

## Resource Guide: 10 career websites every PhD should visit!

by Chris Humphrey, PhD; founder of careers blog [Jobs on Toast](#)

What could your life look like after your PhD, if you chose to pursue a career outside of academia? You can find out by browsing through the hundreds of inspiring post-PhD interviews, profiles and autobiographies available online. To save you the trouble of tracking them all down, here are ten websites which in my opinion carry some of the best post-PhD interviews and profiles. In no particular order they are:

1. [PhDs At Work — Insight and Advice on Life Beyond Academia](#). Michelle Erickson takes the PhD interview format to a whole new level with her 'week-in-the-life' approach. PhDs working in corporate and non-profit sectors give accounts of what they do in their day jobs, showing how skills learned in the PhD are put to use outside of academia. Professional photography and cool site navigation make this site a real pleasure to use. My favourite part is the way that each contributor's dissertation title is listed too! Sign up by email to get a post every day of the week, when a new interview is posted.

2. [From PhD to Life](#) - Jennifer Polk's website has massively raised the profile of informational interviewing as a tool to assist in PhD career development. The [Transition Questions and Answers](#) section of the site contains Jen's interviews with PhDs who've taken the plunge and are now enjoying fantastic and fulfilling careers! This approach has elicited some great insights and advice from PhDs: two of my all-time favourite interviews are with [Sarah Kendzior](#) and [Sam Ladner](#). There's also a useful list of links to individual PhD interviews to found elsewhere on the web.

3. [The Versatile PhD](#) - VPhD is already well-known for its discussion forums, job postings and local area meet-ups. The site also has a Premium area where you can find 80 personal profiles written by humanities and social science PhDs who were hired straight out of academia. Not only that, you can read some of the actual résumés and cover letters they used to get their post-ac jobs! In addition you can view career autobiographies from PhDs who have been out of academia for a while. Check whether your university or association is on the [list of subscribing institutions](#) for the Premium content.

4. [Beyond the PhD](#) - This rich resource from the University of Reading features profiles of researchers who have gone into both academic and non-academic careers. There is so much content here that you could be browsing for days, with audio clips as well as timelines and transcripts! Helpfully the audio clips are also organised by topic, such as 'Deciding against an academic career' and 'Employer attitudes to the PhD', so you can come back again and again at different stages in your career journey.

5. [GradSquare](#) – On this site you can sign up for live jobs that match your profile, or contact recruiters directly and let them find you a job. There's also an excellent podcast series, GradSquare Radio, which has interviews with researchers working both inside and outside academia. Listen to the interviews directly on the site or [subscribe in iTunes](#).

6. [Vitae](#) – This fantastic UK website for researchers has a whole section dedicated to careers outside academia. In this section you can browse more than thirty five profiles of [researchers now working in non-academic roles](#), including suggestions and advice, and a link to their LinkedIn profile. If you fancy setting up your own business, you can check out more than thirty profiles of [researchers who are now entrepreneurs](#).

7. [The Unemployed Philosopher's Blog](#) - Dan Mullin's blog features in-depth audio interviews with several well-known writers on post-academic matters, including Julie Clarenbach, Lauren Nervosa and Jennifer Polk. Each interviewee talks candidly about their grad school experience, how they made the transition out of academia, and what they're doing now. You can listen to the interviews directly on the blog or [subscribe in iTunes](#). Dan is so talented, he didn't stay unemployed for very long!

8. [PhD Career Guide](#) - Mike D'Ecclessis's career website is another place to find in-depth audio interviews with PhDs outside academia. You can listen to the [interviews on the site](#) or [subscribe in iTunes](#). I really enjoyed the interview with Nathan Vanderford, especially his reflections on the importance of being 'career conscious' during your PhD.

9. [What Are All The PhDs? Sharing the Career Path of All PhDs](#) - This is a great idea: people with PhDs can submit a career profile to this Tumblr site founded by Nathan Vanderford. Since the contributors sprinkle their profiles with links, you can also get access to the 'world of work' beyond the individual, which is especially helpful for learning more about particular career paths out of academia. Go ahead and submit your profile to the site!

10. [Life After the PhD](#) - Another website featuring written interviews with PhDs who are forging fantastic careers outside of academia. A must-read is the profile of Caroline Cakebread, an English PhD and Shakespeare scholar who's now turned her hand to financial journalism - and runs her own marketing firm! The interviews on the site are very detailed and you really feel like you get to know the interviewees after reading their stories.

I hope you enjoy reading and listening to these interviews as much as I did: please leave a comment on my [Facebook page](#) or tweet me [@chrishumphrey](#) with your thoughts!

This is an expanded version of an article that was first published on the careers blog [Jobs on Toast](#). Visit Jobs on Toast for direct help and support with finding a job after your PhD or post-doc.