Life After PhD
Finding a Job, Academic Careers vs Industry & Research Labs
Outline

- Introduction
- Choices (Academia vs Industry)
- Academia
- Industry
- Conclusion
What are planning to do after your PhD?
Are you willing to work in Academia or Industry after finishing your PhD?

14 responses

- Academia: 42.9%
- Industry (Research labs included): 7.1%
- Not Sure: 50%
Do I really look like a guy with a plan?
Academia vs Industry
Academia vs Industry

Figure D6. Employment of New Ph.D.s in U.S. and Canada
CRA Taulbee Survey 2014

Source: https://80000hours.org/career-reviews/computer-science-phd/
# Academia vs Industry

**Academia**
- Freedom
- Intellectual autonomy
- Flexible hours
- Teaching
- Stability
- Fund Managing

**Industry**
- High salary
- Direct impact on real-world problems
- Less overhead
- Teamwork
- Constrained and monotone
Keep In Mind

1. Your priorities
2. Your interests
3. Your strength

- Personality
- Think long-term
Your Decision

Only YOU know what is best for YOU
Academia
Academia Jobs

- Non-tenure track
- Tenure track
Academia Jobs

• Lecturer/Teaching Professor
• Postdoctoral Researcher
• Professor
• Other
Lecturer/Teaching Professor

- Generally non-tenure track
- Teaching position
- No research obligation
Postdoctoral Researcher

• Non-tenure track

• Continuation of researcher’s training

• Pathway to be an independent researcher

• Can do multiple postdocs
Professor

- Tenure track
- Assistant Professor
Professor

- Tenure track

- Assistant Professor -> Associate Professor
Professor

- Tenure track
- Assistant Professor -> Associate Professor -> Professor
Professor - Responsibilities

- Manage funding
- Conduct research
- Collaborate
- Publish paper
- Teaching
- Mentor students
- Other Services
Other

Adjunct Professor

• Part-time/non-permanent faculty
• Can be employed elsewhere
• Lack of benefits
Application Steps

• Initial Application

• Request for transcripts and references

• Interview

• Offer
Phase 1 & 2 - Things to Remember

- Understanding employee’s expectation
- No typographical or grammatical errors
- Distinguish your application
- Brief letter of transmittal
Phase 1 & 2 - Tips

Up-to-date CV  Strong Reference  Do NOT procrastinate

Start working on seminar if you are in phase 2!
Phase 3: The Interview

• A series of visits

• Dress like you belong

• Lunch/Dinner with host

• **Future research plan?**
Seminar Tips

- Don’t be too technical & wordy
- Don’t use too much color
- Practice beforehand
- Manage time carefully
- Visit the seminar room beforehand
Phase 3 - Your End

• You are also buying (Learn about the place as much possible)

• Negotiation

  You get what you negotiate, not what you deserve

• Follow-up Letter
Phase 4 – The Worst Case

- Don’t feel too bad
- Send response mail
Phase 4 – The Best Case

CONGRATULATIONS

Do NOT immediately say YES!
Negotiation

- Startup Package
- Salary
- Moving expenses
- Health care
- Appointments of spouses or partners
- Other specific issues

Be Honest & Play Fair
Multiple Best Cases – Things to Consider

- Reputation
- Startup Package
- Collaboration Opportunities
- Salary
- Teaching Load
- Geography
- Your overall impression
Industry
What industry includes

- Starting your own company
- Work in a research lab
- Work in a company
If you think you have a novel idea, why not start your own company?

It is beneficial if your idea is part of your conducted research.
Work in a Research Lab

It is a hybrid model between academia and Industry

Google is one of the biggest companies that offer such opportunities
Industry Pays More!

Median salary

- Postdoc
- Academia
- Industry

$120K


Data: National Science Foundation

M. Kuo/Science
Acadia: Indirect Impact: the ideas influence other people.

Finding a Job

To find a job you have to focus your energy.

You can’t just apply to every single job you find online.
Disadvantages compared to MSc and BSc graduates

- You are not a fresh (and young) MSc or BSc graduate ready to be groomed by the corporate philosophy.

- You have little relevant industry experience. And because of your age and qualifications, you are a bit expensive.
Advantages compared to MSc and BSc graduates

- Your research makes you unique and irreplaceable in the eyes of employers

- The path to a PhD has cultivated abilities that few people have the chance. (Teaching, Research)

- The connections you have created while pursuing your PhD might help you get a better job

- You have learned to follow novel research which will always place you a step ahead

- Your presentation skills are better
What to Consider

What kind of job you want?

What are your weaknesses?

What skills can you leverage?

Can you use other people to achieve your goals?
Useful Tips to Get an Industry Job

- Develop networking during your grad life
- Let everybody know you are job hunting
- Use LinkedIn to contact people with the same kind of job you want
- Contact both recruiters and employees
Useful Tips to Get an Industry Job

Keep searching even if you get invited for interviews

Do not think that you will be treated special if you have a PhD

When they turn you down, try harder!
Finding an Industry Job Stages
Questions?