



4.1.3 Private

Research professional

Elizabeth: Independent researcher (social scientist)

How would you describe your current role?

I'm on two part-time projects, one started before the other; both involve work with teams. I have been working at one university conducting qualitative research about undergraduate students and have recently started working on a project at another university to evaluate national science programs. The work changes over the life of any project; the 'busy' part, data analysis and writing up, means working much longer hours than normal. I'm also usually looking for opportunities to bid alongside other project members and also potential jobs within local universities.

Specific responsibilities

- Research-related activities
 - Reading: literature searches and reviews
 - Research: ethics approval, data collection, analysis
 - Communication: construct interview guides, write reports of research results, write research bids, report to users, e.g., writing for those who lack background
- Teamwork: meet, speak, correspond with research project teams
- Other: administrative tasks, applying for jobs and contracts

SA: Industry researcher (scientist)

How would you describe your current role?

I work in a company that's very academic. Besides doing research (all computational), I have opportunities to teach and do outreach. It's interesting that the head of the group has a position both here and at two universities. I can see ways of combining entrepreneurial interests with those of the academy. Overall, it's a nice collaborative and flexible way to work, and when you get higher up in the group, they encourage you to form stronger ties with universities. So it's technically industry, but basically not.

Specific responsibilities

- Research-related activities: read to stay up-to-date, collect and analyze data
- Communication: write/ revise research reports, give presentations at academic and non-academic workshops/conferences, work with collaborators/partners.
- Administration: attend meetings, complete required paper work

Professional

Monika: Independent consultant (social scientist)



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How would you describe your current role?

I engage in a range of activities, based on the opportunities that are available in the academic, public para-public and private sectors. So, this means constantly contract searching: attending meetings about opportunities in the private sector, checking websites and newspapers. When I see opportunities, this involves preparing applications and sometimes being interviewed. In the past year, I have taught three courses for graduate students in different universities, taught in my area of expertise at a summer camp, given a workshop at an academic conference, and published two articles in research journals. And, sometimes, I just take work to survive, e.g., working on a farm.

Specific responsibilities

- Seek contracts: search for opportunities, apply for contracts, attend interviews
- Teach: formal and informal courses, workshops to a range of different learners; design instruction, assessment
- Write: publish research

Julius: President of own company (scientist)

How would you describe your current role?

The challenge for the first year or so is just getting your name out there, and I believe the PhD shows I'm an expert in the field. I spend a lot of time building my professional contacts, and particularly persuading people that I'm offering services that would be good for them. If a proposal I have put together is successful, then I need to manage the project, troubleshoot and negotiate with the client, deal with accounting issues, and continue to invest in marketing. After several years, the company is slowly growing and I am hopeful I will succeed.

Specific responsibilities

- Communication: write bids and proposals, invest in marketing, e.g., create appealing website, use social media
- Activities: meet with potential clients, attend professional meetings to grow network
- Administration: set up business systems, manage finances, hire staff



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