

## Careers Beyond Academia | Resources for PhDs | UC Berkeley | October 2016

*This list is not exhaustive. It reflects the breadth and emphasis of resources for Humanities and Social Science PhDs looking beyond the academy for work at UC Berkeley.*

### CAREER EXPLORATION

#### *Career Center*

- **One-on-one counseling sessions** with two PhD Career Advisers.
- **Annual PhD Career Fair.** (Leans STEM)
- **Handshake Internship Listserve** (Caters to undergrads)
- **Calisto Job Board.** (Caters to undergrads)
- **“Careers Beyond the Academy” website.**  
Links to career planning tools, i.e., My IDP  
Links to articles on nonacademic careers  
Links to job boards, i.e. “Work for Good”

#### *Student Groups*

- **Beyond Academia Annual Conference.**  
100 professionals with PhDs discuss careers
- **Beyond Academia Public Sector Fellowships.** Info session and application clinic on fellowships in government and nonprofit for Humanities PhDs.
- **Beyond Academia Careers Reception.**  
Reception and recruitment for PhDs
- **Beyond Academia Website.** Offers interviews with humanists working in government, policy, the arts, NGOs, and academic administration,

#### *Townsend Humanities Center*

- **Inside Dope: Life as a Humanist** Reception with alumni beyond the tenure track.

#### *Tang Counseling & Psychological Services*

- **Extended career counseling sessions:** 45-minute sessions to identify career values and priorities. Also address career-related anxiety and depression.

#### *Visiting Scholars and Postdoc Affairs (VSPA)*

- VersatilePhD membership for current students, postdocs and scholars

### PROFESSIONAL SELF-PRESENTATION

#### *Career Center - Workshops*

- **Identifying Transferable Skills** for Humanities and Social Sciences PhDs
- **Leveraging LinkedIn** in the PhD Career Exploration Process
- **PhD Negotiation Skills**
- **Perfecting your Elevator Pitch**
- **Converting Your CV to a Resume**
- **Individual Interview Preparation**
- **Looking Beyond Academia**  
Session 1: Identifying Options  
Session 2: Translating Credentials  
Session 3: Getting Inside

#### *Student Groups - Workshops*

- **Beyond Academia Professional Profile Clinic** Coaching by Industry Reps and Career Center on elevator pitches, resumes, LinkedIn profiles. Includes business cards.
- **Beyond Academia Conference**  
Workshops: How to Network, Identifying Transferable Skills, How to Get the Tech Skills You Need while finishing your PhD (planned), Converting CV to resume, How to Captivate Your Audience, Next Steps after the Conference, How to Effectively Communicate Beyond Academia

#### *Graduate Division*

- **Professional Development Guide.** Clarifies skills PhDs obtain, recommends skills to develop and means to do that (i.e., develop financial literacy through coursework)

#### *GSI Teaching and Resource Center*

## ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

### *Career Center*

- **Perfecting your Elevator Pitch**

### *D-Lab*

- Workshop “**Getting Started with Grant Writing**”

### *Student Groups*

- **Toastmasters-Berkeley.** PhDs gather to coach one another in public speaking, including interviews, networking, and negotiating
- **Beyond Academia Workshops.** Networking workshops and practice sessions with alumni

### *GSI Teaching and Resource Center*

- **Grant-Writing Workshop (5-part Series)**
- **Interactive Theater – For Public Speaking**

### *Townsend Center*

- **Lura Dolas Public Speaking Workshop.** This 3-hour workshop focuses on effective job talk delivery, but imparts lessons in clear, confident, and persuasive presentation of the professional self.
- **Art of Writing Summer Writing Institute.** This seminar focuses on the art of writing and enables graduates to think about what the craft of writing is and how to teach it.

### *UC System*

- **Grand Slam TED style Competition.** Graduate students compete to present research in accessible, engaging format to campus and public audiences.

