Life After PhD

Finding a Job, Academic Careers vs Industry & Research Labs

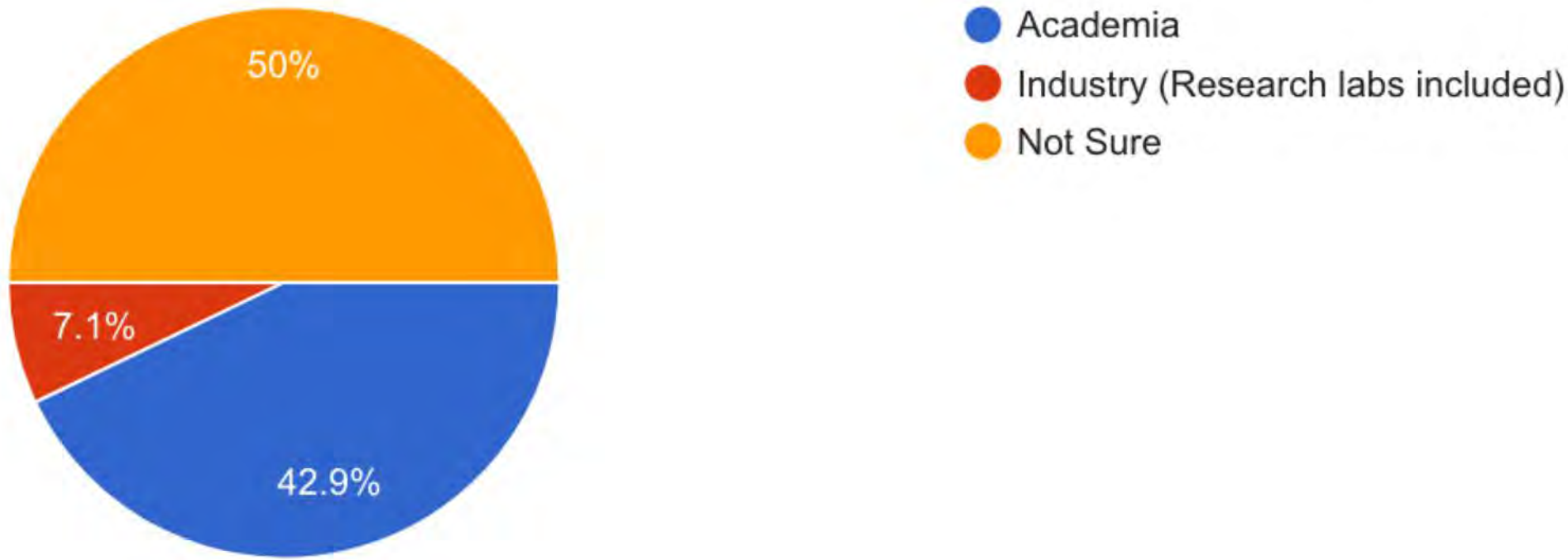
Outline

- Introduction
- Choices (Academia vs Industry)
- Academia
- Industry
- Conclusion

What are planning to do after your PhD?

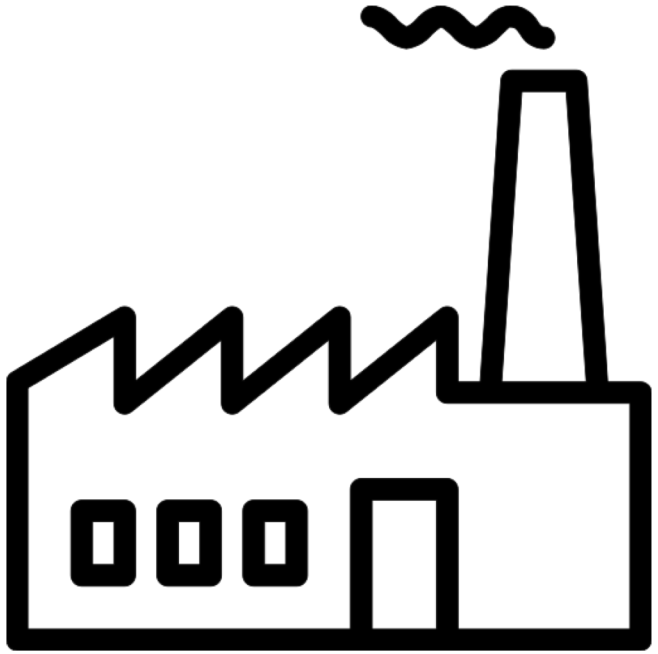
Are you willing to work in Academia or Industry after finishing your PhD?

