



Biotechnology and
Biological Sciences
Research Council

Welcome from BBSRC!

Please make sure you are muted and
enter any questions into the chat function.

Thank you.





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Research Council

Grants and Fellowships Workshop

University of Cambridge GFS ECR Event
Thursday 6th May 2021



BBSRC – what we do

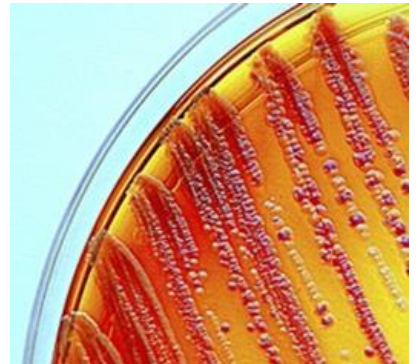
- BBSRC invests to push back the frontiers of biology and deliver a healthy, prosperous and sustainable future.
- We fund world-class bioscience, people and research infrastructure that helps to tackle major challenges such as the impact of climate change, a healthier old age, and sustainable food production, land use and energy production.
- Invest in bioscience training and skills for the next generation of bioscientists
- Drive the widest possible social and economic impact from our bioscience in industry, policy and public goods
- Promote public dialogue on bioscience

BBSRC – What we fund

BBSRC funds research in:

- Plants (principle funder of UK plant science)
- Microbes
- Animals (including humans)
- Tools and technology underpinning biosciences

From molecules and cells → tissues → whole organisms → populations and landscapes.



BBSRC Research and Innovation Priorities

Advancing the frontiers of bioscience discovery



Understanding the
rules of life



Transformative
technologies

Tackling strategic challenges



Bioscience for sustainable
agriculture
and food



Bioscience for renewable
resources and clean
growth



Bioscience for
an integrated
understanding of health

Building strong foundations



People
and talent



Infrastructure



Collaboration,
partnerships
and Knowledge Exchange



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Post-PhD Career Opportunities

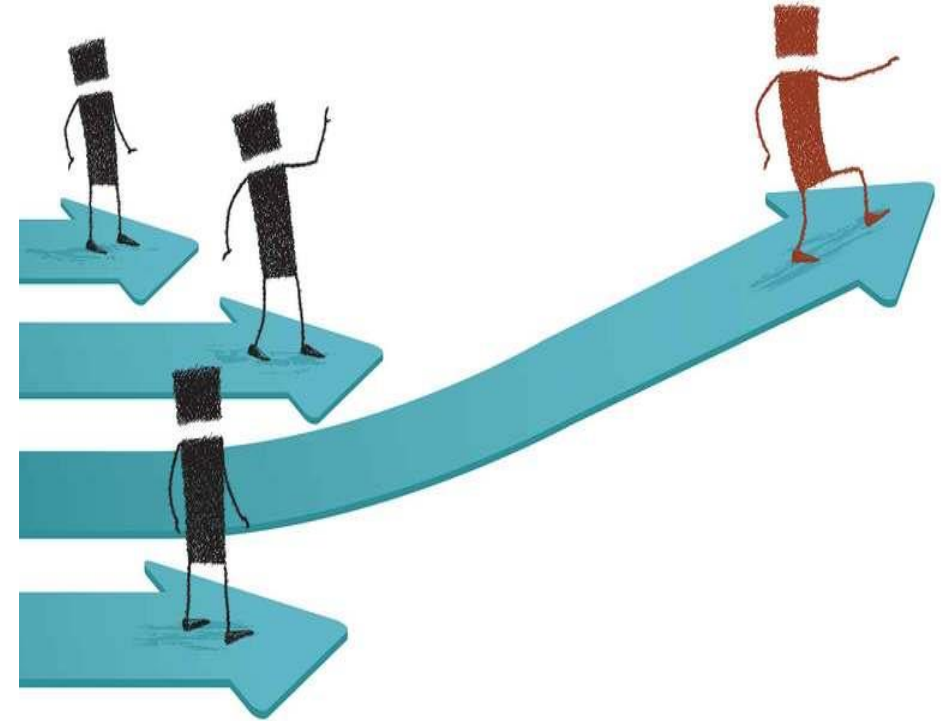
Dr Hayley Moulding

Senior Portfolio Manager, Skills and Careers



What a position to be in!

