

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



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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



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Industry to Academia

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



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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



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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?



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