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# Career Perspectives with a PhD in Natural & Life Sciences

**Doctorate:**

Biology, Freie Universität Berlin,  
Institute of Biology - Applied Zoology/Animal Ecology, 2017

**Current Position:**

Consultant for Research Funding and Information,  
Freie Universität Berlin

**What does your current professional life look like?**

Every day is different: But as a rule, I open my email inbox and my calendar and look at what to do's are on my list and what inquiries I receive from the scientists: Among other things, there are smaller inquiries about administration regarding to the application for third-party funding, such as e.g. inquiries about personnel cost calculations or filling out forms, requests to review financial plans, review of individual applications or larger joint projects or requests for a consultation. For postdocs, for example, the consultation is about which funding formats are suitable for the candidates. Depending on the topic and researcher's profile, we recommend to apply for certain funding formats that also further the development of the researcher's profile and career.

**How did you find out about your current job?**

When I was still working as a scientist, I was in contact with the Department for Research Funding and Information. And I immediately thought that this was an exciting job. Quite unexpectedly for me, a position became available in the department and the scientific coordinator at the BCP department drew my attention to the position and said: "That would be something for you!" I didn't hesitate and applied.

**What was the biggest challenge in starting a new job after your PhD studies?**

I worked as a scientist for a long time and was relatively advanced in my scientific career. That's why I think the biggest challenge was to convince that I was ready to leave science and that I had the will to start a new career in the science management field.

**What role do skills gained in your PhD studies play in your current job?**

During the PhD and, in my case, postdoc phase, you acquire many soft skills that you are sometimes not even aware of. You learn to work in an organized, structured, collaborative and solution-oriented manner. You are able to multi-task, you become resilient and always learn new things. You learn to convey complex content by writing scientific papers, giving presentations to different audiences or by giving lectures, seminars and practical courses. I myself have worked in third-party funded projects for years and have acquired funding for third-party funded projects myself. All of these skills and experiences qualified me for the job. Another important qualification is that you can put yourself in the shoes of the scientists and speak to them on an equal footing.