



Loughborough  
University

Careers Network

# Career Route Planner for Doctoral Researchers

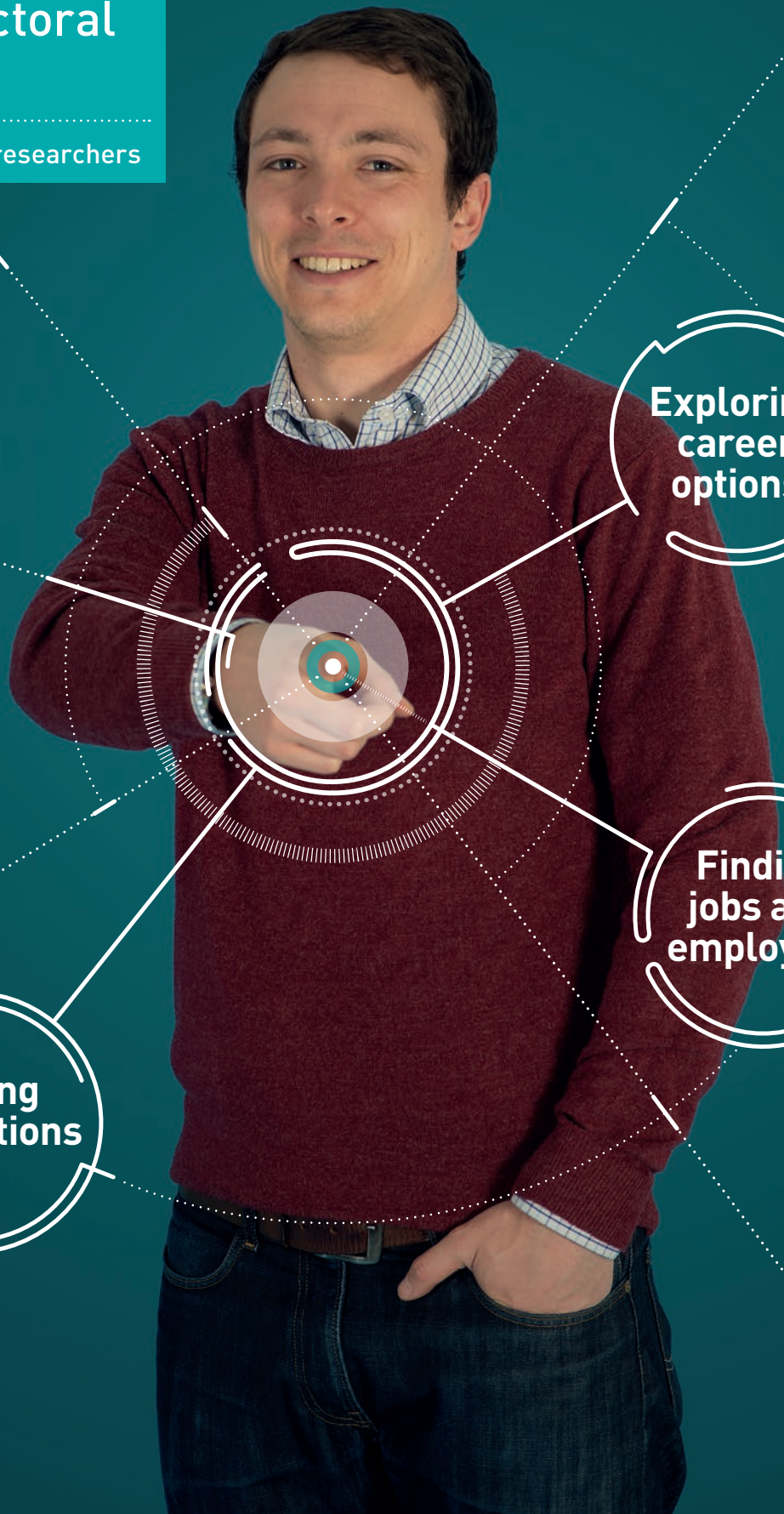
[www.lboro.ac.uk/careers/researchers](http://www.lboro.ac.uk/careers/researchers)

Knowing  
myself

Exploring  
career  
options

Finding  
jobs and  
employers

Making  
applications



## Career Route Planner for Doctoral Researchers

A guide to support all stages of your career journey

### Early on in your studies

- Start to investigate desirable careers:
  - What type of work inspires you?
  - What are your strengths?
  - What would be your ideal job?
- Attend a career management workshop or complete the online **Career Management for Researchers** module on LEARN.
- Start to build networks and join 'Lboro Connect' [www.lboro.ac.uk/lboroconnect](http://www.lboro.ac.uk/lboroconnect)
- Make use of development opportunities:
  - Careers Network and the Doctoral College
- Build your transferable skills portfolio
- Meet with your dedicated Careers Consultant
- Attend careers fairs and employer presentations
- Read a copy of the "Concordat" (it supports your career development activities)

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*"Only around one third of postgraduate researchers had definite career ideas in the later stages of their studies"*

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 Vitae

*"Your help and guidance during the last year helped me on the way of self-growth and discovery"*

### Part way through

- Meet with your dedicated Careers Consultant:
  - Clarify career selection
  - Identify good fit roles
  - Identify your unique selling points
- Investigate and select desirable roles and employers
- Expand your networks
- Identify suitable work shadowing opportunities
- Consult the Careers Network vacancies database via Careers Online [www.lboro.ac.uk/careers/online](http://www.lboro.ac.uk/careers/online)
- Attend job applications and networking workshops
- Make use of development opportunities:
  - Careers Network and the Doctoral College
- Continue to build your transferable skills portfolio
- Attend careers fairs and employer presentations
- Read "What do Researchers Do?" series of publications (Vitae) [www.vitae.ac.uk/impact-and-evaluation/what-do-researchers-do](http://www.vitae.ac.uk/impact-and-evaluation/what-do-researchers-do)
- Attend conferences