14 responses

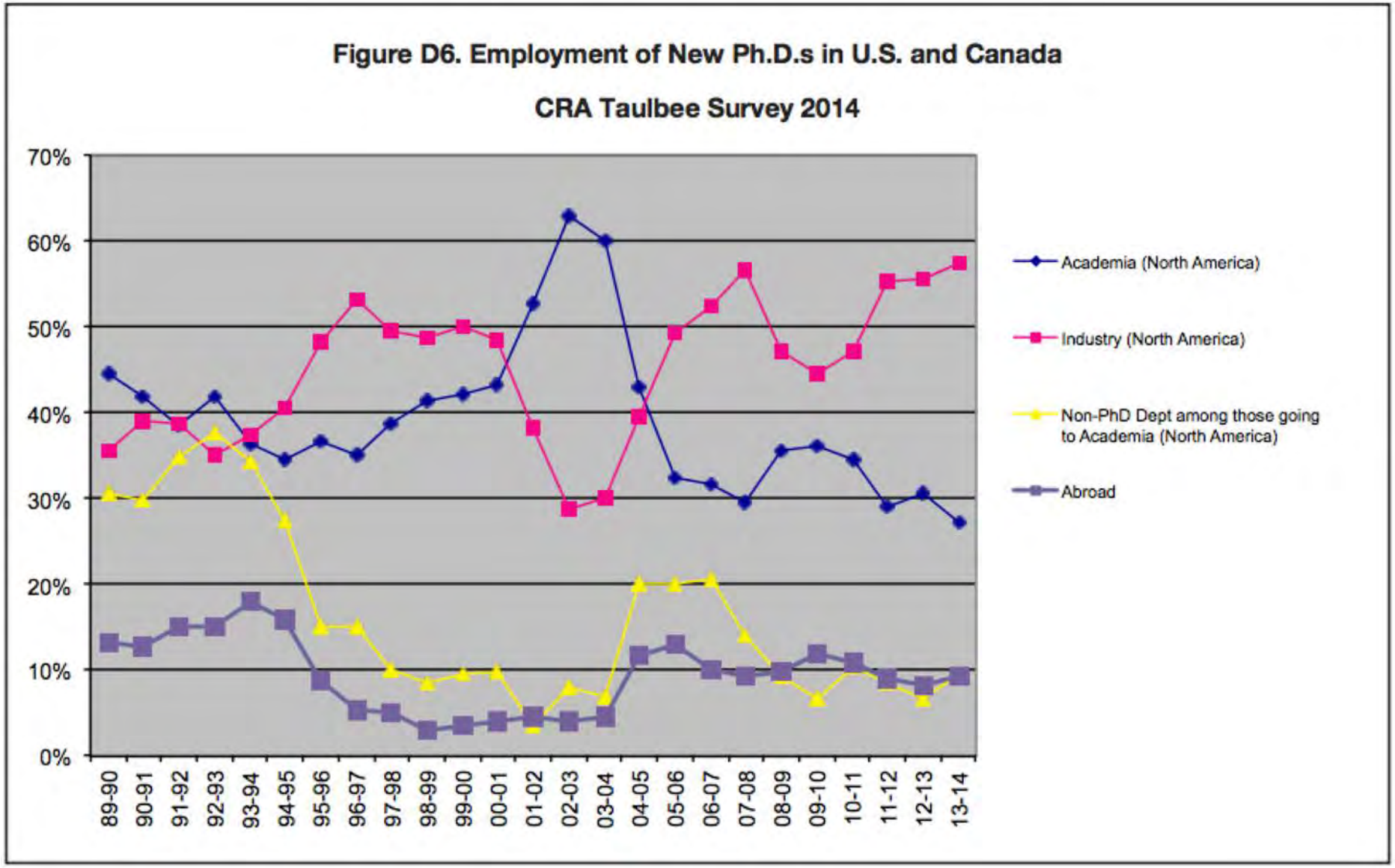



Do I really look like a guy with a plan?

Academia vs Industry



Academia vs Industry



Source: https://80000hours.org/career-reviews/computer-science-phd/

Academia vs Industry

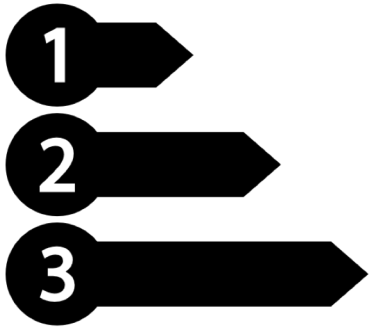
Academia

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

Industry

- High salary
- Direct impact on real-world problems
- Less overhead
- Teamwork
- Constrained and monotone