- You are all in very privileged positions
- The skills you developed as part of your PhDs have put you in good stead for future career opportunities
- You have resources to seek different opportunities
- You can ask questions, and gain experiences before making a commitment
- Not all one-size-fits-all so be realistic about what you want for your career post-PhD
- Also recognise that this might not be what you want years after your PhD, and that your career foci can change - adaptability



You might not always remember it, but...

- You have done a PhD so that means that you have shown you are:
 1. self- driven
 2. a great time keeper
 3. able to do sustained project design and development
 4. a creative thinker, thinking 'outside of the box'
- and that you can:
 1. work within a team
 2. communicate your ideas at a high level to your peers
 3. perhaps manage small budgets
 4. manage others and/or small teams including students or resistant assistants



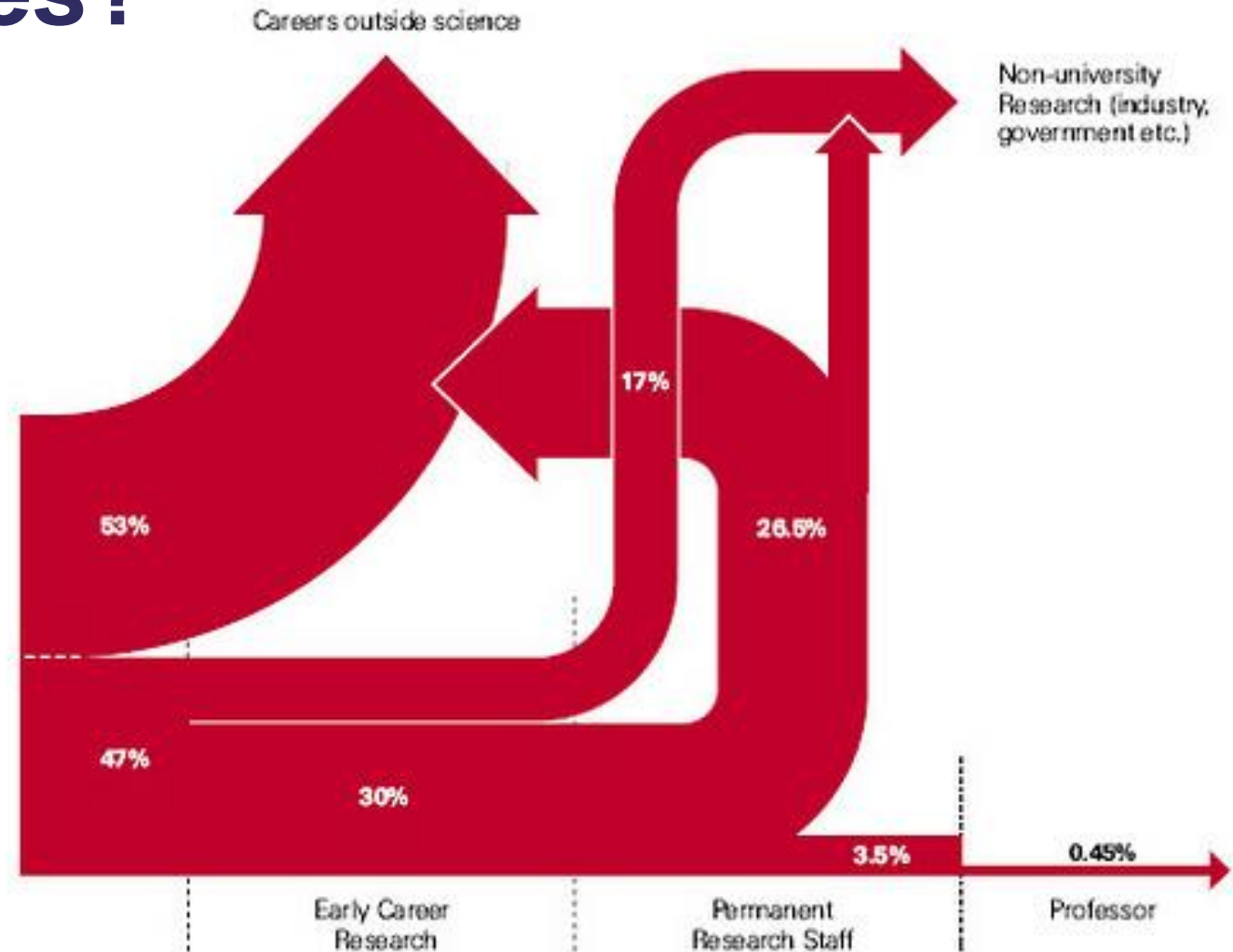
Where to go, what to do next?

