

Should I Stay or Should I Go? – Making an Informed Career Choice for PhD Researchers

Welcome!

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By freepik

*“Should I stay or should I go now?
If I go, there will be trouble
And if I stay, it will be double”*



-The Clash, 1982

*“Decision making is easy
when your values are clear.”*
– Roy Disney



Today's Topics

- A) Get to know each other!**
- B) Fact check:
Academical or non-academical careers**
- C) Exercise:**
 - 1) Where do I stand and what are my priorities in life?
 - 2) What is my goal?
 - 3) What are the steps to reach my goal?
 - 4) What to do next?
- D) Support services offered by the Career Service**

Short activation

Decision making:

Get up and stand in the room in the right place for you

My next career
choice is due...
soon or later

My DREAM future
self is in...
Academia or
industry



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Career decisions
are easy for me

My GUESS where I
am is in...
academia or
industry

Non-university job market

Same same, but different?

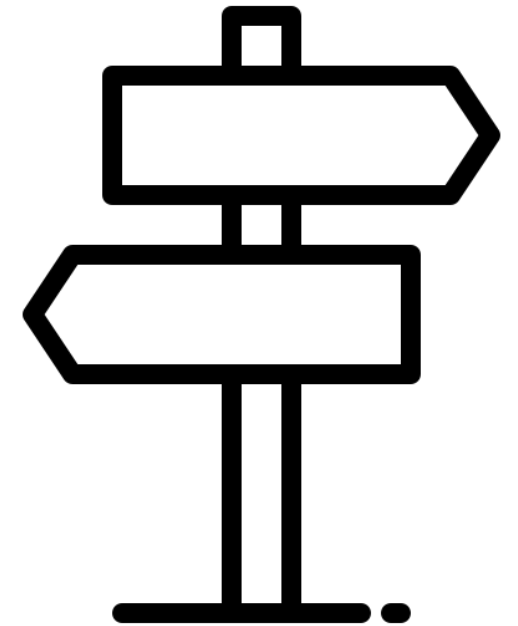
Statistics in Germany: p.a. round about

- 3000 - 3700 appointed professors
- 25000 - 30000 PhD theses

Where do they go?

Non-academic is not just industry!

It's „Heavy industry“, services, public infrastructure, foundations, community sector



By xnimrodx, flaticon

Sources:

1) https://www.academics.de/ratgeber/professur-deutschland-ueberblick#subnav_chancen_auf_eine_berufung

2) <https://hochschuldaten.che.de/promotionen-an-deutschen-hochschulen-2022-bis-2024/>

Non-university job market

Requirements and special features

Academic job market	Non-university job market
Doctorate required	There is no exclusive non-university job market for doctoral graduates
Excellent scientific achievements (third-party funding, publications, awards) as a benchmark	Doctorate usually not expected, must be listed as relevant work experience
The path to a permanent position/professorship often requires a series of temporary employment and (international) mobility	Identification and translation of competencies from science into the language of the non-university labor market necessary, including soft skills as a qualification feature
For internationals: You can get by with limited German language skills	For internationals: German language skills at C1 level are a widespread requirement

My priorities

Where do I stand and where do I go? Let's find out together!

Career Decisions > Knowing my options

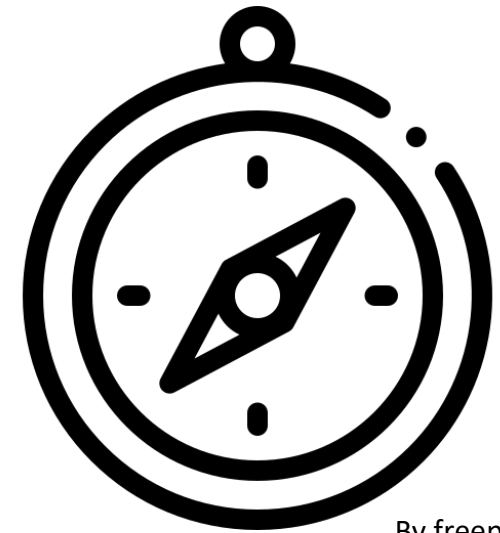
Inventory “In or out “



The path you pursue and what success means to you is an individual decision. By identifying personal goals and uncovering the prerequisites for them, you increase the likelihood that you will take the appropriate steps that make this path more achievable.



This exercise aims to capture your personal needs and to take an inventory of the prerequisites required for your future. By doing so, you can systematically identify missing information and derive the next steps from it.



By freepik

Be SMART?

- How did you succeed with this task?
- Were you aware of all these dimensions?
- Have you found a SMART aim to start your trip?