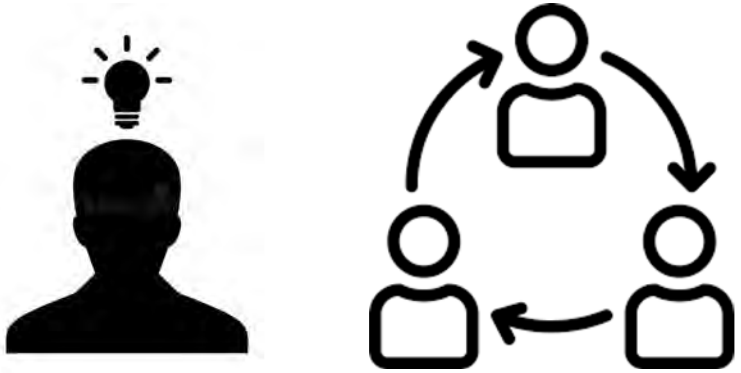
Keep In Mind



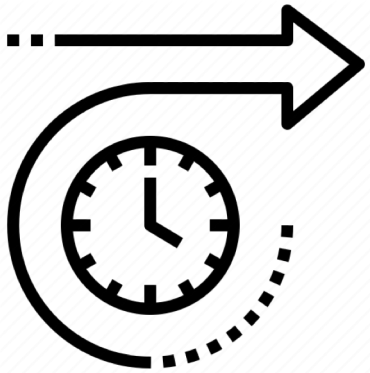
Your priorities

Your interests

Your strength



Personality



Think long-term

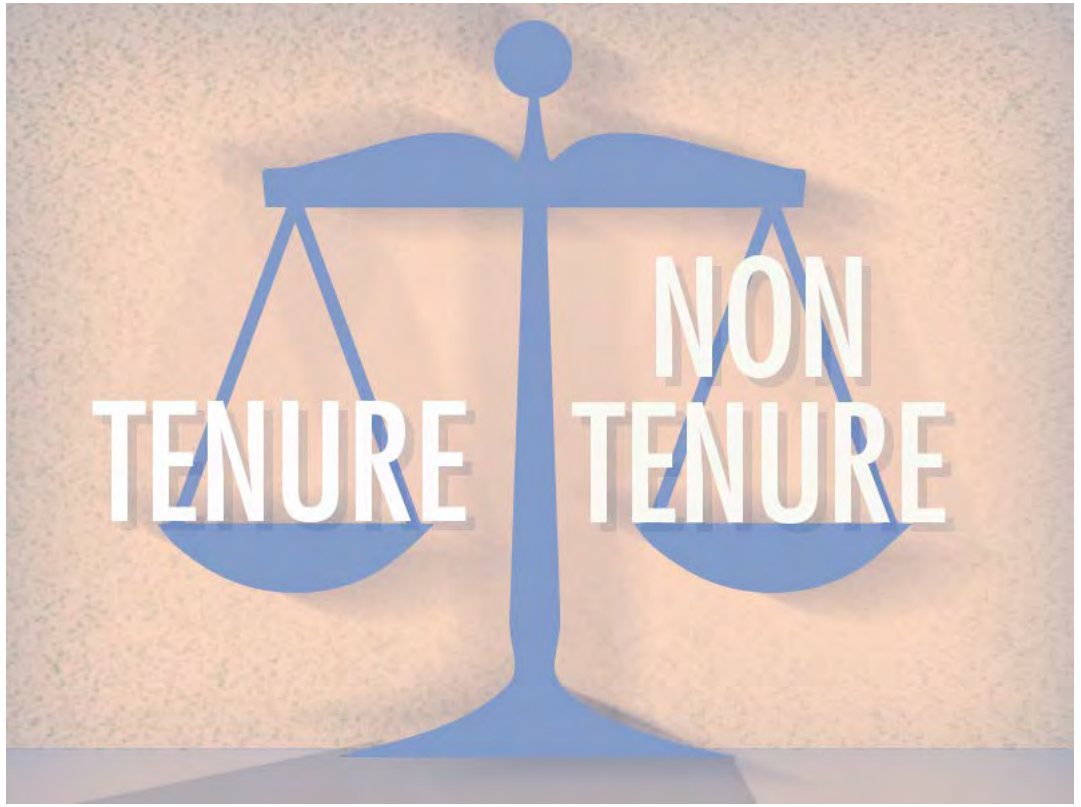
Your Decision

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

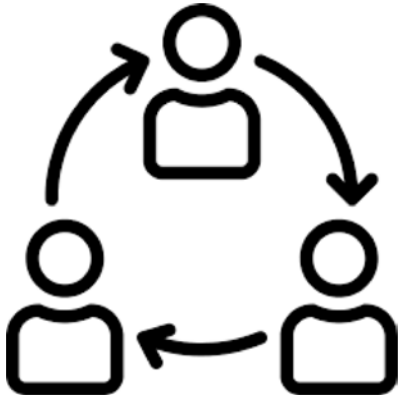
