

PhD Research in UK: Reality and Challenges

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Curriculum Vitae



My LinkedIn

- **Born in 2000**, Tashkent
- **2015-2018** – Academic Lyceum of Westminster International University in Tashkent
- **2017-2018** – Foundation Studies at Westminster International University in Tashkent
- **2018-2021** – Bachelor's degree in World Economy and International Economic Relations at the University of World Economy and Diplomacy under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan
- **2021-2022** – Master's degree in Foreign Economic Activity at the University of World Economy and Diplomacy under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan
- **2021-2022** – Financial Advisory Consultant at Deloitte&Touche Uzbekistan
- **2022-2023** – Investment Planning Specialist at Lukoil Operating Uzbekistan
- **2023** – Research Assistant at Westminster International University in Tashkent
- **2023** – winner of the “El-Yurt Umidi” Foundation Scholarship (PhD studies in Economics)
- **2023-now**– PhD student at the University of Reading (UK)

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Pp

PhD

(noun)

an academic that has learned
more and more about less and
less until they know everything
about nothing

What is a PhD?

A PhD is a globally recognized postgraduate academic degree awarded by universities and higher education institutions to a candidate who has submitted a **thesis** or **dissertation**, based on extensive and original research in their chosen field (Haidar, 2024).

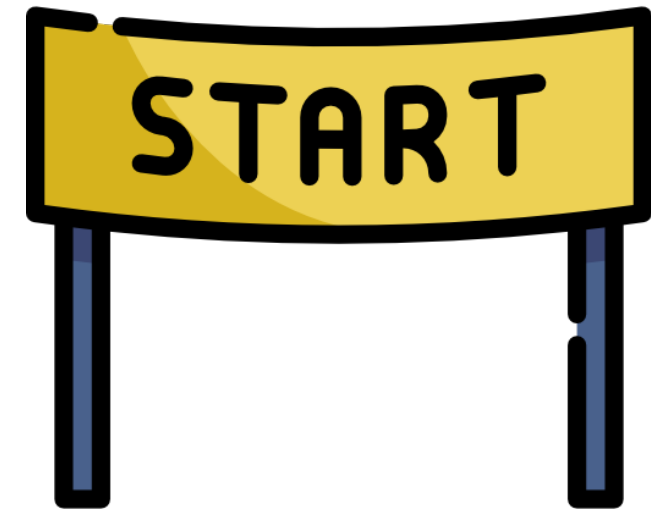
The award of a PhD requires you to write a thesis which makes a '**contribution to knowledge**' in the field (Royal Economic Society, 2024).



How to Start a PhD?

Entry requirements:

- A high GPA (3.5+), especially in economics and mathematics
- Language proficiency – C1
- Excellent letters of recommendation from academics; ideally, those that are well-known
- CV (publications are preferred)
- A high score on the quantitative reasoning section of the GRE – 165 (90th percentile for all individuals taking the GRE) or higher for most programs
- Motivation letter (essay)
- Writing sample for some programs.



How to Start a PhD?

PhD research proposal:

- Outlines your proposed research topics in the context of previous work
- Highlights your awareness of current debates within the field
- Demonstrates a suitable level of analysis
- Identifies relevant gaps in current knowledge
- Suggests a relevant research hypothesis to fill some of these gaps
- Explains your intended research methodology in sufficient detail
- Discusses the implications to real-world policy that your PhD proposal may invite.

(Haidar, 2024)



How to Start a PhD?

PhD admission details:

- Most PhD programs have a deadline in December-February of a preceding academic year
- Look for your potential supervisor
- Establish connection with a potential supervisor
- Apply via the university platform (or e-mail in some cases) before a deadline
- Take an interview in case of passing the screening stage
- Wait for your admission results.



Funding

Paying for PhD:

- Some programs are fully-funded (funding may come with RA, TA duties)
- Apply for departmental, school, university scholarships
- Apply for external funding opportunities (charities and trusts, government scholarships)
- Explore opportunities with business, industry or external funders
- Take a student loan
- Pay from your own funds.



