

Career Development for Doctoral Researchers

Professor Nicholas C. Vella, Director, Doctoral School
nicholas.vella@um.edu.mt 2340 2047



L-Università
ta' Malta

Grants Week 2021

Presentation

1. The need for continuous professional development
2. What are your needs?
3. What can we offer?
4. What are we working on?



1. The need for career development



2.5. Career development

Career support for doctoral candidates must take into account individual goals and motivations and acknowledge the wide range of careers for doctorate holders.

While the doctoral candidate is responsible for their career choices given the situation on the labour market, **it is the institution's responsibility to provide support structures for professional development. Offering training in transferable skills, including understanding the ethics of research, is central, and should be a priority for doctoral schools and programmes.** Professional development of doctoral candidates includes **awareness about skills attained through doing research** as well as of the wide range of career choices for doctorate holders. Building ties to the other sectors contributes to bridging the communication gap with potential employers and recruiters.



The setting up of the UM's Doctoral School – 2017





 L-Università ta' Malta **NEWSPOINT** Thursday 1 March 2018
[Listen to Campus FM](#)

[Home](#) [News](#) [Events](#) [Noticeboard](#) [Categories](#) [Archives](#) [Contact](#)

UM's Doctoral School to provide Support Framework to Doctoral Researchers

[Newspoint](#) > [News](#) > [Features](#) > 2017 > December > [UM's Doctoral School to provide Support Framework to Doctoral Researchers](#)

In Notifications 13:50, 12 Dec 2017

Share:  96     12



See More



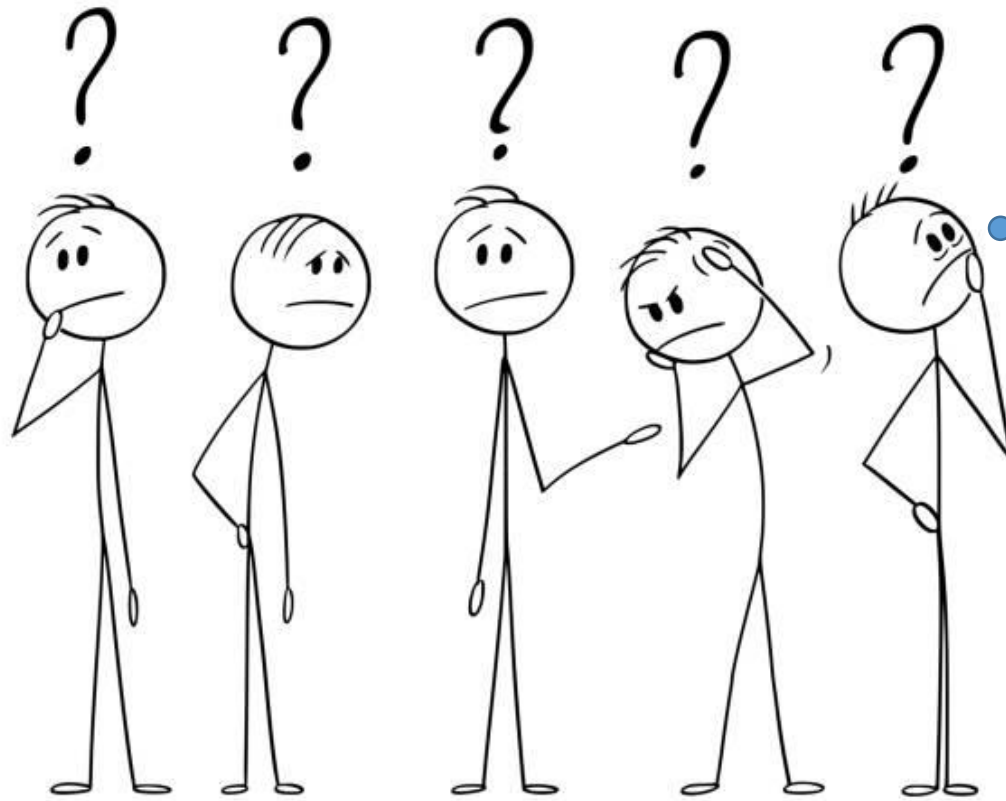
International Summer School 2018 - Lahti, Finland

NOTIFICATIONS 10:09, 28 Feb



2. What are your needs?

What shall I do
with my PhD?