Professor

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

Professor - Responsibilities

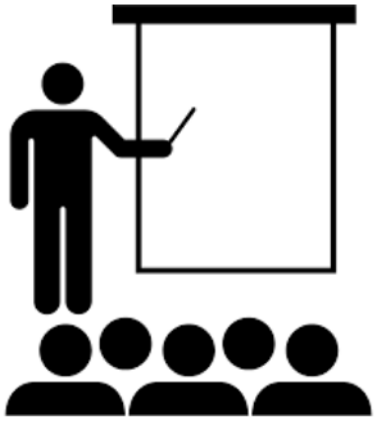
Manage funding

Conduct research



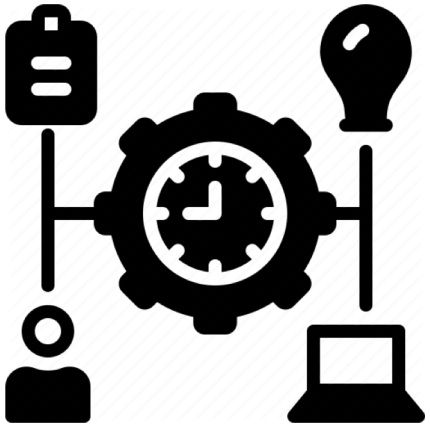
Collaborate

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

Do NOT immediately say YES!

