

PhD:

May the force be with you!

Wellcome Trust Centre for Neuroimaging

http://www.fil.ion.ucl.ac.uk/~steki



My story

- Bachelor's in Electronics Engineering in India.
- Got bored of it. Became interested in the brain.
- Managed to get Master's in Neuroscience at Oxford.
- Applied for a PhD. Rejected ... 21 times!
- Almost gave up on doing a PhD...
- Saw the ad for my current position at UCL 3hrs before deadline
- Completed 5 years as RA, PhD student and now postdoc
- 12 papers, 200+ citations
- Offered postdoc at ENS, Paris

My experience...

1) Your PhD is in your hands: Be in control. Make the most of it.

Drive your research

Be pro-active

Resourceful: get all the help you need

Passion in your work

Patience when things don't go your way (all the time)

Talk about your research: conference, online media etc.

Network: make connections, friends, identify reviewers etc.

2) Shy bairns get nowt.

Don't be afraid to ask:

Questions at seminars (you'll get noticed)

Supervisor for his/her time, permission for conference etc

Colleagues for assistance

Funding bodies for travel grants

3) Be tenacious.

Be aware of the reality:

- fewer jobs than PhD candidates
- bleak funding situation

Manage your career:

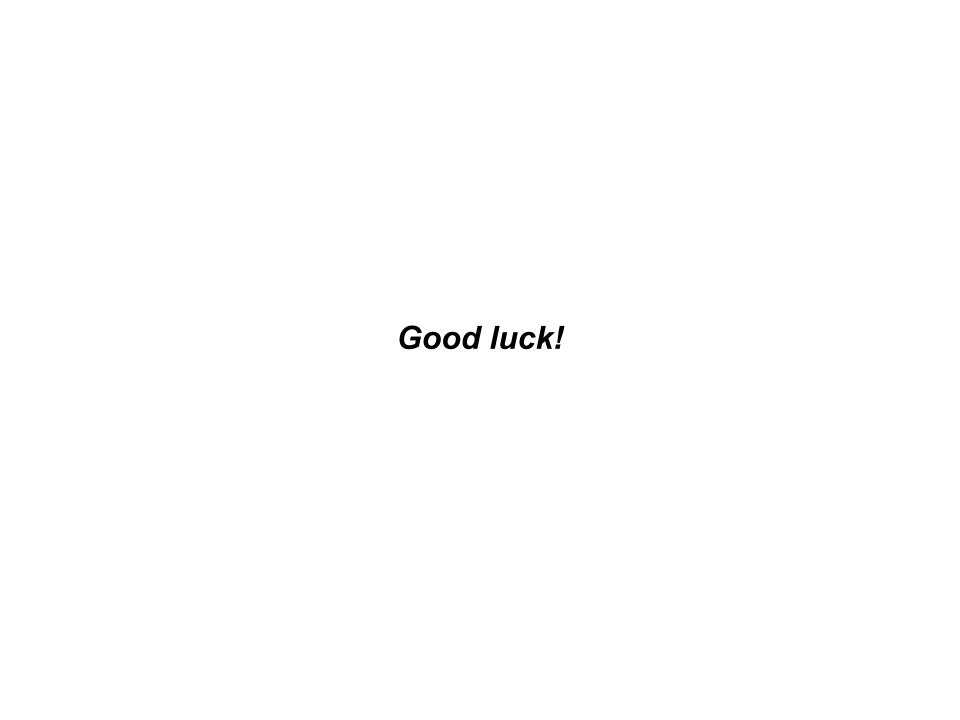
- look out for post-PhD opportunities
- contact your next supervisor, give a seminar
- don't ignore non-academic jobs
- PhD is a launch pad for several new avenues

4) Take a break!

Maintain alternative interests/hobbies: sports, arts, cinema, music etc.

Healthy social life:

enjoy your weekends, take holidays, recharge your brain



i) University Deans:



ii) Head of Departments:



iii) University labs and Techno Parks:



iv) Students about postgrad in UK:



v) Sightseeing, eating, shopping etc:



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