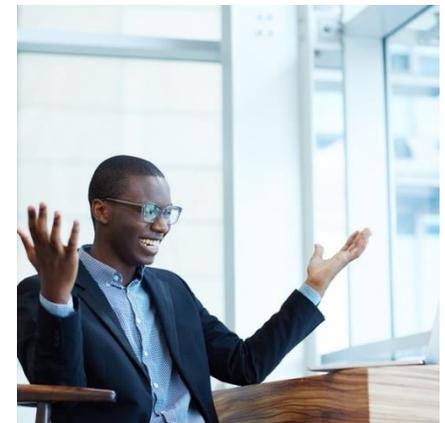


# What's Next After Your PhD

## Communicating Your Skills With Confidence

Charlie Cunningham and Anthony Knight  
Student Careers and Skills

[c.Cunningham@Warwick.ac.uk](mailto:c.Cunningham@Warwick.ac.uk)



# Objectives

At the end of our time, you will have:

- Selected key skills that employers value in PhDs
- Compared and contrasted different ways of presenting your skills
- Considered the CARE model and different CV styles

# What makes us different?

Here's  
to the  
crazy ones, the misfits,  
the rebels, the troublemakers. The round  
pegs in the square holes. They're not fond  
of rules, and they have no respect  
for the status quo. You can quote  
them. Disagree with them. Glorify  
or vilify them. About the only thing  
you can't do is ignore them, because they  
change things. And while some may see  
them as the crazy ones, we see genius.  
Because the people who are crazy e-  
nough to think they can change the  
world are the ones who do.

What skills/qualities do you have now that you did not have when you started your PhD? E.g. ability to accept and use criticism.

# In your groups sort your cards:

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What **employers** think PhDs offer



What **employers** want in general



What **we** think PhDs offer



What **we** think employers want



# Why are competencies important?

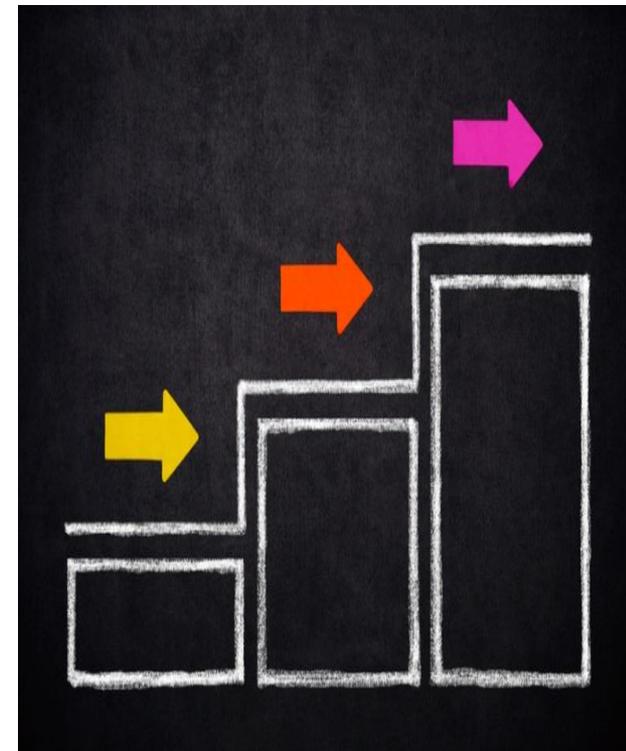
1. For most organisations, still form the basis of recruitment
2. For most organisations, as/more important than the subject area of your study
3. Recruiters will read your application and you on the basis of competencies (and other things)
4. It is quite challenging for many of us to communicate what we are good at.....concisely....without getting academic.....!
5. They may be used to measure your performance throughout your career
6. There are cross overs between academia and non-academia in terms of what is valued.....but you need to check for each vacancy.

## A quote:

“With all respect to my European colleagues, they had never been exposed to this environment or business context during their PhDs. They were really daunted and unsure about what to do. But at Warwick, we had countless seminars on networking and business skills, and I had been to many conferences and exposed to this environment so much that I felt really confident.”

# Where could you fit in?

- Read through the broad descriptions of [Civil Service Competencies](#)
- Choose a competency you want to focus on and collect the level descriptor sheet for that competency
- Choose a descriptor from the left hand column of one of the levels and tell a partner how you would convince someone of your ability to do this.....
- Get some feedback



# To C.A.R.E. or not to C.A.R.E....

- Moving to applications and interviews.....
- Use the CARE model handout to plan your answer to a competency-based question.