## TEACHING AND MENTORING DEVELOPMENT

### *GSI Teaching and Resource Center*

- **Teaching in Higher Ed Certification.** A multi-year program that includes workshops on teaching in higher education, teaching observations and feedback, and the creation of syllabi.
- **Berkeley (B) Connect mentoring fellowship.** A Year-Long fellowship with fee remission that enables advanced graduate students to lead a 1-credit seminar with 20 undergraduates. Fellows mentor students, helping them to create meaningful relationships with faculty, identify intellectual interests, and feel oriented on campus.
- **Teaching Workshops.** A range of workshops on encouraging student participation, addressing diversity in the classroom, grading and assessing.
- **GSI Teaching Conference.** A one-day conference for all first-time GSIs on assessing, leading seminar, and teaching ethics.
- **Teaching Consultant Program**

### *Graduate Division*

- **SMART Student Research and Mentoring Teams.** Summer program that funds graduate mentors and undergraduate research assistants towards the creation of a collaborative research project.

## DIGITAL SKILL DEVELOPMENT

### *D-Lab*

- **Intensive workshops** in Python, R, Excel, State, Web mapping, ArcGIS, Simply Map, Policy Map, Census Analysis, Qualitative Research Methods
- **Integrating digital methods in humanities**, i.e., “XML and Its Uses for the Humanities”
- **Workshop:** Whose ball is it anyway? Transitioning data science skills to industry and start-ups
- **Consulting Sciences for Research**
- **Instructor Training Development Curricula.** Helps PhDs develop teaching strategies using technology and media theory.
- **Digital Humanities Working Group.** Provides community, collaborative space, and workshops for humanists working with digital tools

### *Center for New Media*

- **Designated Emphasis** offers coursework in programming languages and media theory

### *Berkeley Institute for Data Science*

- Office Hours consultations on research

### *Geospatial Innovation Facility*

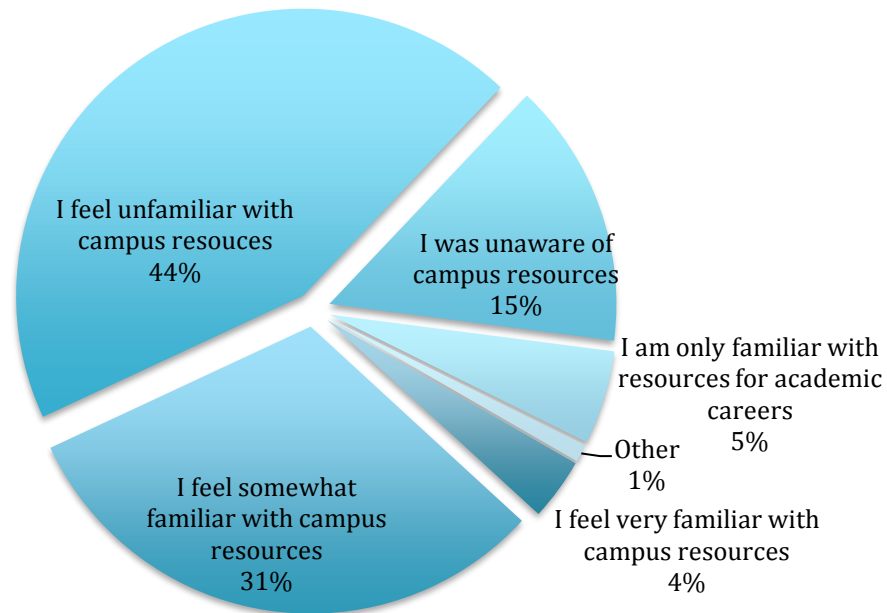
- **Intensive Workshops in ArcGIS** (fee)

## GRADUATE STUDENT SURVEY

- 230 Graduate Students responded, approximately 17% of Humanities & Humanistic Social Science PhDs at Berkeley
- Survey link sent out via email to Townsend Humanities Center, to individual department Graduate Advisers, and to student emails posted on department websites
- 98.3% PhDs; 2.2% Recent Graduates
- Stage in program:
  - 59.8% post-qualifying exams (ABD)
  - 15.3% prepping for qualifying exams
  - 23.6% pre-qualifying exams/coursework

## GRADUATE STUDENT SURVEY

How familiar do you feel with UC Berkeley's graduate career preparation resources?



**Respondents expressed overwhelming desire for more structured information and resources for career preparation earlier in their career.** Many implored faculty and departments to improve professionalization for careers on and off the tenure track.