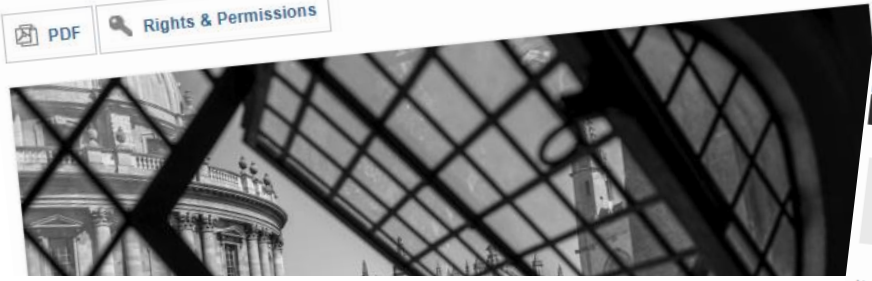
NATURE | EDITORIAL

Many junior scientists need to take a hard look at their job prospects

Permanent jobs in academia are scarce, and someone needs to let PhD students know.

25 October 2017

PDF Rights & Permissions



E-alert RSS Facebook Twitter

Gene count

The most popular genes in the human genome
 A tour through the most studied genes in biology reveals some surprises.

Naturejobs Blog Post

Previous post
 Abandon ship, or learn to swim: the gamble young scientists must make

Next post
 Why scientists should communicate science – getting to the heart of the

About this blog

Naturejobs is the world's leading dedicated science jobs board. The Naturejobs blog aims to be the leading online resource for scientists in academia and industry who seek guidance in developing their careers. The blog delivers a mix of expert advice and personal stories to help readers review, set and achieve their career goals. We like to interact with our readers – we want to know what you want to know. Please share your thoughts in the comments section and get in touch if you have content suggestions. Pitches for guest posts are encouraged and should be emailed to the editor Jack Leeming at naturejobseditor [at] nature.com

E-alert RSS Facebook Twitter

nature.com blogs home

Naturejobs Careers Community
 NEW from Naturejobs, the Naturejobs Careers Community, an open forum for the sharing of expert advice and opinion on developing a career in science. Join today to network, learn and raise your profile to further your career.

E The Economist [Follow](#)
 Insight and opinion on international news, politics, business, finance, science, technology, books and arts.
 Dec 27, 2016 · 10 min read

Why doing a PhD is often a waste of time

The disposable academic



This article originally appeared in the 2010 Christmas double issue of The Economist.

On the evening before All Saints' Day in 1517, Martin Luther nailed 95 theses to the door of a church in Wittenberg. In those days a thesis was simply a position one wanted to argue. Luther, an Augustinian friar,

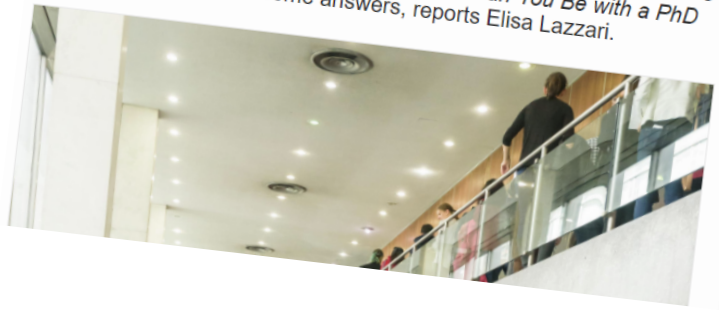
asserted that Christians could not buy their way to heaven. Today a doctoral thesis is both an idea and an account of a period of original research. Writing one is the aim of the hundreds of thousands of students who embark on a doctorate of philosophy (PhD) every year.

