

## WORKSHEET 1: INTERESTS

### Career Interests: Career Choice Indicator for Bioscience Researchers and PhD Students

Examine the interests/skills listed in each of the six typology sections below and rank each section from 1 – 6 in order of preference, according to your enjoyment of the majority of the tasks.

(1 = HIGHEST; 6 = LOWEST).

<b>PRACTICAL</b> Technical Systematic Application	<b>SCORE</b>		<b>INVESTIGATIVE</b> Research Discovery Curiosity	<b>SCORE</b>	
Conducting experiments, collecting data Using mathematical/statistical tools Equipment and methodologies Instrumentation knowledge & understanding Applying specialist technical skills Practical and physical experimental tasks Collecting samples, taking measurements Taking responsibility for lab resources, incl. cell, animal and plant care/maintenance.			Making new discoveries Interpreting results and data Conceptualising and designing investigative research projects to test a hypothesis Thinking up new theories/processes Learning about new research Researching/reviewing literature Researching/Reviewing research literature Writing and reviewing research articles		
<b>ENTERPRISING</b> Inventive Resourceful Leadership	<b>SCORE</b>		<b>SUPPORTIVE</b> Advising Instructing Cooperating	<b>SCORE</b>	
Preparing and conceptualising grants Promoting and 'selling' your ideas Setting up new projects Thinking 'big picture' and having new ideas Coordinating/leading projects Technology transfer/IP opportunities Establishing new collaborators Freelance consultancy work Marketing and promoting research			Helping and supporting others Supervising/mentoring Teaching/tutoring Demonstrating in undergraduate practicals Liaising with people (eg colleagues, peers, collaborators, editors, students) Networking at conferences Being involved in/organising events that bring people together		
<b>CREATIVE</b> Artistic Imagination Design	<b>SCORE</b>		<b>ADMINISTRATIVE</b> Executive Management Organisation	<b>SCORE</b>	
Imaginative data presentation Technical/research design innovation Artistic realisation (visual, performance etc) Popularising science to the public Creating imaginative designs Theatrical and dramatic presentation Writing press stories, media engagement Writing general interest science articles Blogging and other social media			Organising experimental schedules Keeping records of data and/or budgets Working to deadlines Managing finances Organising workload and prioritising tasks Serving on committees Writing reports Editing manuscripts Marking and assessing student essays		

© Sarah Blackford 2014 [www.biosciencecareers.org](http://www.biosciencecareers.org)

Typologies ranked in order of preference, e.g.

RESULTS | 1: I | 2: P | 3: A | 4: S | 5: E | 6: C |

RESULTS	1:	2:	3:	4:	5:	6:
---------	----	----	----	----	----	----

Refer to your top three typology rankings above and examine the corresponding typology sections below which contain a list of suggested jobs that match the associated interest/skills.

PRACTICAL	INVESTIGATIVE
Technical Manager/technician Clinical laboratory scientist Laboratory manager Specialist scientist: toxicologist, forensics, pharmacologist, manufacturing, product/process Applied scientific research Data/information manager Specialist scientific services, e.g. statistician, Bioinformatician, IT services Health & Safety officer/Quality assurance Practical physical careers (eg warden, agriculturalist, farmer, field worker)	Researcher (Industry) Researcher (Government institute) Researcher (university) Academic/professor/group leader Research analyst Market researcher Researcher (media/policy) Think Tank adviser Journal development manager Journal Editor/Commissioning editor Forensic Investigator Professional academic writer (papers/grants)
ENTERPRISING	SUPPORTIVE
University Academic/professor Research Group leader Company owner (e.g. Spin-out company) Company director/Business manager Patent Lawyer/Attorney Marketing/brand manager Sales manager Recruitment consultant Technology transfer manager Specialist consultant Commissioning editor Private equity manager	Scientific services adviser Events manager Sales representative (relationship building) Product demonstrator/adviser Researcher Support Manager General medical practitioner/vet Health care specialist e.g. nurse, physiotherapist Personal/careers adviser/coach Front-line services Educational development manager School teacher Social worker
CREATIVE	ADMINISTRATIVE
Engagement Officer (e.g. schools, public, media) Communications/community manager Social media communications specialist Science journalist Press and publicity officer External relations manager Science writer Medical communications Exhibitions designer Artistic careers (eg photographer, artist) Brand and designer (e.g. web, product) Copywriter	Professional academic writer (papers/grants) Regulatory affairs/pharmacovigilance Patent examiner Grants administrator Science Policy officer Conference organiser Editorial assistant Copy editor/Proof reader Administrator (e.g. university, government) Course coordinator Manager (e.g. project, office, finance) Personal assistant/ Company secretary

© Sarah Blackford 2014 [www.biosciencecareers.org](http://www.biosciencecareers.org)

## Potential jobs of interest

1.	
2.	
3.	