Routes to PhD in Economics

The Traditional Route

PhD research (3-4 years)

Requirements: MSc in Economics (1-2 years)

The Structured Route (US Route)

MPhil/MRes in Economics (2 years) + PhD research (3-4 years)

Requirements: BSc in Economics (3-4 years), MSc in Economics (1-2 years)

PhD in Economics in UK

The UK has a **strong reputation** in Economics with many of its universities ranked among the world's best in international league tables and, in terms of its overall contribution, UK Economics research is second only to the United States.

Studying for a PhD in Economics in the UK means joining a vibrant, collegiate and energetic community of scholars.

The market for Economists is a global one and UK universities are working hard to strengthen their global presence and influence.

(Royal Economic Society, 2024)



Doctoral Training Programs

Royal Economic Society Doctoral Training Programme

- **Wednesday 9 October** **Data Bases for Research Economists:** *Emma Gordon, ADR UK; Rebecca Riley, King's College London; Claire Crawford, UCL and Joe Grice (RES)*
- **Wednesday 23 October** **Recent Advances in Public Economics: Using demand estimates to inform policy:** *Rachel Griffith, University of Manchester and IFS*
- **Wednesday 13 November** **How to Prepare for the European Job Market:** *Tai-Wei Hu, University of Bristol; Apurav Bhatiya, University of Birmingham; Martina Uccioli; University of Nottingham and Mary S. Morgan, LSE*
- **Wednesday 20 November** **Recent Advances in Labour Economics:** *Stephen Machin, LSE*
- **Wednesday 27 November** **How Economic Research can Influence Policy-Makers:** *Mike Brewer, Resolution Foundation; Michelle Clement, King's College London; Tim Butcher, Low Pay Commission; Neil Golborne Department of Business and Trade and Parama Chaudhury, UCL*
- **Wednesday 11 December** **Recent Advances in Behavioural Economics:** *Simon Gaechter, University of Nottingham*

Doctoral Training Programs

Shared Online Network (ShOT)



1. **ADVANCES IN CAUSAL INFERENCE** (provided by *University of Reading*)
2. **ADVANCED RESEARCH METHODS** (provided by *University of Sussex*) [TO BE UPDATED SOON]
3. **APPLIED ECONOMETRIC TIME SERIES** (provided by *Oxford Brookes University*)
4. **ECONOMETRICS** (provided by *City University of London*)
5. **MACROECONOMICS** (provided by *University of East Anglia*) [TO BE UPDATED SOON]
6. **MICROECONOMICS** (provided by *Royal Holloway University of London*)
7. **PGR REFRESHERS** (provided by *University of Bath*)
8. **TOPICS IN EXPERIMENTAL AND BEHAVIOURAL ECONOMICS** (provided by *Middlesex University*) [NOT RUNNING IN 2024/2025]
9. **MEET THE EDITOR SESSION** (provided by *University of Essex*)

