What are the sessions about?

A PhD in Humanities/Science and Engineering/ Biology, Medicine and Health – where could it lead?
Panellists who are connected by discipline area (FSE/Humanities/BMH) but who’ve followed a range of different career pathways can give you a flavour of the options available to you and offer you inspiration.

Academic roles for…..
Our panels comprise those who’ve pursued their careers within an academic context including those who have research roles and teaching positions, at all stages of progression.

Relevant to all disciplines:

Broadening your horizons: working overseas
Panellists will talk about their experiences of pursuing careers in different countries, working cultures/environments and the advantages and disadvantages in comparison with working in the UK.

Commercialising research, entrepreneurship or starting a business
If you already have an idea for a business or social enterprise, or simply an entrepreneurial spirit, this panel will discuss the processes and advantages of turning your research into something profitable.

Educating others – schools, universities, professionals
During their PhD, many researchers discover the joy of opening the minds of others to new skills or knowledge. Our panellists have all used their passion for education and communication in very different settings.

Fancy running a university? Non-academic roles for PhDs
Enjoy the University environment but not sure you want to pursue an academic, research or teaching career? Come and find out more about working in an environment where you don’t have to explain what a PhD is.

Fitting work into your life!
Wondering how to get the balance right between work, family, location – and all the other things you want out of life? Find out how our panellists have found strategies and solutions which work for them.

I’ve been a postdoc – here’s my story
Our panel will talk about their experiences of working in Postdoctoral roles – the highs and the lows.

I’ve done things that aren’t related to my PhD – so can you!
Whether they planned to or simply have found themselves taking a ‘scenic’ career path, our panellists will talk about the positions they have held which are not related to their specific discipline of study. A session for anyone who wants to change direction or simply wishes to find out what’s possible with any PhD.
It’s OK to change your mind!
Moving between organisations, roles and sectors, is increasingly common. If you’re feeling trapped, confused or just want to see what’s possible, come and listen to our panel’s positive stories about trying new things.

Making a difference through our work / Social Responsibility
Social responsibility is one of The University of Manchester’s core strategic goals in the Manchester 2020 strategy. This session will explore the panellists’ work relating to social, cultural, economic or environmental issues.

Marketing your skills and your PhD
How do you articulate the benefits of having studied for your PhD and convince employers that you have the skills they are looking for? Our panel will draw on their own experiences and through providing skills training to PhD students to discuss how you can ensure you give yourself the edge over other applicants.

Managing a career in an uncertain world
When it feels like the only certainty in the world is constant turmoil and change, how on earth do you manage your career? In our final interactive session, Dr Jen Allanson will take you on a journey of exploration, reflection and challenge – helping you build the confidence to create your own roadmap to the future.

Should I stay or should I go? Options for international students who wish to work in the UK after their studies
Our panellists have all chosen to remain in the UK since finishing their PhDs. They will talk about the challenges, the opportunities and compare what working in the UK is really like.

Academic roles: pushing the boundaries
Your discipline doesn’t have to be a straitjacket – you can stretch the boundaries, shift your focus within your field, or cut loose altogether. Find out how our panellists haven’t been constrained by their PhD topic.

What are the opportunities to use my expertise to work as a Consultant?
Could your skills or specialist knowledge lead you to a career in consultancy? Our panel will discuss the various Consultancy-related roles they have undertaken.

What do recruiters and employers look for in PhD applicants?
From CVs and applications through to job interviews, what are recruiters looking for when they are assessing PhD candidates? We have invited panellists with experience of hiring PhDs who can give honest insights and share their tips and advice on how you can stand out from other applicants.

Which is better - industry or academia?
Our panels will compare and contrast their experiences of working inside Universities and outside (we’re using “industry” in its broadest sense). Which have they enjoyed more? What are the benefits that each can offer? How have they moved between the two areas?

You don’t just have to work in academia to be a researcher or use your discipline
What are the opportunities to continue a research career or apply your discipline outside Universities? How do these roles differ? Where do you find them and how do you get them?