Negotiation

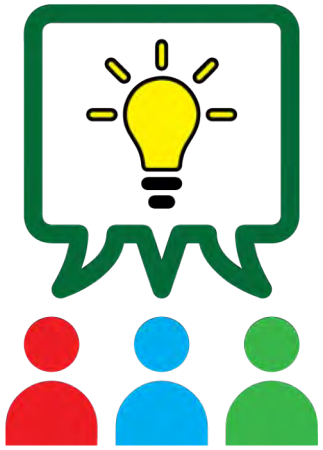
- Startup Package
- Salary
- Moving expenses
- Health care
- Appointments of spouses or partners
- Other specific issues

Be Honest & Play Fair

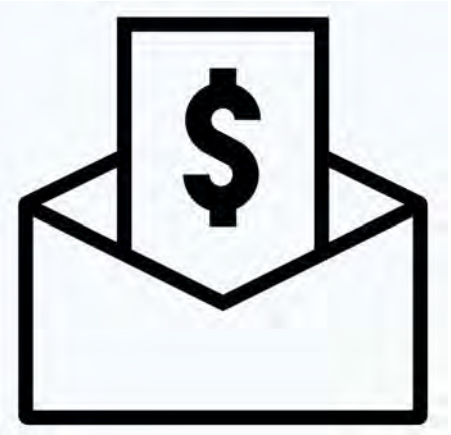
Multiple Best Cases – Things to Consider

