(Masters)

PhD

Post-doctoral researcher (fixed-term)

Research Fellowship (fixed-term)

Teaching fellow (fixed-term)

Lecturer
Pathways to Lecturer - Humanities

Undergraduate

Masters

PhD

Post-doctoral researcher (fixed-term)

Short term/temp teaching or research posts

Teaching fellow (fixed-term)

Research Fellowship (fixed-term)

Lecturer

NB. Often doing research in own time while teaching
What are my chances?
The employment landscape for Doctoral Researchers
Where are PhDs, 3.5 years after graduating?
How many academic jobs are there?
How many new PhDs are there in the UK?

- Arts & Humanities
- Social Sciences
- Bio/Medical/Health
- Physical Sciences & Engineering

Year:
- 2007/08: 4,025
- 2008/09: 4,585
- 2009/10: 7,460
- 2010/11: 7,995
- 2011/12: 7,460
- 2012/13: 7,870
- 2013/14: 7,930
- 2014/15: 7,995
- 2015/16: 8,060
- 2016/17: 8,190
Academic job ads

Social Sciences

Researcher – 2024 jobs
202 permanent researcher jobs

Lecturer – 2464 jobs
1897 permanent lecturer jobs

Jobs advertised in 2015 on Jobs.ac.uk
Academic job ads

Arts & Humanities

Researcher – 792 jobs
71 permanent researcher jobs

Lecturer – 1676 jobs
1173 permanent lecturer jobs

Jobs advertised in 2015 on Jobs.ac.uk
Academic job ads

Bio/medical/health sciences

Researcher – 6077 jobs
425 permanent researcher jobs

Lecturer – 1670 jobs
1269 permanent lecturer jobs

Jobs advertised in 2015 on Jobs.ac.uk
Academic job ads

Physical sciences/Engineering

Researcher – 5708 jobs
400 permanent researcher jobs

Lecturer – 1431 jobs
1144 permanent lecturer jobs

Jobs advertised in 2015 on Jobs.ac.uk
Questions to ask yourself

• Academic achievement
  – Are your qualifications on track?
  – How strong is your publication record?

• Skills
  – How good are your research skills?
  – How effectively can you communicate (& defend) your work?
  – What teaching experience do you have?
  – Have you been able to compete for funding?
Questions to ask yourself

• **Motivation**
  – Do you have a passion for your subject?
  – Are you prepared for the demands on your homelife?
  – Can you cope with the uncertainty & pressure of aspiring to be an academic?

• **The competition**
  – Do you know your competitors
  – What gives you the competitive edge?
Questions to ask yourself

• **Strategic focus**
  – Where do you see your research going?
  – Are you developing as an independent researcher?
  – What is your strategy for publishing your work?
  – Where will your funding come from as an academic?
  – How much effort do you put into managing your professional reputation?
An Academic Career

Is an academic career for you?
What do academics do?
How do you become an academic?

Undergraduate / Masters
PhD / Doctoral researcher
Post-doctoral research / teaching staff

Pathways
Career options event for PhDs and researchers

Job opportunities
Job opportunities at The University of Manchester

About us
Aims, background and future plans for this site

www.manchester.ac.uk/academiccareer
Further support

Slides & podcasts for this session, plus all the other Postgrad careers essentials talks at: www.careers.manchester.ac.uk/postgraduates/pgcareerstalks

Postgrad researcher, thinking about an academic career?

  - Activities to help your future research career
Careers support for Postgraduates

• Online
  – www.manchester.ac.uk/careers/pg
  – Social media: www.careers.manchester.ac.uk/services/socialmedia

• In groups - talks/events
  – www.manchester.ac.uk/careers/events
  – www.manchester.ac.uk/careers/postgraduates/events
  – CareersLink: for vacancies and events: www.manchester.ac.uk/careerslink

• In person
  – 15 minute “getting started” & drop-in appointments (30 minutes later in the semester)
  – 15 minute “Application Advice” – feedback on applications
  – Email support for queries
  – Careers Help Desk: The Atrium, 1st floor Uni Place, 9-5, Mon – Fri
  – Details: www.careers.manchester.ac.uk/services