Doctoral Training Programs

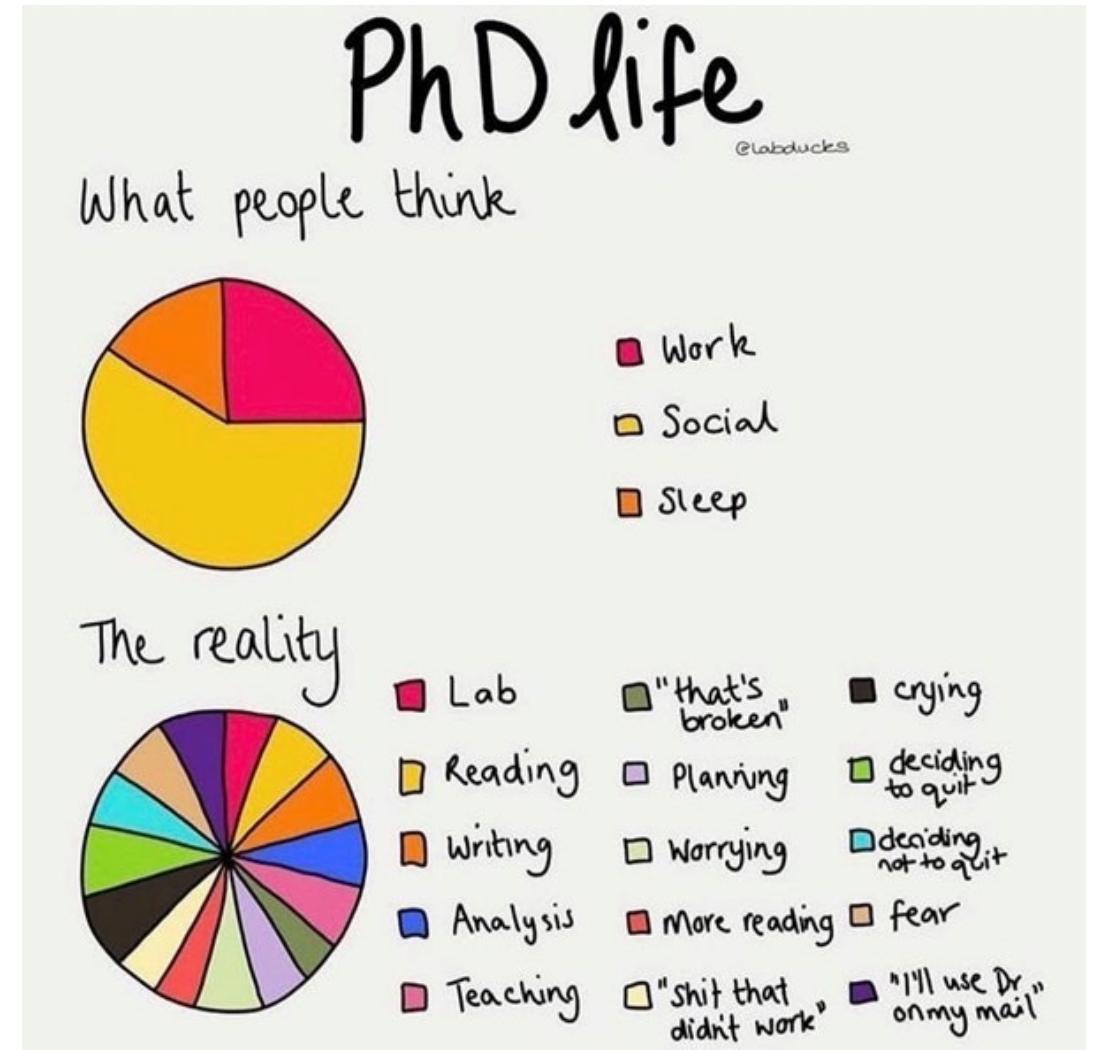
Doctoral Training Partnerships:

- South East Doctoral Training Arc (SEDarc) DTP
- CAM DTP
- Grand Union DTP
- London Interdisciplinary Social Science DTP
- LSE DTP
- Northern Ireland and North East DTP
- Midlands Graduate School DTP
- North West Social Science DTP
- Scottish Graduate School of Social Science DTP
- Welsh Graduate School for the Social Sciences
- White Rose Social Sciences DTP
- South West DTP.