By hamzaafzalrao, flaticon

Do I have to decide now? Probably not, but rather be prepared!

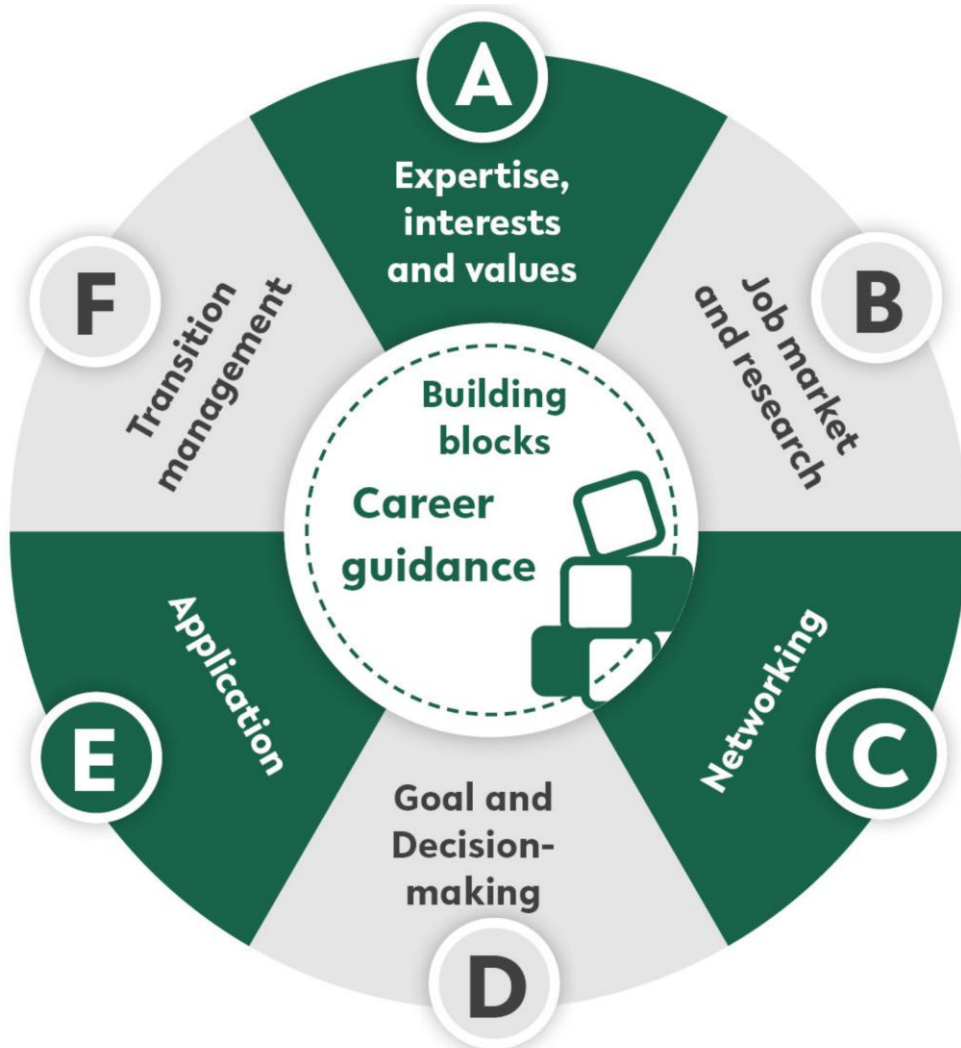
- What can I do beyond my research skills?
- What do I enjoy doing?
- In which areas would I like to develop?

Keep an eye on your skills profile now and then
Use chances to develop in your preferred direction
Use small tasks to test „which shoe fits“