Reputation

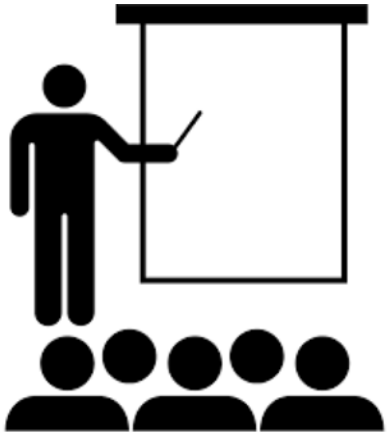
Startup Package



Collaboration Opportunities

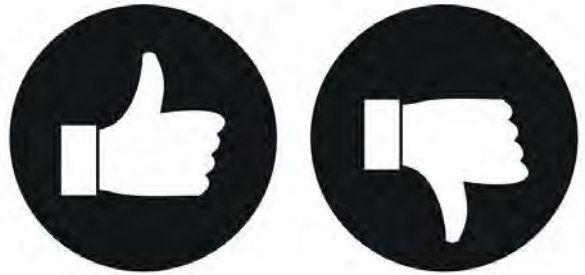


Salary



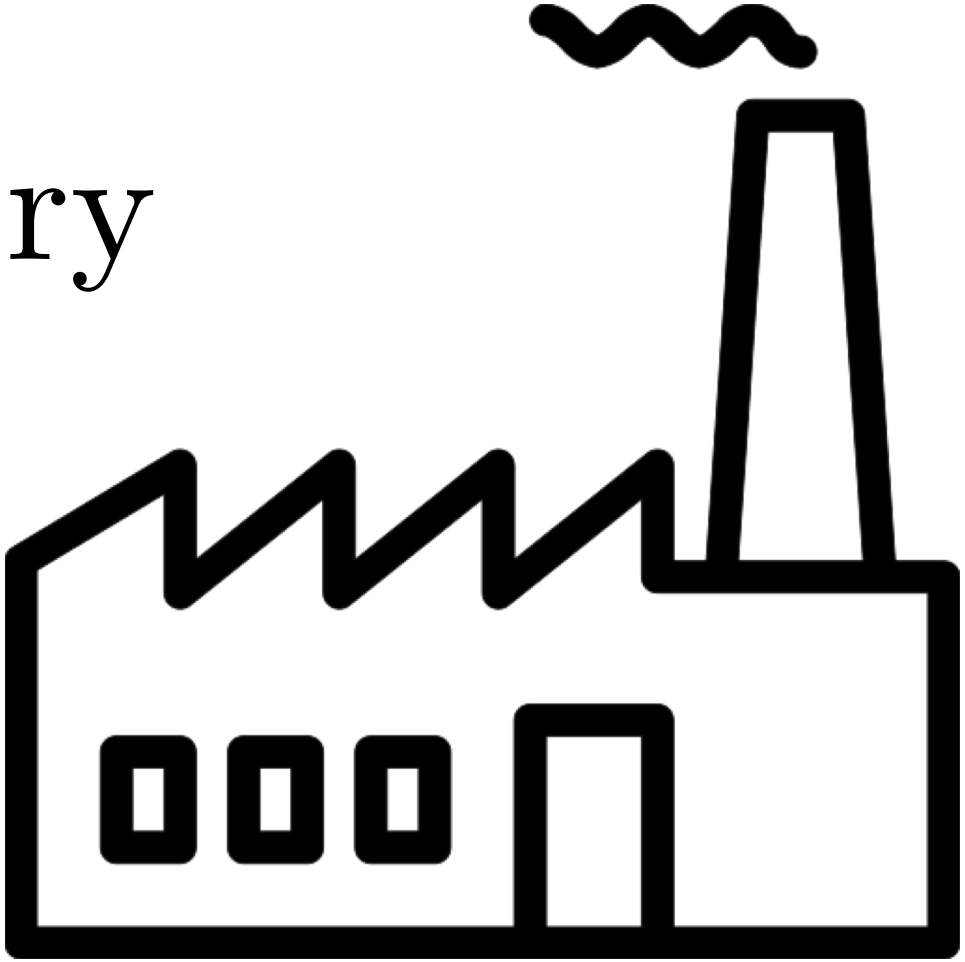
Teaching Load

Geography



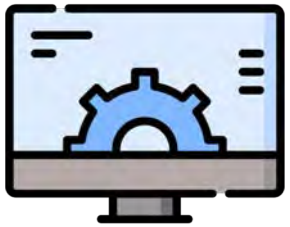
Your overall impression

Industry

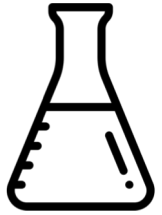


What industry includes

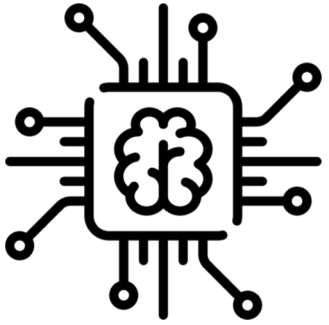
- Starting your own company



- Work in a research lab



- Work in a company



Start-up your own company

If you think you have a novel idea, why not start your own company?