**WORKSHEET 2: SKILLS**

Skills Potentially Used During Your Research Experience				
Skill Category	Specific skill	High or moderate proficiency	Enjoy using	Required in job
<b>Analytical and Problem Solving</b>	Organize and classify information			
	Clearly define a problem and identify possible causes			
	Locate and assimilate new information rapidly and apply to a given problem			
	Design an experiment/research surveys that defines a problem, test possible resolutions, and implement a solution			
	Develop methods to effectively sort and evaluate data			
	Visualize data, develop models to represent data			
	Consolidate/synthesize large amounts of information into a coherent argument			
	Analyze an idea and come up with counter-arguments			
	Form and defend independent conclusions based on the evidence			
	Compare results and come up with recommendations and next steps			
<b>Technical</b>	Use specialized equipment or techniques			
	Use databases			
	Troubleshoot specialized instruments			

<b>Communication</b>	Prepare concise and logically written materials for a variety of audiences in a variety of different modes (abstracts, manuscripts, grants, research proposals)			
	Edit and proofread written material (yours or somebody else's)			
	Organize and communicate ideas and complex information effectively in oral presentations – to <b>SPECIALIST</b> audiences in a variety of settings (small to large)			
	- to <b>NON-SPECIALIST</b> audiences in a variety of settings (small to large)			
	Persuade others in both written and oral format using logical argument			
<b>Relationship and Management Skills</b>	Teach/train others in skills or concepts			
	Work effectively in teams and collaborate on projects			
	Build consensus among groups or individuals			
	Diplomatically communicate and respond to positive or negative feedback			
	Mentoring others			
	Manage a project: Identify and establish goals			
	Organize and prioritize tasks			
	Anticipate possible challenges			
	Maintain flexibility despite rapid change			
<b>Self-Management, Work Habits, &amp; Entrepreneurial Skills</b>	Meet deadlines and manage competing priorities			
	Perform under pressure/Work through obstacles independently			
	Initiate and take ownership of a project			
	Opportunity recognition			
	Optimistic outlook			

### WORKSHEET 3: CAREER VALUES

Value Category	How important are the following in your career?	High	Medium	Low	Notes
Career growth	Personal advancement (opportunities for promotion)				
	Supervision (leading, having authority over others)				
	Status and prestige (reputation derived from work)				
Work style	Autonomy (work independently)				
	Variety (frequently change work responsibilities or setting)				
	Regular and predictable routine				
	Competitive environment				
	Low stress and pressure (most days)				
	Fast pace (busy with frequent deadlines)				
	Risk taking (high risk/high reward)				
	Creativity (artistic or intellectual expression)				
Impact/goal/mission	Help others (contribute to betterment of world)				
	Ability to see project to conclusion (not interrupted by extraneous priorities)				
	Sufficient solutions to a problem (may not be the optimal or ideal solution)				
	Intellectual challenge (work at cutting edge of knowledge)				
	Influence people (work to change attitudes or opinion of others)				

Value Category	How important are the following in your career?	High	Medium	Low	Notes
Finances	Job security (assurance of keeping job and salary)				
	High earning potential (purchase desired luxuries)				
Lifestyle/Personal	Travel to other cities/countries on a regular basis				
	Time freedom (e.g. for personal activities)				
	Geographic preference (live in city, region, country, continent of your choice)				
	Benefits available (health, retirement, daycare, dependent care)				
	Integrity and honesty				
Relationships	Teamwork (collaborative with others)				
	Pleasant work environment, friendly colleagues				
	Public contact (day to day contact with clients or colleagues)				
	Equality in workplace				

## WORKSHEET 4: PUTTING IT TOGETHER!

### Top 3 – 5 Interests

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

### Top 3 - 5 Skills

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

### Top 3 – 5 Values

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

### Compare with Career Fit in myIDP

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

Consider the following prompts to help put it together: “I thrive in environments where...” | “I value colleagues who...” | “My strengths lie in...” | “I have little patience for...” | “I could benefit from...” | “I should work on....”