Active job-hunting for Materials Scientists

Dr Abby Evans, Careers Adviser
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Today’s session

- What do Materials graduates do?
- Making career decisions
- Job search
- Resources
- Questions
Oxford Materials Scientists – undergraduate destinations

**Further Study**
- PhD programmes
- Masters programmes
- Teacher training

**Industry**
- Aerospace
- Engineering
- Technical consulting
- IT
- Energy
- Manufacturing
- Automotive
- Chemicals

**“City”**
- Investment banking
- Accountancy
- Other finance
- Management consultancy
Oxford Materials Scientists – graduate student destinations
60% of UK graduate vacancies are open to all degree disciplines

- Accountancy
- Administration
- Advertising
- Armed forces
- Broadcasting
- Buying and purchasing
- Civil service
- Computing/IT
- Counselling and advising
- Events management
- Finance
- Health management
- Human resources
- Librarianship
- Legal sector
- Local government
- Management consultancy
- Marketing
- Museum work
- Police and emergency services
- Production Management
- Property management and sales
- Public relations
- Publishing
- Purchasing
- Retail Management
- Social work
- Youth and community work
Career planning – what are you looking for?

• What’s important to you?
  – Using your degree or DPhil as a specialist
  – Salary?
  – Professional qualifications?
  – Career progression?
  – Location?
  – Job security?
  – Intrinsic value of the work undertaken?
  – Work/life balance?
  – Travel?
  – Other….
A Career development process model

Self-Assessment
- Interests
- Skills
- Personality Preferences
- Values
- Life Style
- Decision-Making Style

Job Search/Work
- Opp. Research
- Resume/Cover letter writing
- Applying to graduate school
- Interviewing

Research Careers
- Books
- Websites
- Career Files
- Professional Assoc.
- Informational Interviewing

Try Out the Career
- Part-time work
- Internships
- Job Shadowing
- Volunteering
- Student Organizations
- Summer Jobs
Planned happenstance

Progress in your career is not always the result of carefully calculated strategies.

Turn chance events into productive opportunities

• Explore things you are curious about
• Be flexible
• Be optimistic
• Take risks
Inspiration and information

...from people working in sectors you could be interested in.

- **Alumni:**
  Oxford Careers Network;
  Oxford Materials alumni; college networks…

- **Speakers at seminars:**
  Department talks; student societies; careers talks…

- **Tutors, lecturers, researchers**

- **Careers fairs and company presentations**

- **Friends, family, other personal networks**

- **Case studies:** Careers stories (vitae.ac.uk); Prospects (prospects.ac.uk); Science Careers (sciencecareers.sciencemag.org/career_magazine/career_profiles); professional institutes; employer websites.
Meet employers in Oxford

• Careers fairs
• Employer presentations
• Occupational talks
• Department seminars
• Events run by students societies
• Networking events
THIS TERM

Oxford Careers Fair
Tues 21 Oct Town Hall

Management Consultancy
Wed 22 Oct Town Hall

Finance Fair
Thurs 23 & Fri 24 Oct Town Hall

Science, Engineering & Technology
Sat 1 Nov Exam Schools

Careers in Economics
Tues 4 Nov Economics Dept

Internship Fair
Wed 5 Nov Town Hall

Arts, Media and Marketing
Thurs 6 Nov Town Hall

Earth Sciences Fair
Fri 7 Nov Earth Sciences Dept

Law fair
Sat 8 Nov Exam Schools

Careers in Computing
Wed 12 Nov Computing Dept

Jobs for Mathematicians
Tues 25 Nov Maths Dept

NEXT TERM & BEYOND

International Careers Day
Sat 24 Jan Exam Schools

Careers in Physics
Wed 4 Feb Physics Dept

Education & Teaching Fair
Wed 11 Feb Careers Service

Get-a-head-start Fair
May 2015 Careers Service

Job & Internship Fair
June 2015 Town Hall
Beyond those who visit…

- Many sectors require a pro-active, speculative approach.
- Tailor your job-search strategy to your sector.
- Career briefings for starting points.

http://www.careers.ox.ac.uk/options-and-occupations/sectors-and-occupations/
Alumni Mentors

The Oxford Careers Network

- Database of 2,300+ alumni
- Majority can be contacted directly
- www.careers.ox.ac.uk
Questions to ask

- Outline where you’re at, and that you’re looking for advice
- Who is the best person to speak to?