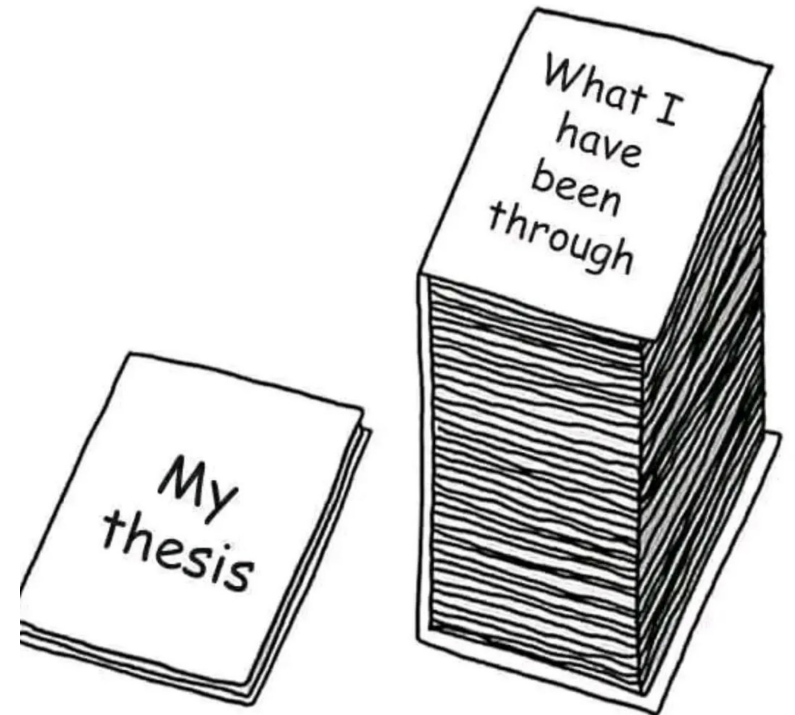
Hidden Truth (a.k.a Challenges) of PhD

If you do want to be a PhD, think about what your life might be like if it that doesn't happen.



Hidden Truth (a.k.a Challenges) of PhD

- Motivation isn't stable
- Takes a long time (5-7 years) with low pay
- Psychological challenges
- Feeling of isolation, or feeling lonely or stressed
- Working 50-70 hours a week
- PhD demands high-level math, econometrics, writing, proofreading, presentation, reading, summarizing skills
- PhD or family?



Do you Really Need (a.k.a Benefits) PhD

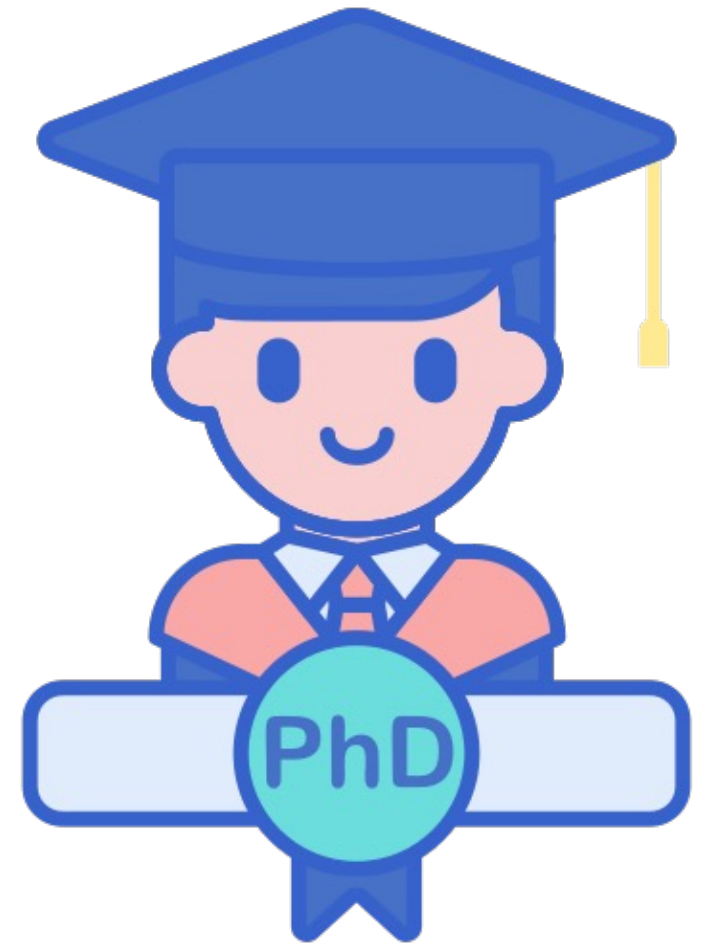
HAPPINESS IS



...completing your thesis.

Do you Really Need (a.k.a Benefits) PhD

- Being called a Doctor
- A degree that's in demand – increased job opportunities
- High earning potential
- Improved communication
- Mastery of learning
- Recognition as an expert in your field
- Professional networking
- Contribution to society.