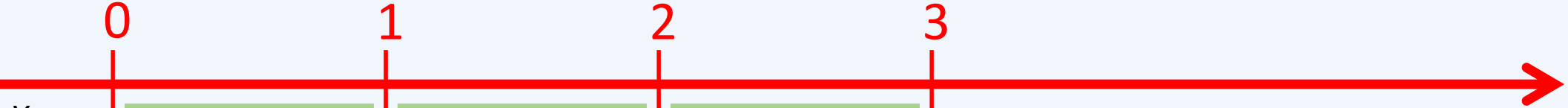
NATUREJOBS | NATUREJOBS BLOG

What Can You Be with a PhD?

17 Nov 2017 | 13:00 GMT | Posted by Rebecca Wild | Category: Academia, Career paths, CV, Events, Industry, PhD

What does it take to land your dream job beyond academia? Do PhDs even have marketable skills? the 2017 *What Can You Be with a PhD* career symposium has some answers, reports Elisa Lazzari.





6 tutorials @ annum

6 tutorials @ annum

6 tutorials @ annum



Submission of application for M.Phil./Ph.D. study

M.Phil./Ph.D. transfer

Submission of thesis for examination

viva-voce examination + revision (minor or major)/resubmission + viva-voce examination (minor)

Milestones

Regulated by UM regulations

3. What can we offer?



3. What can we offer?



GENERAL WORKSHOPS

WRITING
AND
COMMUNICATION

RESEARCH,
INTEGRITY
AND VALORISATION

PERSONAL
DEVELOPMENT

LOOKING BEYOND
GRADUATION



3. What can we offer?

www.um.edu.mt/doctorschool/professionaldevelopment



CONTENTS

WORKSHOP/SYMPOSIUM SCHEDULE

GENERAL WORKSHOPS 4

Starting on Your Ph.D.	4
Managing Your Doctoral Journey Successfully	7
Upgrading from M.Phil. to Ph.D. – the Transfer Phase	8
Preparing for the Viva	11
Introducing the University of Malta's Library Services to Doctoral Researchers	12

WRITING AND COMMUNICATION SKILLS 15

Articulating the Research Gap in the Doctoral Thesis	15
The Literature Review	16
Presentation Techniques	19
Convincing and Debating	20
Debating with the Media	23

RESEARCH, INTEGRITY AND VALORISATION 24

Research Integrity and Research Ethics	24
Understanding Intellectual Property (IP)	27
Research Impact: Make Yourself RRI Ready and Innovation (RRI) Ready	28
Quantitative Research Methods: an Introduction	31
Qualitative Research Methods: an Introduction	32
Approaching Doctoral Research through Mixed Methods	35
Validity and Reliability in Quantitative and Qualitative Research	36
Statistical Methods for the Humanities and the Social Sciences	38
Introduction to Repertory Grid Technique	41
Introduction to NVivo for Qualitative Data Analysis	42
Reflections on the Use of Grounded Theory in Qualitative Research	45
Data Analysis with Python	46

Machine Learning with Python	49
Introduction to LaTeX: Typesetting Your Thesis or Research Paper	50
Getting Published: the Conference Paper	53
Getting Published: the Journal Article (Humanities, Education and Law)	54
Getting Published: the Journal Article (Life Sciences and Medicine)	57
Getting Published: the Journal Article (Architecture and STEM)	58
Getting Published: the Journal Article (Social and Behavioural Sciences)	61
Getting Published: Preparing the Book Proposal	62

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT 65

Understanding and Developing Assertiveness	65
Recognising Stress and Developing Coping Strategies	66
Leadership for the 21st Century	69
An Introduction to Critical and Creative Thinking	70
Dealing with Conflict Situations	73
Introduction to Student Mentoring	74
Basic Lecturing Skills	77
Enhancing Small Group Teaching and Learning	78
Basic Research Supervision Skills	81

