

What you've got and how to show it: Useful transferrable skills for the alternative careers job market

Dr Mimi Tanimoto – Science Communications and
Engagement Consultant

Non-academic careers

Industry – research and non-research roles (e.g. project management, IP, business development, communications)

Medical & healthcare – doctor, nurse, physiotherapist, clinical research

Knowledge/technology transfer and exchange

Education and training – teaching, coordination, resource development

Communications – writing, editing, journalism, social media, websites, event production, publishing, film making, podcasts

Science policy and regulatory affairs

Legal – intellectual property and patent law

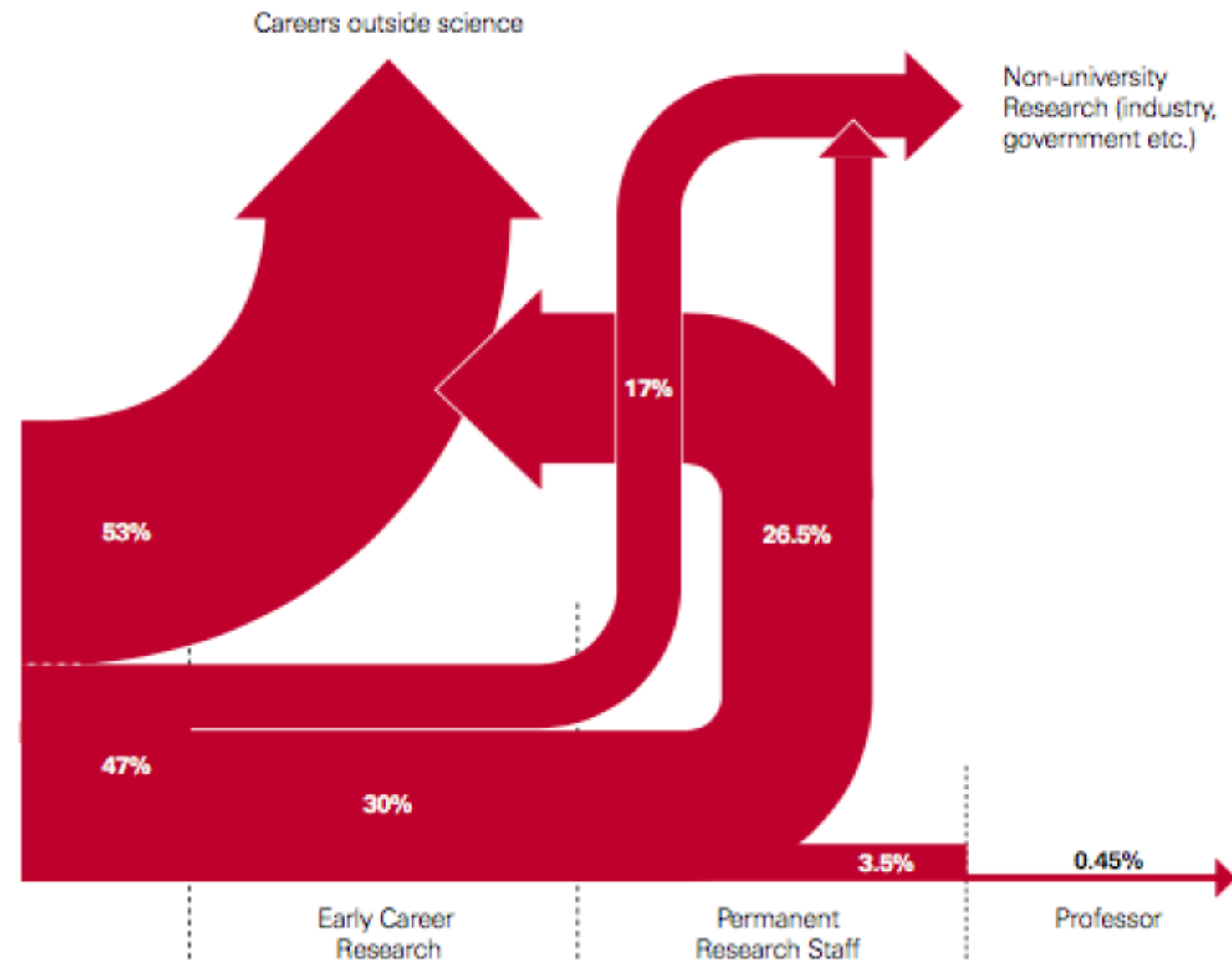
Sales and marketing

Non-bioscience – graduate programmes, business, finance, project management, operations, administration, sales and marketing, information management, security/armed forces, legal services, non-science communication, market research, self-employment



Changing direction is not failure!