# Putting together a CV

**Check job description to help you tailor – e.g.....**

You may need to show:

- excellent communication skills and the ability to make an impact;
- results driven approach to work;
- constructive and innovative thinking;
- proactive approach to work;
- resourcefulness;
- a commitment to learning and improvement;
- the ability to build and develop productive relationships;
- decision-making skills;
- the ability to work under pressure and to take on responsibility;
- self-awareness of your own personal and professional development needs.

# Academic CV

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[c.lincoln@lse.ac.uk](mailto:c.lincoln@lse.ac.uk)  
07777 654321  
<http://personal.lse.ac.uk/lincoln>

### EDUCATION

- PhD in International Relations, London School of Economics** 2007-2010  
Thesis title: 'Diplomacy by Committee: The OSCE and the Kosovo Crisis'  
Supervisor: Dr Ruth Figment  
Proposed Submission Date: June 2010
- Postgraduate Certificate in Higher Education, London School of Economics** 2008-2010
- MSc International Relations (Distinction), University of Leeds** 2005-2006  
Dissertation: 'Faces Behind the Wire: Portrayals of Guantanamo in the British Press' – Distinction  
Courses include: European Defence and Security Analysis; Contemporary International Security; Politics of Intelligence
- BA International History and Politics (First Class), University of Leeds** 2002-2005  
Courses include: European Security, The Politics of Inter-Arab Relations, Europe Uprooted: Refugee Crises and the Modern Nation-State  
Dissertation: Yemen and Terrorism since 9/11

### ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

- Research Assistant, European Institute, London School of Economics** Oct 2009 – Feb 2010
- Participated in a collaborative trans-European project on diplomatic working group dynamics
  - Interviewed policymakers and politicians in English and French

# Non-Academic CV

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STUDENT CAREERS & SKILLS

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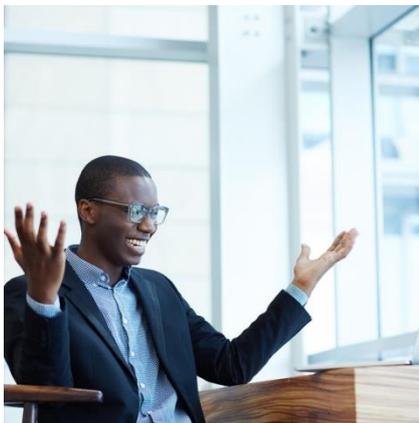
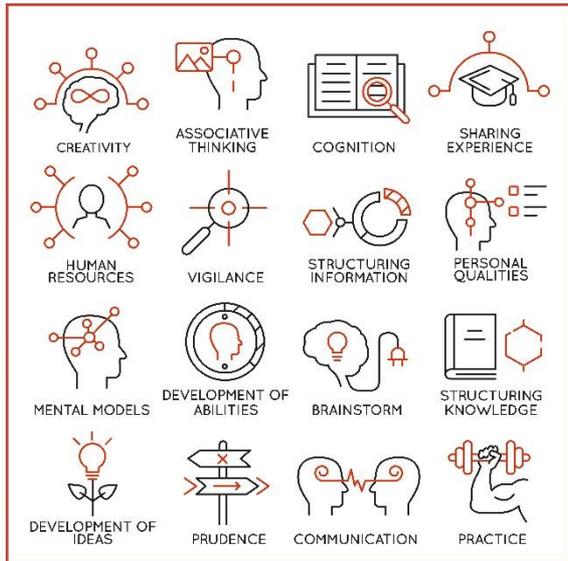
### RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Research Assistant, European Institute, London School of Economics** Oct 2009-  
Feb 2010
- Researcher and interviewer on collaborative trans-European project on diplomatic working group dynamics
  - Interviewed policymakers and politicians in English and French
- Intern, Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, Warsaw** June 2009-  
Sept 2009
- Placement in the election monitoring unit during Moldovan elections of July 2009
  - Co-ordinated and analysed incoming data from election monitors
  - Briefed OSCE diplomats in Vienna on election monitor findings
- Conference Organiser and Research Assistant, Université libre de Bruxelles** May 2008-  
July 2008
- Administration and research for international conference 'Free to Fight: Migration and Militarisation among displaced communities in Europe'
- Researcher for Giselle Lacroix, MEP** Sept 2006-  
Sept 2007
- Assisted Mme. Lacroix with European Parliamentary business at her office in Brussels
  - Liaised with French party office in Paris and European partner parties
  - Represented her at briefings and meetings
  - Provided research support towards committee work on women's rights/gender equality, and human rights

# To Summarise:

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# More resources:

[Vitae Careers CV examples](#) – these are for mostly post-docs but good models for layout (you will have to register to view them)

[Myadvantage](#) – book appointments, events at this link.

[Graduate School Professional Development Portal](#) – use this to search for workshops where you can develop your skills.