*"... I have been offered the job. Many thanks for helping me prepare for the interview, it really helped me perform well ☺"*

### Nearing completion

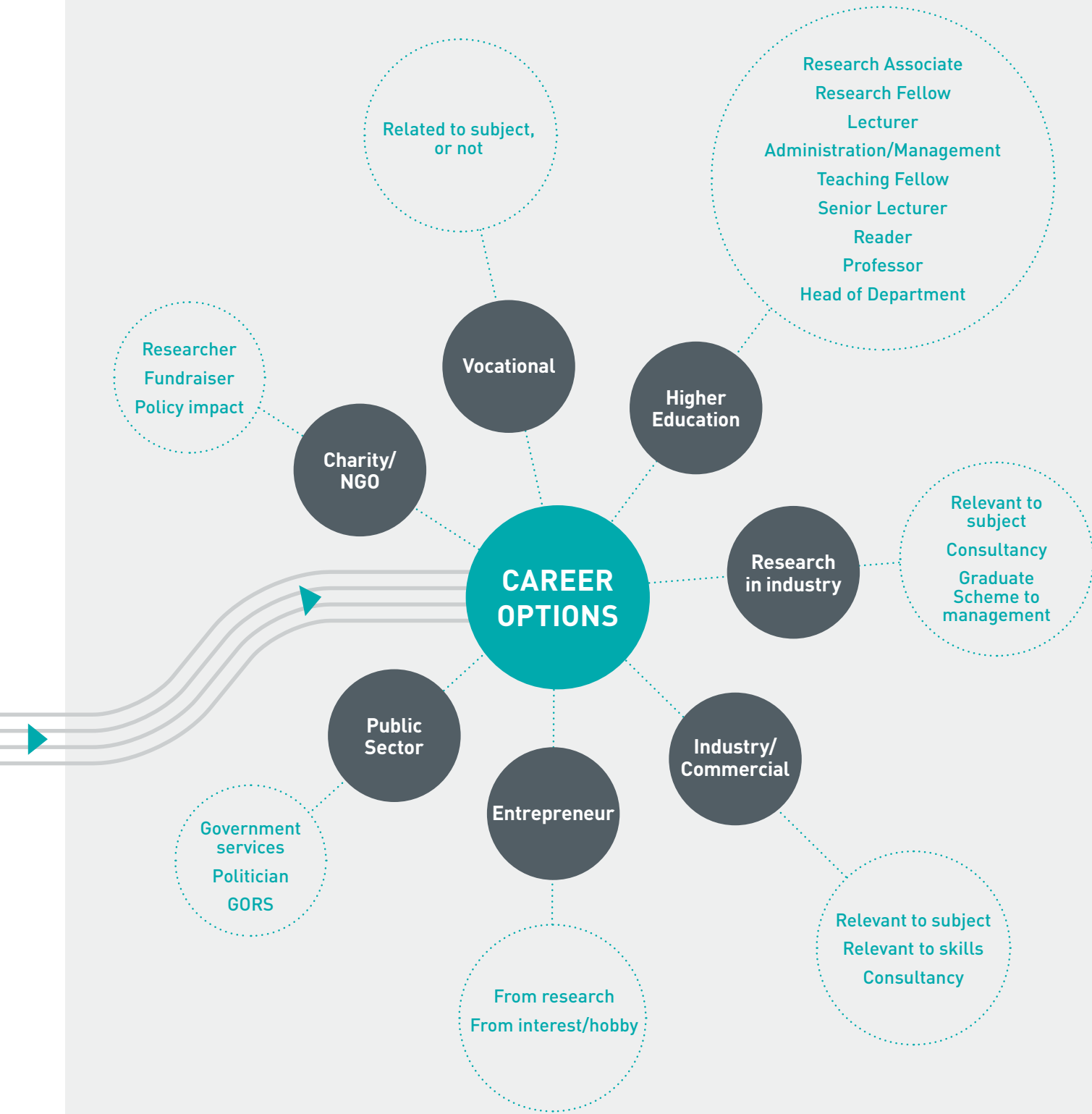
- Fine-tune desirable job roles and employers
- Plan regular time for job searching
- Research jobs and employers
- Actively network via Lboro Connect [www.lboro.ac.uk/lboroconnect](http://www.lboro.ac.uk/lboroconnect)
- Use Careers Network online resources [www.lboro.ac.uk/careers/researchers](http://www.lboro.ac.uk/careers/researchers)
- Start applying for jobs early
- Complete applications, even if only to gain experience – practice makes perfect!
- Meet with your dedicated Careers Consultant:
  - Career choice clarification
  - Sector and employer information
  - CV/application support
  - Interview coaching
- Continue to build your transferable skills portfolio
- Attend careers fairs and employer presentations
- Attend interviews and **Marketing your Research Skills** workshops

*"Thanks again for your help with that job application and interview – they gave me the job! I'm sure your advice played a part in this, so many thanks!"*

### Planning and preparation are key:

- Start early – it's never too early, but often too late
- Make the best use of valuable time to find the best fit career for you
- Identify skills gaps and write your development plan
- Increasing competition is inevitable – be prepared
- Market your high level skills well
- Make use of the wealth of resources available to you
- Glide into your career on completion of your studies, rather than fall off the end and grab any opportunity that might be around
- Be confident
- Finding a good career match involves considerable research – but this will be easy, because this is what you do and are good at!





## Careers Network

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Book an appointment with our dedicated Careers Consultant via Careers Online at [www.lboro.ac.uk/careers/online](http://www.lboro.ac.uk/careers/online) or telephone the Information Team on (0)1509 222039

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