

Report

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Post PhD Career path by Dr Norman MacLeod

Dr Norman MacLeod was presenting the main options after finishing the PhD. He started with the explanation that a self estimation of the core skills is necessary and if this skills are directly 'saleable' or if additional training is necessary.

This introduction was followed by a list of possible work options. The first was academia, which has the main advantages that it is based on the core knowledge and gives the option to stay at the home institute or switch to another research institution. Examples are government backed laboratory, utility backed laboratory or private backed laboratory.

Also manufacturers give a wide range of work areas. This includes equipment research division, production, system studying, modelling or software division.

Or start working for Utilities, e.g. in power transmission or power distribution. Each with the work areas design, planning, economics or equipments.

The last education related option was consultants. It gives the options of system studies, network studies, equipment studies and economics. Consultants companies exist in a wide range of size, from small with less than 20 employees to large with more than 1000 employees.

The skills brought by a PhD are also valuable for other sectors, such as finances and insurance. There interests are the mathematical and computing skills. Or as special adviser on key marked sectors for transmission and distribution or generation. In the direction of law an option can be to work for a legal firm or as a patent attorney, but with the limitation that probably an additional degree is needed.

The same limitation is valid in education. The last option is to start in journalism as a technical author or specialist correspondent for magazines, newspaper, website, etc.