- What are your options?
 - I could always continue in academia, but what does this mean for me?
 - What is my next step in academia?
 - Is academia my only option?
 - If I were to leave academia, where would I go?
 - Do I have the right skills and tools to be able to do something different?



What are my chances?

- We have all seen the diagram
- This is the reality
- This doesn't mean you can't jump between different routes, different jobs
- The rhetoric around leaving academia and not being able to return is **no longer relevant**



The Academic Route

- A more traditional, canonical route (typically)
- A route that you have probably considered since you started your PhD
- The most obvious and 'well trodden' path for you to take
- Typically seen as the image, but there are alternative paths to take



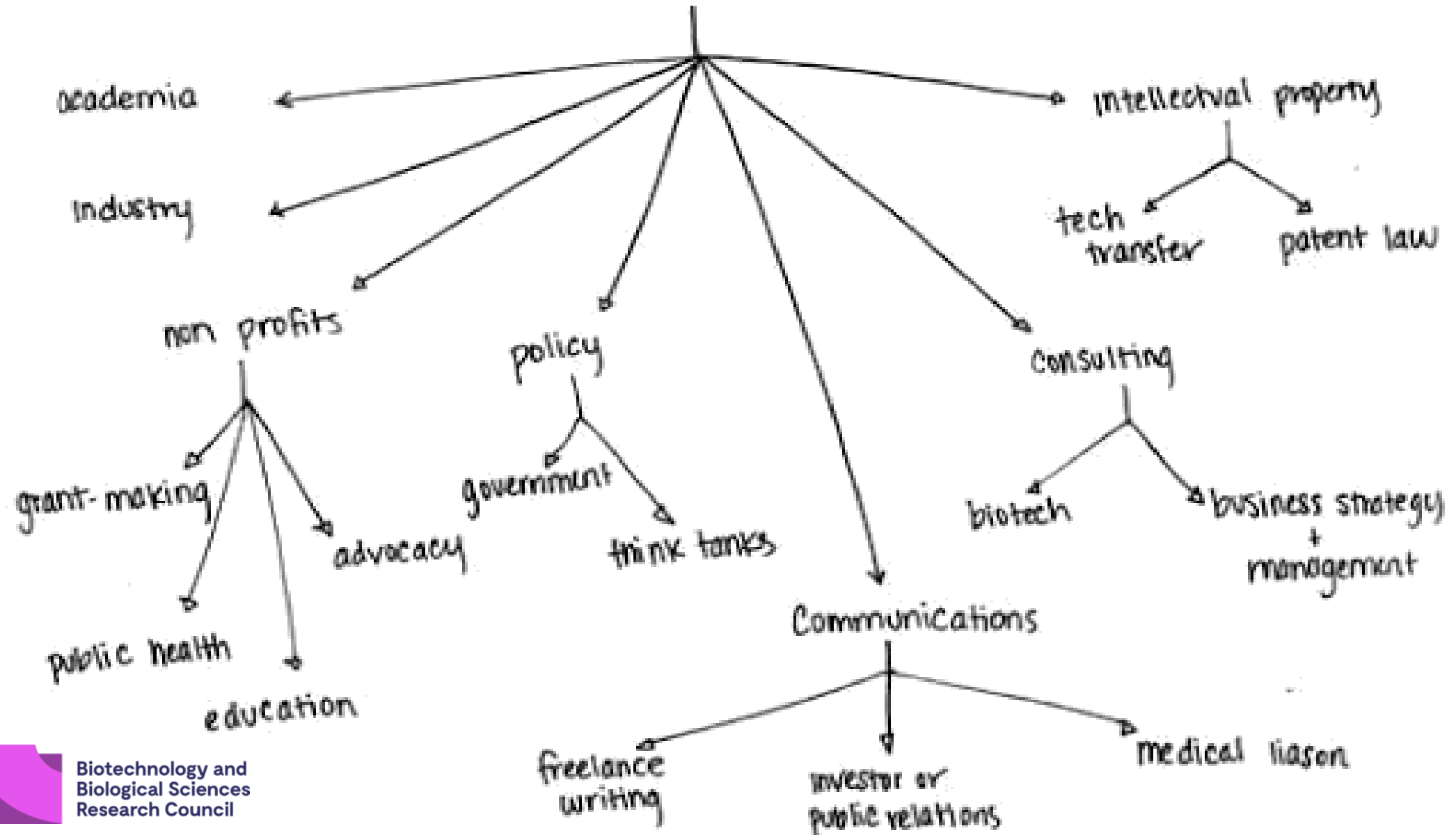
- Fellowships can support the first steps into independent working and can support movement away from a postdoctoral position

