

Academic/Research career

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Competences in an academic career

- Broad knowledge on a consolidated academic discipline
- Specialization in a “relevant” research topic
- Research supervision experience and abilities
- Teaching experience and abilities
- Management experience and abilities
- Ability to get research funding

Steps and accomplishments in an academic career

- PhD

- Good thesis
- Attend specialized conferences and learn about the community
- Publish in recognized journals
- Develop some academic competences

- Post-doc

- Develop own research specialization and profile
- Become part of a research community

- Tenure track position

- Get established in a university department
- Develop all academic competences

- Permanent position

- Get own research funding
- Create and maintain a research group

Accomplishments during PhD

- Do a good PhD thesis without losing the broader view of your field
- Publish in relevant conferences
- Attempt to publish in relevant journals
- Follow reproducibility and open practices
- Collaborate with other PhD students and researchers
- Get acquainted with the key people of your field
- Get some experience in teaching and supervision
- Become visible online (personal web, linkedIn, github, ...)

Prepare for the after-PhD

- Promote your research, PhD thesis, and publications
- Explore options other than Postdoc
- Explore funding opportunities for Postdoc
- Aim for a Postdoc on a different topic than your PhD
- Make contacts by taking advantage of your advisor and research team

Conclusions

- An academic career is great if you are committed to it
- In MIP there are many research options outside the university
- A PhD in a MIP topic can be very useful to start non-research careers
- The Postdoc is the most difficult phase of an academic career
- An academic career is a long distance race