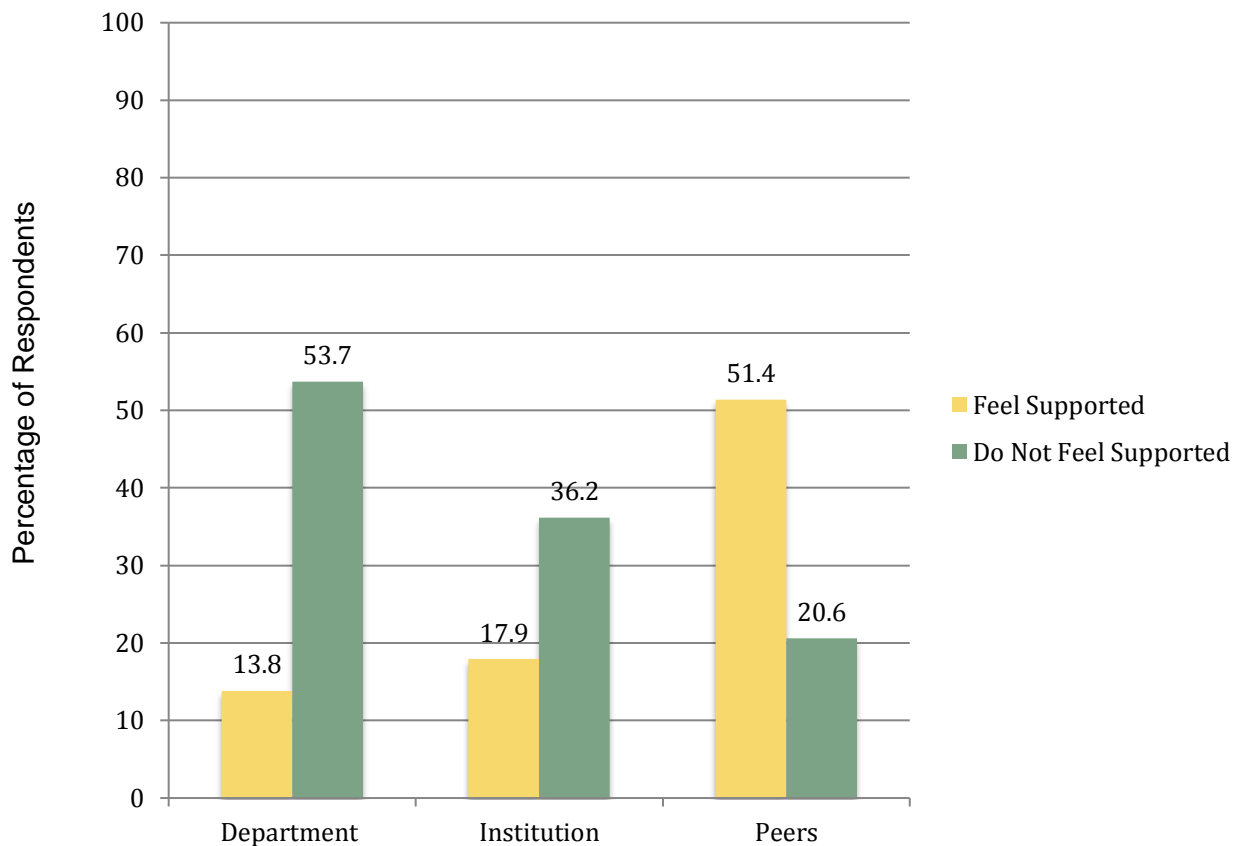
*[We need] information beginning a lot earlier - everything is targeted to people currently on the job market but students are (correctly) worrying about making themselves competitive from day one.*

*[We need] field-specific marketability and professionalization. All we get is occasional forwards of job postings (most of which are postdocs or non-tenure-track). I have no idea how to market myself or ways I can make myself stand out on the (tenure-track) job market. I assume that the best students in my department are getting privately mentored in these things, and that faculty select who they think is worth their time to mentor.*

*The university needs to get better at supporting students in alternative job searching.*

*Right now the resources are very limited and are mainly restrained to one-on-one career advice sessions. The university could enhance what it offers by connecting students with employers more directly through career fairs and internships.*