Alternatives to Academia

- Industry
- Policy
 - Civil Service, Government, Councils
- Teaching
 - This could be still at your RO maybe via part-time teaching, or just totally doing a new course such as a PGCE to teach
- Third-sector
 - Charities, Foundations, Growers Associations
- Enterprise or innovation sector
- Business
 - Major supermarkets have options for academics with experience in food research
- **Entirely different career!**



PhD





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What opportunities can BBSRC provide for you?



What can BBSRC offer

- Straight out of PhD, what can BBSRC do for me?
 1. Fellowship route – Discovery Fellowships
 2. Interested in science policy? – working for BBSRC
 - i. Global Food Security Team at BBSRC
 3. Postdoctoral research – Responsive Mode grants supporting PIs who can hire PDRAs onto their grants
- Postdoctoral researchers/early career researchers
 1. Fellowship route – Discovery Fellowships, Enterprise Fellowships, Daphne Jackson Fellowships
 - i. UKRI Future Leaders Fellowships
 2. Interested in science policy? – working for BBSRC
 3. Co-Investigator positions – Responsive Mode grants
 4. PI positions – applications through our responsive mode grants

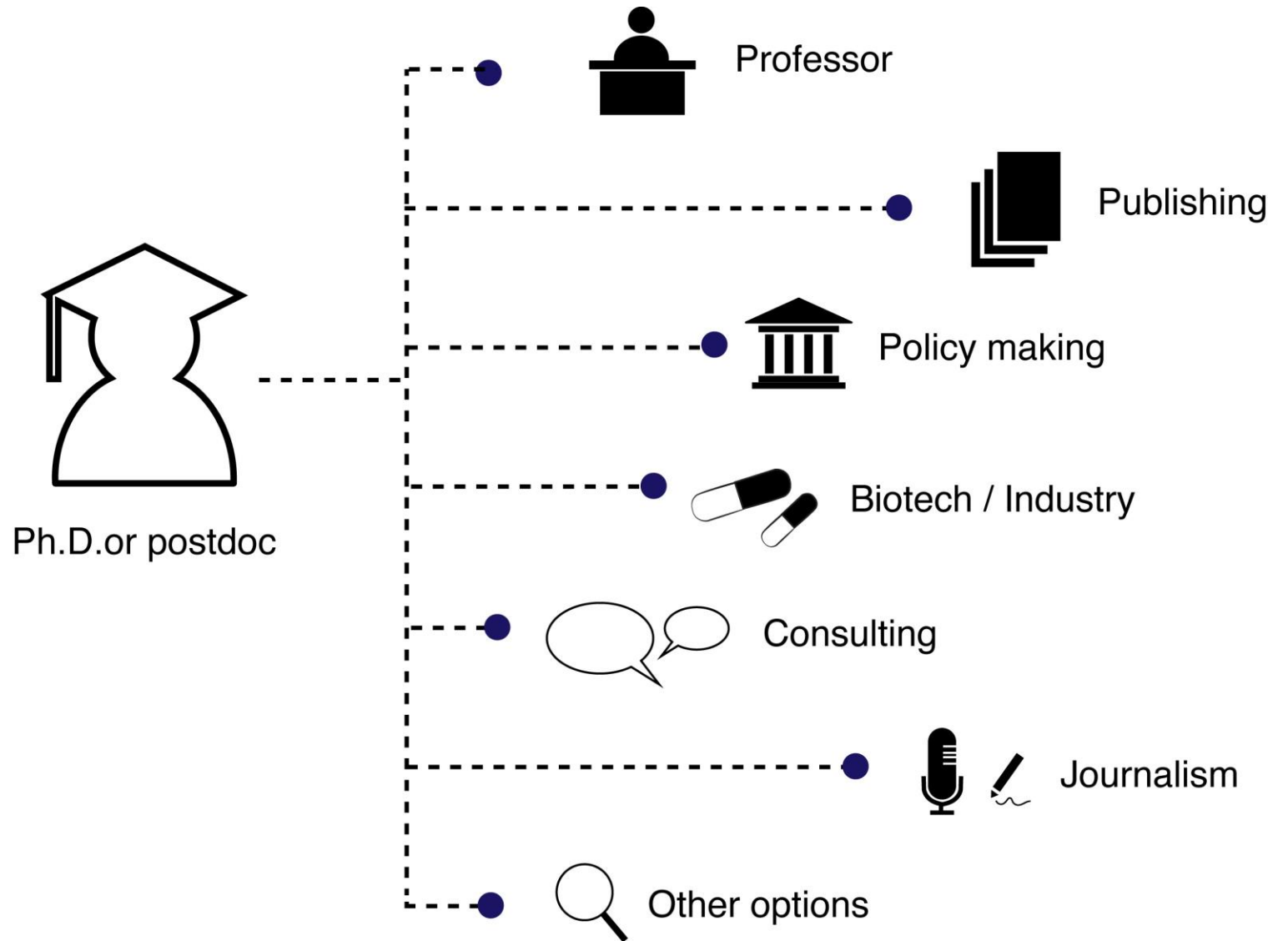
Fellowships

- BBSRC Discovery Fellowships
 - Straight from PhD, early career researchers, postdoctoral researchers, long-term PDRAs, re-entering research and establishing independence
- RSE Enterprise Fellowships
 - Future fellowships oriented more towards established academics with 'commercialisable' research
- Daphne Jackson Trust Fellowships
 - A career break through health, medical and/or caring, maternity/paternity reasons
- UKRI Future Leaders Fellowships
 - Not just bioscience-oriented but for that first opportunity to establish your own independent group/lab without RO support



Remember!

- There isn't one 'right' route for you to take
- You can always try different options and change your mind
- As a researcher you have a significant diversity of skills





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Thank you



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