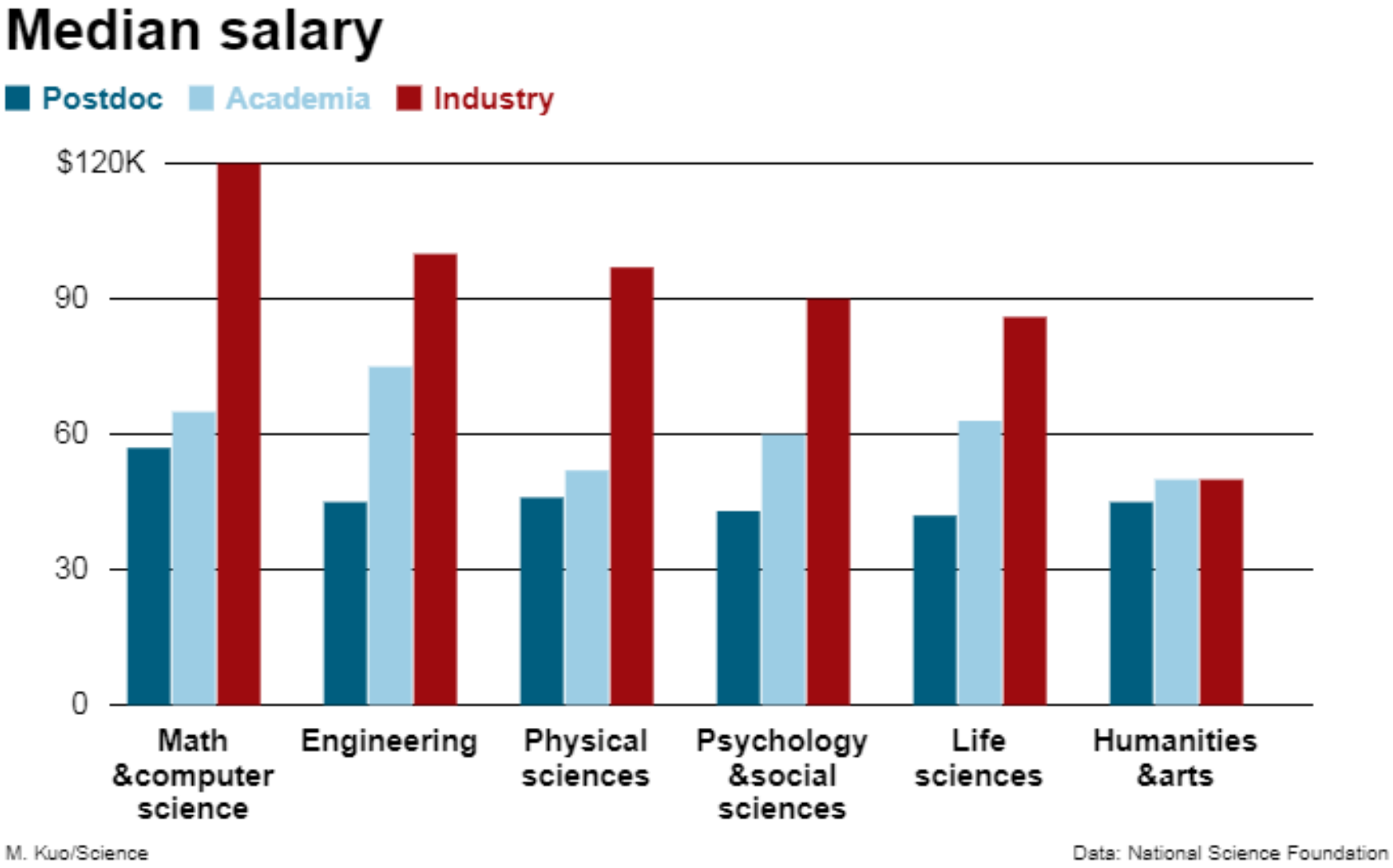
It is beneficial if your idea is part of your conducted research

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!



Source: https://www.sciencemag.org/careers/2017/07/what-comes-after-phd-check-out-data#

Impact

Academia: Indirect Impact: the ideas influence other people.

Industry: direct, immediate impact. New products: drugs, phone, software.

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

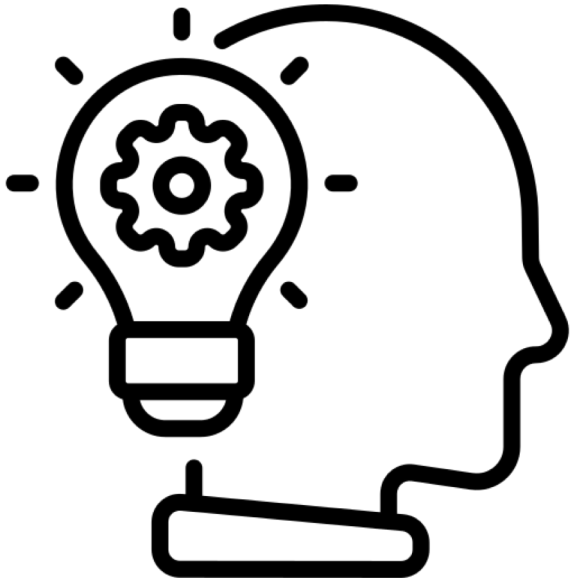
- You are not a fresh (and young) MSc or BSc graduate ready to be groomed by the corporate philosophy.