Once you’re in conversation with the right person:
- How did you get started in your career?
- Why did you choose to become a …….?
- What are the best and worst things about your role?
- When thinking of this job, I think it’s like … - am I right?

Afterwards:
- Thank them and show how their information has helped
- Suggest work experience / shadowing / job opportunities / contacts
Using vacancy websites

- Ask in information interviews where they advertise
- Seek out sector vacancy sites via Career Briefings
- Sign up for tailored email alerts where available
- Use CareerConnect…
Job Searching

Use multiple pathways…

• Adverts – websites/journals/newspaper
• Speculative approaches – e-mail
• Agencies – sector specific
• Networking – build contacts
Finding opportunities

Structured programmes

Standalone opportunities

Unadvertised opportunities
Occupation awareness

Structured programmes

Find them using:
• Graduate publications
• Career Fairs
• Graduate job websites
• Employer websites

Schemes with:
• Lots of applicants
• Lots of places
Occupation awareness

Find them using:
- Graduate sites, e.g. Prospects
- National sites, e.g. Guardian Jobs
- Sector sites, see Career Briefings
- Employer websites

Opportunities with:
- Variable numbers of applicants
- Usually just one place
Occupation awareness

Unadvertised opportunities

Find them using:
• Contacts – alumni, friends, tutors etc.
• Speculative emails
• LinkedIn groups
• Information Interviews
• Pro-activity!

Opportunities with:
• A reason not to advertise
• Usually just one place
Some starting points... researching employers

www.careers.ox.ac.uk
- Oxford Careers Network
- Occupation sections
- Vacancy archive
- Employer database
- Fairs and employer presentations

Professional bodies
- Institute of Materials, Minerals & Mining
- Institute of Physics
- Royal Society of Chemistry
- Engineering institutions

Industry groups
- UK Science Park Association
- Links at www.iom3.org/content/linkukta
Some starting points... advertised jobs

- www.careers.ox.ac.uk
- www.prospects.ac.uk
- www.newscientistjobs.com
- www.gradcracker.com
- www.jobs.ac.uk
- www.newscientistjobs.com
Speculative approaches

• Build knowledge through information interviewing

• Make your pitch:
  • Cover letter and CV
  • Clear identification of how you could be useful
  • Flexible opportunities to engage
Using agencies

- **Relevant** agencies are the key.
- Be aware of their focus
- Be clear and precise in what you’re looking for
- Keep them informed as your search progresses or changes
Using social media
Support from the Careers Service

• Daily group discussions – ‘Career Lounges’
• Individual appointments
• Mock interviews and assessment centres
• Sector-specific talks and workshops
• Skills sessions: CVs, interviews, figuring it out
• Free handouts and glossy guides
• Reference books
Opening Hours
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday
9:00 – 5:00
Thursdays
10:00 – 7:00

56 Banbury Road
Materials
Careers Advice

Booked
15 min
Released 48hrs in advance

Career Lounge
just turn up
• 2,200+ alumni mentors
• 1,500+ vacancies and opportunities
• 2 years worth of archived jobs
• 6,500+ employers
• Create your profile and upload your CV
• See events, book when required
• Book individual appointments
Where else do we work?

- Fairs at Exam Schools and Town Hall
- CV clinics at Exam Schools
- Activities on request in colleges, departments, societies...
What programmes could I sign up for?

- The Student Consultancy
- The Internship Programme
- Insight into Teaching
- Insight into Medicine
- The Shed Innovation Workshops
What should I be doing now?

Come to a Career Lounge

- Start your research
- Explore our website
- Log in to Career Connect
- Download Career Briefings
- Sign up for some sessions
- Book to see us!
Maximise your chances of success

1. Do your research

2. Make every approach tailored

3. Use the resources available to help you...
www.careers.ox.ac.uk

Follow www.facebook.com/OxfordCareers

Join: www.linkd.in/OxfordCareers

Watch: youtube.com/oxfordcareersservice

Ask: www.twitter.com/OxfordCareers