PhD Non-Academic Careers and Job Search

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Who are the folks in our neighborhood?

How many of you are:

- Undergraduates
- MSc students
- PhD students
- Others?
Amanda: Top 3 Pieces of Advice

• Finding jobs:
  • Your professional network and your online presence are everything
  • Make sure they show you are looking

• Interviewing:
  • Use the opportunity to show & tell them why they want you
  • And show you are interested in them

• Once you have an offer:
  • Don’t feel you have to say yes to the initial offer
  • Do tell them if you have other offers/interviews
Rita: “I Wish I Knew”

- Industry does lots of cool stuff, you just (mostly) don’t hear about it (get an internship)
- You can innovate without writing papers: think patents, think impact, think touching people’s lives
- Think of your career as your own startup
- Don’t forget about life, think about cities that you would like to live in
## Industry to Academia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academia</th>
<th>Industry (other than Research)</th>
<th>National Lab or Industrial Research</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Active publishing in top tier conferences</td>
<td>Must build “real” systems</td>
<td>Mix of building “real” systems and publishing</td>
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<td>Active collaborations with academia</td>
<td>Up-to-date technical skills</td>
<td>Active collaborations with labs and academia</td>
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<td>Establish visibility in research community</td>
<td>Understand business roadmaps</td>
<td>Address agency or company mission critical problems</td>
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<tr>
<td>“Soft” money</td>
<td>“Hard” money</td>
<td>“Soft” and “hard” money</td>
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Becoming a Technical Leader

• Act like one: Show initiative & vision.
• Be trustworthy
  • Follow through on commitments in a timely fashion.
  • Treat people fairly and with respect.
• Demonstrate ability to work with others
• Let people know you are interested
• Work to acquire qualifications
• Find a mentor to help
Backup Questions

- Do internships matter?
- How do I showcase my technical skills?
- Can I publish papers? Contribute to open source projects? Work with students?
- How do I find and get on projects?
- How are projects started?
- What is the interview process like?
- How important is teamwork versus individual work?
- How are my work goals set?
- What is the career path of a researcher in your organization?
- Is it possible to switch during your career: Industry/Academia/National Laboratory/Funding Agency/Non-Profit?