Earnings and unemployment rates by educational attainment, 2021

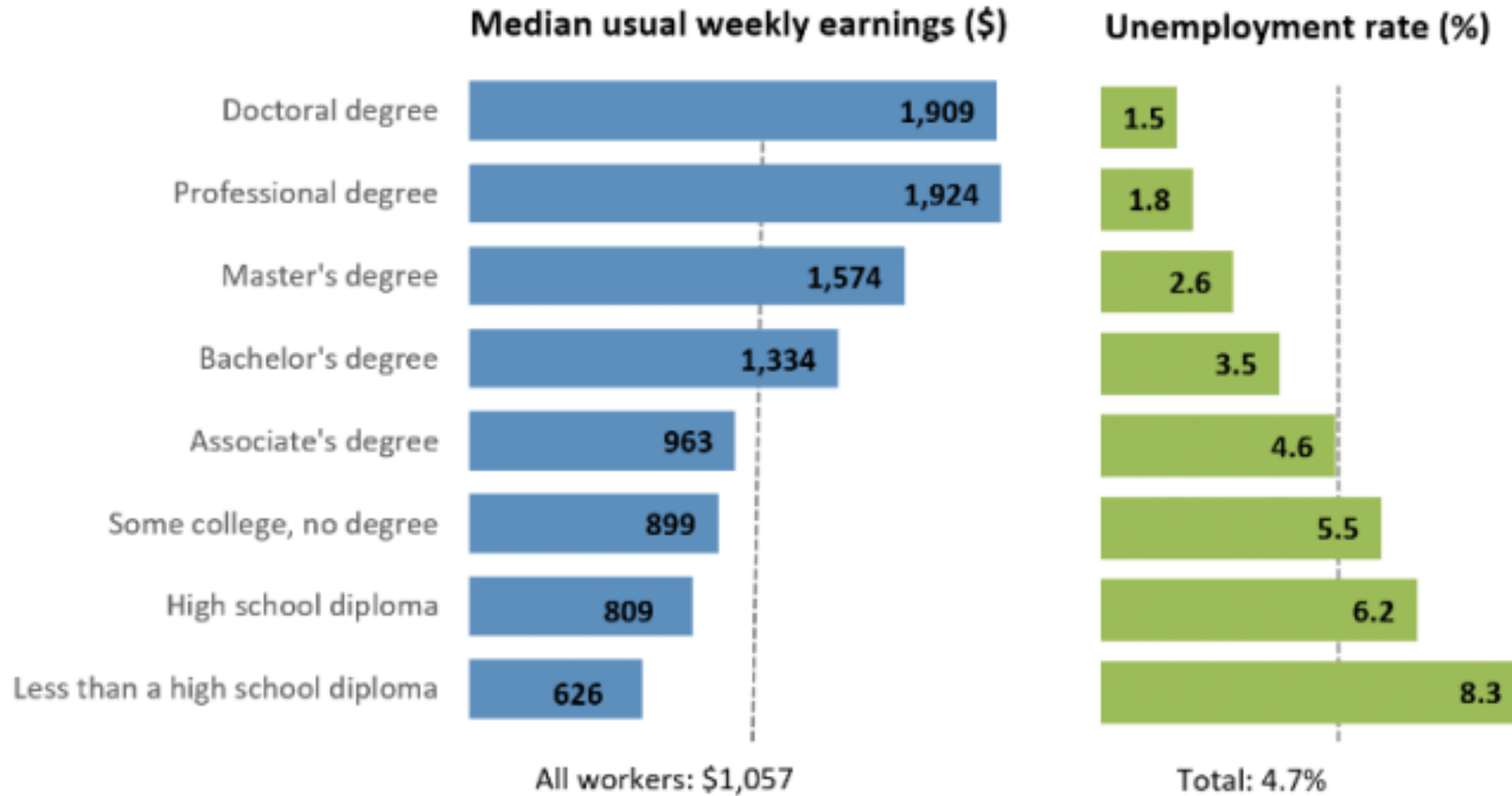


Figure 1: Earnings and unemployment rate by educational attainment (US Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2021)