LOOKING BEYOND GRADUATION 82

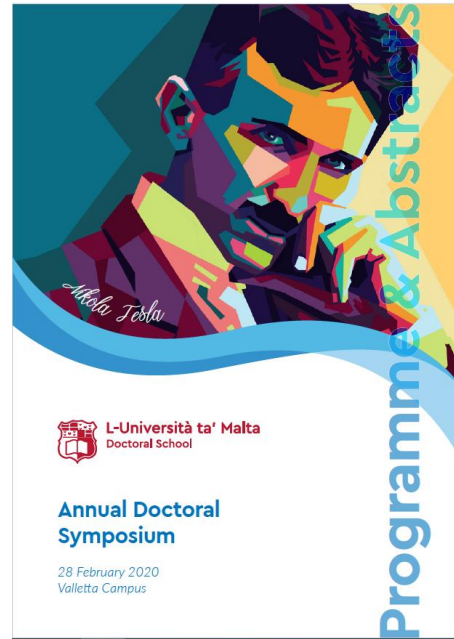
Communicating Research to Diverse Audiences	82
Employability Skills: Perspectives from Employers	85
Writing Effective CVs and Job Application Letters	86
Preparing for a Job Interview	89
Writing Winning Grant Applications	90
Practical Aspects to Implementing EU-Funded Projects	93
An Introduction to Entrepreneurship and the Commercialisation of IP	94

ANNUAL DOCTORAL SYMPOSIUM 96

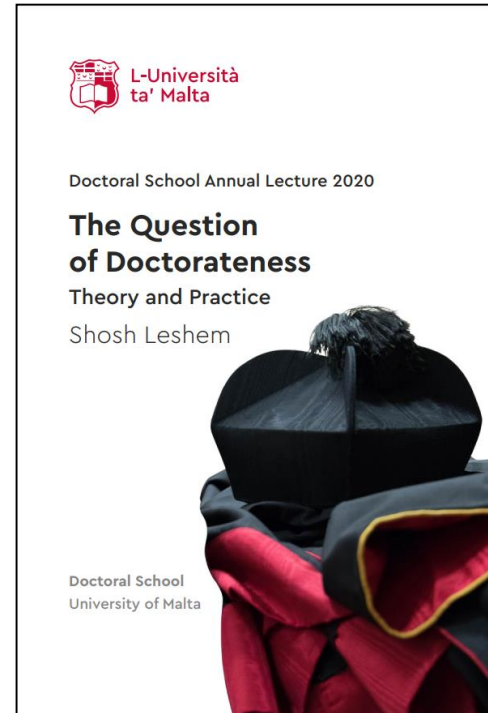
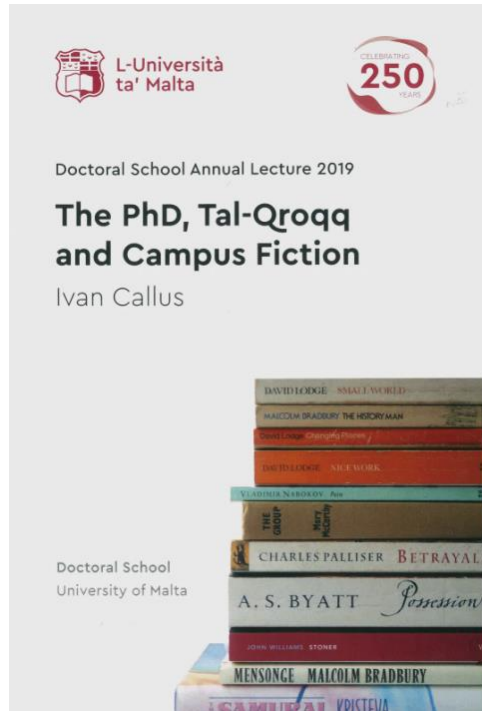


3. What can we offer?

www.um.edu.mt/doctorschool/professionaldevelopment



3. What can we offer?



Doctoral School Annual Lecture 2021
Everyone runs a business



4. What are we working on?

- Fostering a research atmosphere on campus
- Increasing the visibility of doctoral research (in collaboration with the Communications & Alumni Office)
- Tracking the career paths of doctoral alumni
- Aligning the needs of industry with doctoral programmes



DOC





 **L-Università ta' Malta**
Doctoral School

Doctoral School
University of Malta
Msida MSD 2080

um.edu.mt/doctorschool
☎ (+356) 2340 3254
✉ doctorschool@um.edu.mt
f /umdocschool



www.um.edu.mt/doctorschool