

PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP: IMPROVE BIOMEDICAL PhD PROGRAMS FOR NON-ACADEMIC CAREERS

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- Text:** Natalie Neubert (on behalf of the working group)

The courses offered by the PhD programs should prepare the PhD candidates for the job market. They should prepare PhD candidates not only for academic but also for alternative careers.

At the beginning of the PhD a portfolio of the PhD candidate's skills should be setup that can be further developed during the PhD.

There should be a training and supervision agreement between PhD candidate, thesis director and doctoral school stating the rights and duties of all involved parties. A minimum of 10% of time of the PhD program should be available for development of transferable skills.

Offered training courses/workshops should support and help develop the following transferable skills and experiences (chosen individually by the PhD candidates):

- Management skills/strategical management/thinking
- Talent development
- Communication
- Team work/spirit
- Responsibility
- Leadership
- Teaching
- Project/Budget management
- Career opportunities
- Self awareness
- Academia–Industry internship/rotations (spend a few months in industry during PhD)
- Extracurricular activities such as organization of conferences
- Etc.

There should be the availability of career counseling during the PhD program.