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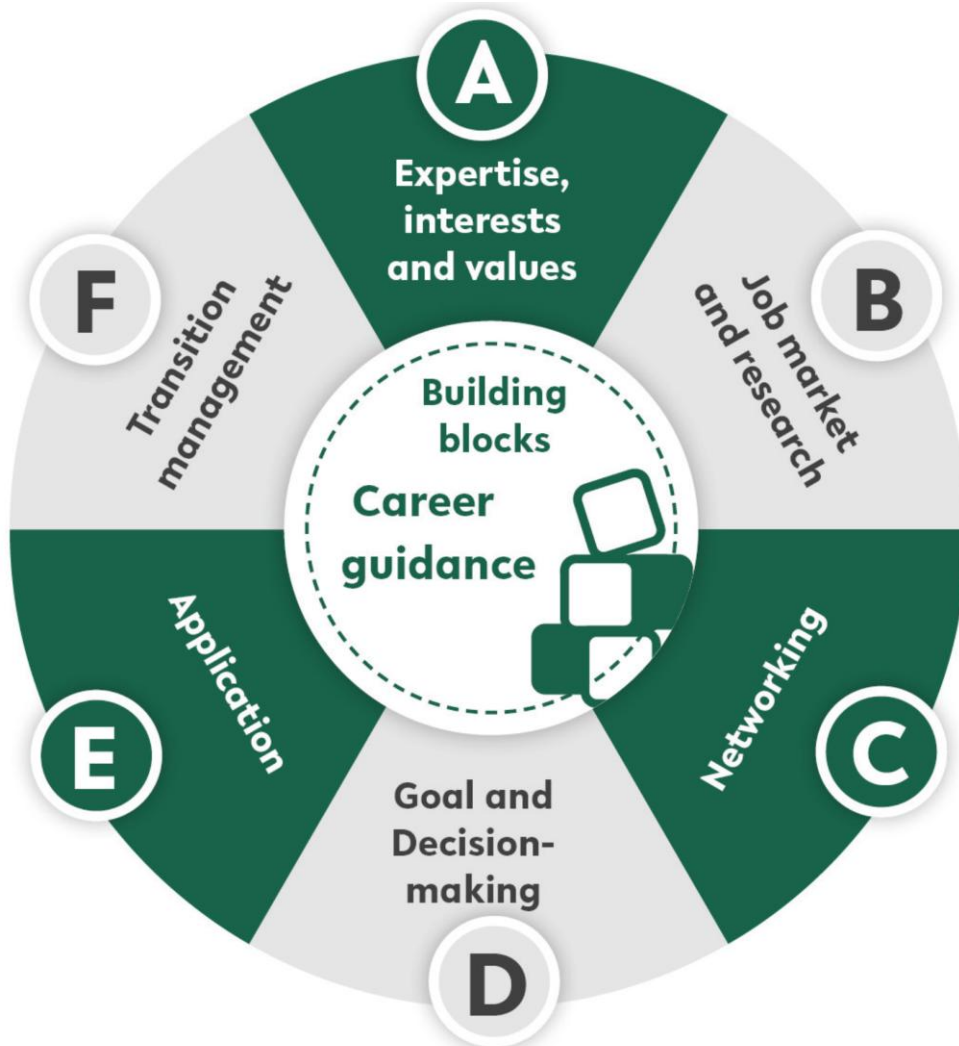
Support services offered by the Career Service



Our events at a glance:

- **Individual Career Programm** (deutsch) always in the winter semester
- Career Entry Fair <**perspektive**> 19.11.2026
- **Woche der Berufsorientierung** 07.12-11.12.2026
- Regular **Bewerbungsunterlagenchecks**
- Basics **Bewerbungsunterlagen** und **Stellensuche PhD**
- **Basics How to find jobs and Crafting applications PhD**
- **Methodenworkshops** with companies
- **Networkingevents** with companies
- **Career Basics for PhD** – next workshops in winter term

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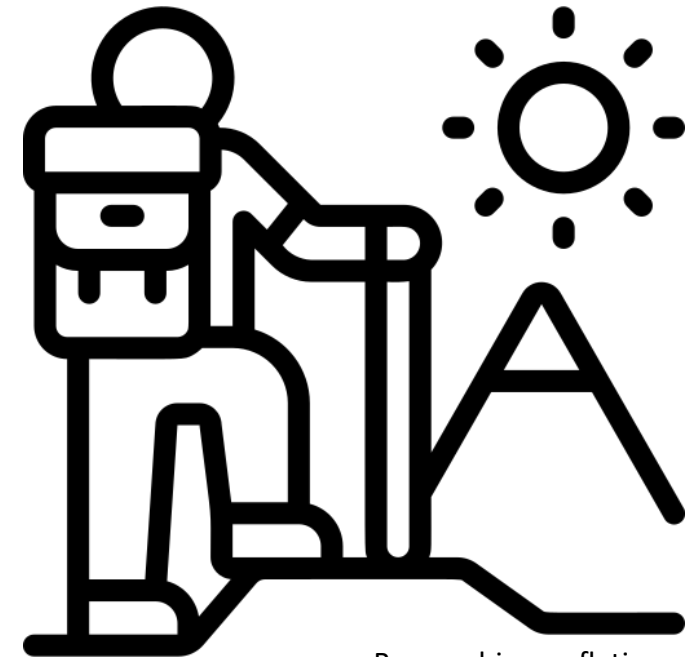
Individual advice

- Here, all topics can be clarified individually
- Appointments can be booked via the Career Service Portal

Thanks for your attention

Time for your questions!

All the best for your
future endeavours!
Maybe see you soon?



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