Making it in Academia 2016
for life science Postdocs and PhD students
Navigating Established Academic Career Options
Session 1: What’s available to me in Academia – the UK and Beyond

Session 2: How I secured a lectureship/group leader position (and what it’s like)

Session 3: How to give yourself the best chance
- Creating opportunities during a postdoc to become independent
- Interview and chalk talk

Session 4: Roles for quantitative ‘dry lab’ researchers
Parallel (Room G24 - Ground floor, entrance level, Law Faculty)

Academic Careers Abroad throughout the day
Answers from Today

• What do independent academics do?
• What type of institution would suit me best?
• What achievement are needed to secure a position?
• What can I do now to become independent?
• Application and interview tips
• Is it the right career for me?
Introduction to Lectureship and Group Leader Positions in the UK
UK Terminology

Group Leader

Principal Investigator

Supervisor

Directing research
UK Terminology

Lecturer

Directing research
Writing grants, deciding on where/when to publish, supervising PhD students and postdocs

Teaching undergraduates
Writing lectures, practicals, examining work, course model design
The UK Academic Career Path

Postdoc

Fixed-term contract, not independent

PhD

Fellowship
(Junior group leader)

Independent, semi-established
Fixed-term contract

Lecturer

Senior Lecturer

Group leader

Most established academic jobs are lectureships

Reader

Professor

Independent, established, open-ended contract
Lectureships/Group Leader Jobs Can Differ
Different ratios of Research and Teaching

Today and online at www.careers.cam.ac.uk
### Number of HEIs in the UK

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>England</td>
<td>130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scotland</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wales</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Ireland</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>165</td>
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Jobs advertised at: [www.jobs.ac.uk](http://www.jobs.ac.uk)
Academic Employers Can Differ

- Wide variety of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs)

- “Russell Group” – research focused

- 1992: 66 “new” universities established many former polytechnics – teaching focused
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>University of Birmingham</th>
<th>London School of Economics &amp; Political Science</th>
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<td>University of Bristol</td>
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<td>University of Edinburgh</td>
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<td>University of Exeter</td>
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<td>University of Glasgow</td>
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<td>King's College London</td>
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<td>University of Leeds</td>
<td>University of Warwick</td>
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<td>University of Liverpool</td>
<td>University of York</td>
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• Many UK universities do excellent research but how do you get an overview?

• Talk to senior people in your field, look at papers, conferences

• Try looking at the results of the 2014 Research Excellent Framework (REF2014) http://www.ref.ac.uk/

• REF 2014 assessed research ‘outputs’ produced between 2008 and 2013
30% world-leading (4*)
46% internationally excellent (3*)
20% recognised internationally (2*)
3% recognised nationally (1*)
A Recent Focus on Teaching

- Teaching Excellent Framework (TEF) as in REF!
- Government consultation (‘green paper’) on Teaching in HEIs – Nov 2015

Most HEIs league tables do not include measure of teaching quality

Outstanding teachers should enjoy the same professional recognition

Teaching should have equal status with research

Provide better training for lecturers
Response from University of Cambridge

• Make teaching a more prominent part of both recruitment and promotion criteria

• Request that the recruitment process include giving a sample lecture or class to make expectations clear

• New Centre for Teaching Excellence

• Careers Service guide to gaining different types of teaching experience
  
  http://www.careers.cam.ac.uk/pdocsci/Academic/Teaching.asp
Changes to Fellowships

• BBSRC and MRC have changed their eligibility criteria for their Career Development fellowships – no max number of years experience
Insights into UK Academia