**Do you feel you have support to pursue a career beyond academia?**

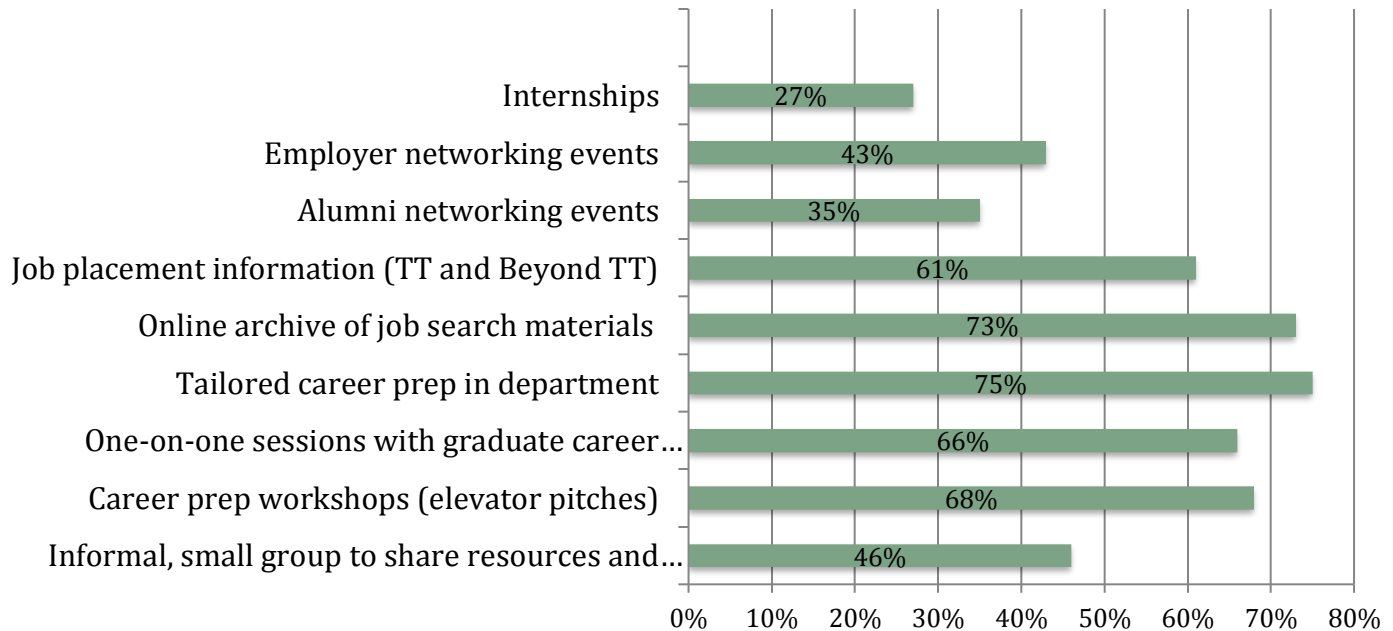


Most respondents expressed frustration with the lack of departmental support and the ongoing stigma attached to non-academic careers. **Almost 54% reported that they did not feel supported by their department.**

*Pursuing an alternative career to an academic one is very stigmatized in our department and considered a sign of failure. Thus, it is impossible to be honest about exploring other career alternatives if one is still also considering an academic PhD as there is the fear that faculty will not consider you worth investing in for academic concerns. The main challenge would be to normalize looking for other jobs alongside academic ones.*

*My program prepares students well for the academic job market, but offers virtually no support for non-academic jobs. There are rumors that some faculty will stop speaking to you entirely if you so much as mention the idea of pursuing a non-academic job, so everyone who is interested in this approach feels that they can't be open about it.*

## What resources would help you have a successful job search?



**Most respondents asked for resources specific to their discipline, information on alumni career paths, and enhanced faculty mentorship.**

*Faculty mentorship! Preparing for an academic track requires help from advisors, yet my department's professors seem ambivalent at best and mostly doing their best to avoid graduate students*

*Panels with people with degrees from my field talking about how to get non-academic jobs, what kind of jobs are out there, and what we can do while we're still graduate students to become more employable. And I'd like advice beyond just 'learn how to program and statistics.'*

*Panels with people with degrees from my field talking about how to get non-academic jobs, what kind of jobs are out there, and what we can do while we're still graduate students to become more employable. And I'd like advice beyond just 'learn how to program and statistics.'*