

Careers support for PhD students

Careers Consultants

Two specialist Careers Consultants, Andrea Cox and Dr Tracy Bussoli, provide careers support for PhD students and postdoctoral/early career researchers across all three faculties at Queen Mary University of London (QMUL).

One to Ones

Free, **confidential one-to-one appointments** are available to PhD students and postdoctoral researchers each week. We run phone and Skype appointments as well as seeing researchers at The Careers and Enterprise Centre (WG3, near the Octagon in the Queens Building). To book a 30 minute appointment call **020 7882 8533**, or visit the Careers and Enterprise Centre. You can discuss a range of issues, including:

- Career options, planning and job hunting (whether you want a career in the general labour market, in industry or in academia)
- Career strategy (this could include responding to Brexit, goal setting, finding a mentor etc.)
- Defining your priorities, strengths and values as they relate to your career
- CV, covering letter and application advice
- Interview preparation (including practice interviews)

To find out more, visit: www.careers.qmul.ac.uk/researchers/advice/index.html

Events

A range of alumni, employer, and student-led events are timetabled each academic year, including:

- PhD alumni **discussion panels** and **speed networking** events
- **Employer-led events** - talks from employers. For example, employers at previous events have included PhD alumni discussing self-employment and a social enterprise called *The Brilliant Club* that arranges for PhD students to deliver tutorials in secondary schools. Book these via careers.qmul.ac.uk/events
- **Café Scientifique** (hosted in collaboration with our Centre for Academic and Professional Development) - speakers are current PhD students talking about their research to non-specialist audiences. Volunteering to talk at these events is a great way to practise and develop your communication and public engagement skills.

Events are listed and available to book at: www.cpdbookings.qmul.ac.uk.

Workshops

A variety of workshops, tailored to PhD students. These are all listed and available to book at www.cpdbookings.qmul.ac.uk, and include:

- **Academic career planning** - delves into the skills and experiences required for a career in academia, where to look for academic jobs and what should be included in a good application
- **CVs and applications for jobs outside Academia** - explores how to identify the skills you have developed during your PhD and present them in a way that is meaningful to a broad range of employers
- **Interview skills** - gives an overview of the skills and experiences that academics and non-academic recruiters are looking for and how to answer interview questions using evidence to substantiate your answers
- **Career Options beyond Academia** - includes case studies from former QMUL research alumni who have moved into non-academic career paths
- **LinkedIn secrets for researchers: finding jobs outside academia** - A practical workshop to help you develop your *LinkedIn* profile and enhance your job hunting and networking skills through *LinkedIn*.

Careers resources and job opportunities

- **Careers and Enterprise website:** <http://www.careers.qmul.ac.uk/researchers> - information about our services for PhD students and researchers, resources on career management and planning academic and non-academic careers, useful links, CV and covering letter templates and guides for researchers
- **DC Blog:** <https://doctoralcollege.wordpress.com/> - includes regular input from the Careers & Enterprise team, including information on getting into different careers sectors, case studies of what other PhD alumni have gone on to do and opportunities.
- **QM JobOnline:** www.careers.qmul.ac.uk/jobs - contains jobs (searchable by degree level – e.g. PhD) that are relevant to undergraduates, Masters Students and PhDs. Many of the advertised jobs are specifically for Queen Mary students

Work Experience

QConsult Researchers

In summer 2018, Careers & Enterprise piloted a new six week work scheme, exclusively aimed at QMUL PhD and postdoctoral researchers. The selected QConsult Researchers worked in an interdisciplinary team of four to solve a real-life business challenge at a local organisation. The researchers were given a short project brief from their client, outlining the challenge, and had to provide present their findings and recommendations to the client at the end of six weeks via a presentation and written business report. Training and support (e.g. on project management and presentation skills) were provided by Careers & Enterprise.

We are currently seeking funding to roll out the scheme in 2018/19. Visit www.careers.qmul.ac.uk/researchers/qconsult-researchers for more details.

Other careers support from the QMUL Careers and Enterprise centre

Work experience

Internship and work placement opportunities (note: these are available to all QMUL students)

The Careers and Enterprise Centre also offers a number of paid, temporary, full-time and part-time work experience opportunities through our QTemps recruitment agency. Although the scheme is not specifically aimed at PhD students, some of the roles advertised are more suited to PhDs than undergraduates.

Support for enterprise and entrepreneurship

The Careers & Enterprise Centre also provide a range of activities to support enterprise and entrepreneurship. We have funding advice to support you with a business idea and run events and workshops to help develop your commercial awareness and entrepreneurial skills. Visit www.careers.qmul.ac.uk/students/enterprise to find out more.

Activities specifically for PhD students

- There are opportunities to participate in Biotechnology YES (www.biotechnologyyes.co.uk) each year. Contact: Andrea Cox (andrea.cox@qmul.ac.uk), Careers Consultant for Researchers, for more details.

Enterprise activities open to all QMUL students

- **QIncubator** provides seed funding, mentoring and training to help you to test and develop entrepreneurial ideas. The program currently runs twice a year for 12 weeks. Participants have weekly group and 1-1 mentoring workshops, plus training sessions covering all aspects of running a successful start-up business, including marketing, pitching, and business planning.
- **Funding:** up to £10,000 is available through our funding awards, which are part of the QIncubator programme:
 - **'Try it' prizes:** grants of up to **£500** to get a social enterprise or business idea off the ground. You don't need to have a business plan, just a problem you want to solve and some ideas on how to do it.
 - **'Grow it' prizes:** awards of up to **£5,000** to develop an existing profit-making or social enterprise. The enterprise doesn't have to be profitable yet, but you do need to show a clear pathway to profitability and outline exactly how this money would help you to take your enterprise to the next stage.
 - **'Build it' prizes** (sponsored by Santander): grants of up to **£10,000** to develop a new product (e.g. an app, website, or physical prototype). You must provide evidence that your product has commercial potential and offers an innovative solution to a market need.

To find out more, visit: www.careers.qmul.ac.uk/students/enterprise/Funding.

- **Enterprise appointments:** one-to-one appointments for advice for students on anything from your marketing strategy to funding applications.
- **3 Day Startup Bootcamp:** a 72-hour 'learning-by-doing' on-campus workshop that teaches entrepreneurial skills in a hands-on environment. Students develop a business idea from concept to pitch over the three days. See more information at: <http://queenmary.3daystartup.org/>
- **East London Social Hack:** a 3-day bootcamp that equips you with the skills you need to start your own social enterprise from scratch. Over the weekend you'll learn the basics including idea generation using the social lean canvas, market testing and validation, and how to create impact for users. The bootcamp culminates with a final pitch event to a judging panel, where teams have the opportunity to pitch for a package of funding.
- **Makers' Market:** showcasing student entrepreneurs, designers, inventors and crafters from QMUL and part of the larger Festival of Communities run by The Public Engagement Team.
- **Start-Up, Stand-Up:** young business people give light-hearted reflections on their road to success, aiming to inspire the audience to start their own businesses.
- **Various tailored workshops and networking events:** including How to Develop a Business Plan, Legal Issues Faced by Start-Ups, How to Raise Funding and Issues Faced by Females in Entrepreneurship.