- 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

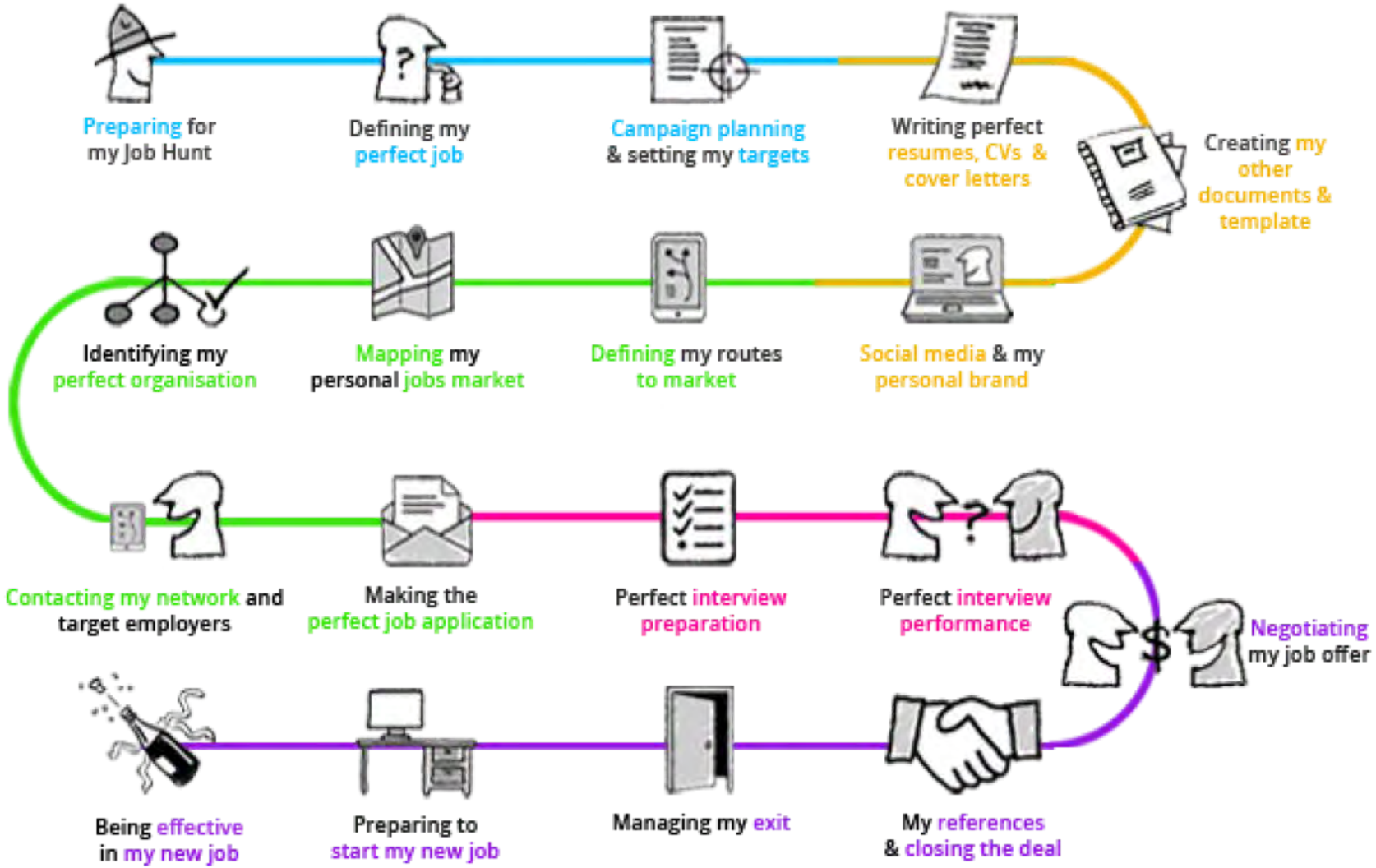
Useful Tips to Get an Industry Job

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?