Figure 1.6 Careers in and outside science



3.5% of UK science PhDs lead to permanent academic research posts

Source: The Scientific Century: securing our future prosperity. The Royal Society, 2010.

You can change direction anytime

My career path

Academia

- BSc – genetics
- PhD – plant biology
- Postdoctoral research

Business

- Recruitment administrator – education consultancy

Charity

- Science policy and programme management – RSB
- Science Education & Communications Manager – Kew Gardens

Freelance

- Science Communications and Engagement Consultant



Your skills

Research skills – project
design, planning, delivery and reporting

Lab techniques

Animal handling

Fieldwork

Teamwork – group projects

Analytical skills & technical literacy
– data analysis, statistics, coding, data visualisation

Working independently
– initiative and self-motivation

Computer / IT skills

Planning and organisation – ability to
multitask & handle competing workloads; time
management; flexibility

Attention to detail

Problem solving and creativity

Communications skills
– listening, verbal, written

Presentation skills

Interpersonal skills

Leadership and management

How to develop your skills

Volunteering – committees & working groups, local charities and community groups, public engagement (e.g. science festivals, open days, Pint of Science, Science Showoff, Sense About Science VoYS, I'm a Scientist, STEM Ambassadors)

Student societies (& hobbies) – organisational skills, admin, communications, organising events, finances, teamwork

Internships & placements – learned societies, research institutions, charities

Communications – social media, blogging, podcasts, newsletters, video production, writing and proof-reading (e.g. for student newspapers & science magazines, websites) – contact small science channels and offer to help. Media work, BIG STEM communicators network. Teaching, tutoring and supervising students. Organising seminars, conferences, events.

Training – apprenticeships, training courses (e.g. via learned societies), CPD schemes, online tutorials/courses, self-led learning (e.g. foreign languages, computer software, reading)

Networking – attending events, presenting, social media (particularly LinkedIn). Communicate your interests and seek advice

On the job / while studying – create opportunities & build networks. Training & work shadowing

How to demonstrate your skills


Do your homework:

- Tailor your CV and cover letter to each job
- Address all the requirements in the job spec
 - Predict the questions you'll be asked at interview and prepare your answers beforehand
 - Use relevant examples from your life in your answers
- Use the **STAR** technique:
 - Situation: The situation you had to deal with
 - Task: What your goal and/or responsibility was
 - Action: What you did to address it
 - Result: The outcomes from your actions
- Identify with the employer's values and goals

Careers resources


<https://bcd.rsb.org.uk>

www.rsb.org.uk/careers-and-cpd/careers/career-resources



Bioscience

Careers Day



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Past events

Download presentations from our **Bioscience Careers Day 2023 speakers**

Careers in Bioinformatics

- Dr Will Wood, Naimuri

Careers in Scientific Publishing

- Rebecca Harwood, Royal Pharmaceutical Society

Careers in Plant Health

- Dr Charles Lane, Fera

Careers in Animal Welfare and Wildlife Research

- Dr Julie Lane, APHA

Careers as a Technician

- Kitty Clouston, University of Cambridge

Careers in Science Communication

- Dr Emily May Armstrong, University of Glasgow and Siren Calling

Download presentations from our **Bioscience Careers Day 2022 speakers**

The benefits of learned societies: how to use your membership

- Christopher Longmore, Royal Society of Biology

Careers in pharmaceutical science

- Michelle Latter, Pfizer

Careers in medical communication

- Christine Smart, Adelphi Communication

Careers in public health

- Dr Helen Patrick, Sheffield Children's NHS Foundation Trust

Download presentations from our **Bioscience Careers Day 2021 speakers**

Bridging the gap between university and the world of work

- Sarah Blackford, careers consultant

Careers in research: Academia

- John Downey, University College Cork

Careers in drug discovery

- Dr Amanda Kennedy, MSD

Careers in plant science

- Ola Oladokun, Carlsberg Group

Careers in conservation

- Phoebe Griffith, Institute of Zoology and University of Oxford

KEY DETAILS

When:

Tuesday 5 - Thursday 7 March 2024

Where:

Online (Zoom)

Time:

12:00 - 14:10

Cost:

£5 - £10

Contact:





Ellie Barrand at events@rsb.org.uk


Hashtag:

#RSBCareersDay

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A GUIDE TO BIOLOGY CAREERS



The Biologist



Royal Society of
Biology

NEXT STEPS

OPTIONS AFTER A
BIOSCIENCE DEGREE



Conclusions

- Changing direction isn't failure!
- Careers aren't always linear
- Develop your skillset and experience – now and throughout your career
- Build your network
- Applying for jobs – do your homework
 - Tailor your CV and cover letter
 - Address all the requirements in the job spec – use the **STAR** technique
 - Identify with the employer's values and goals