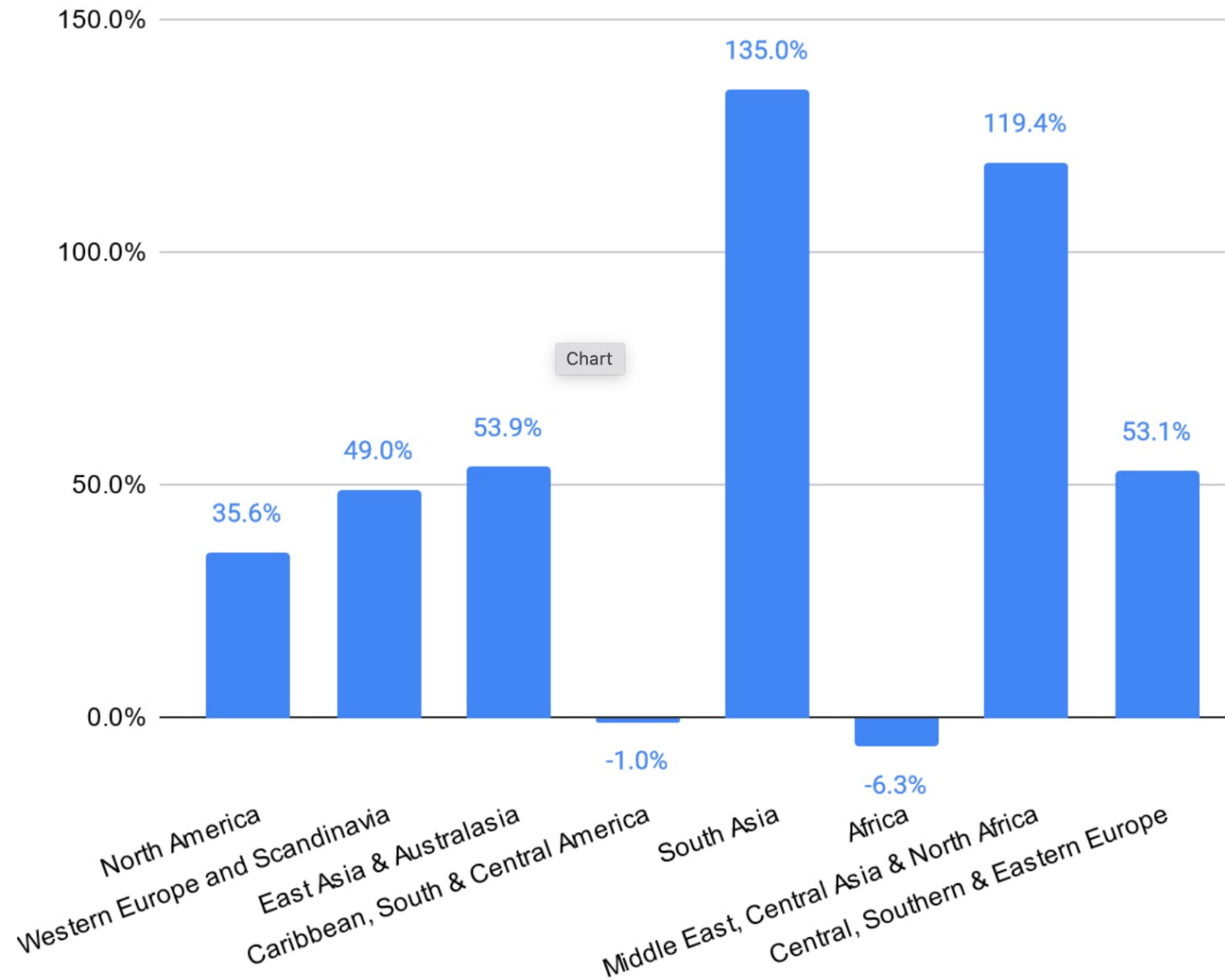
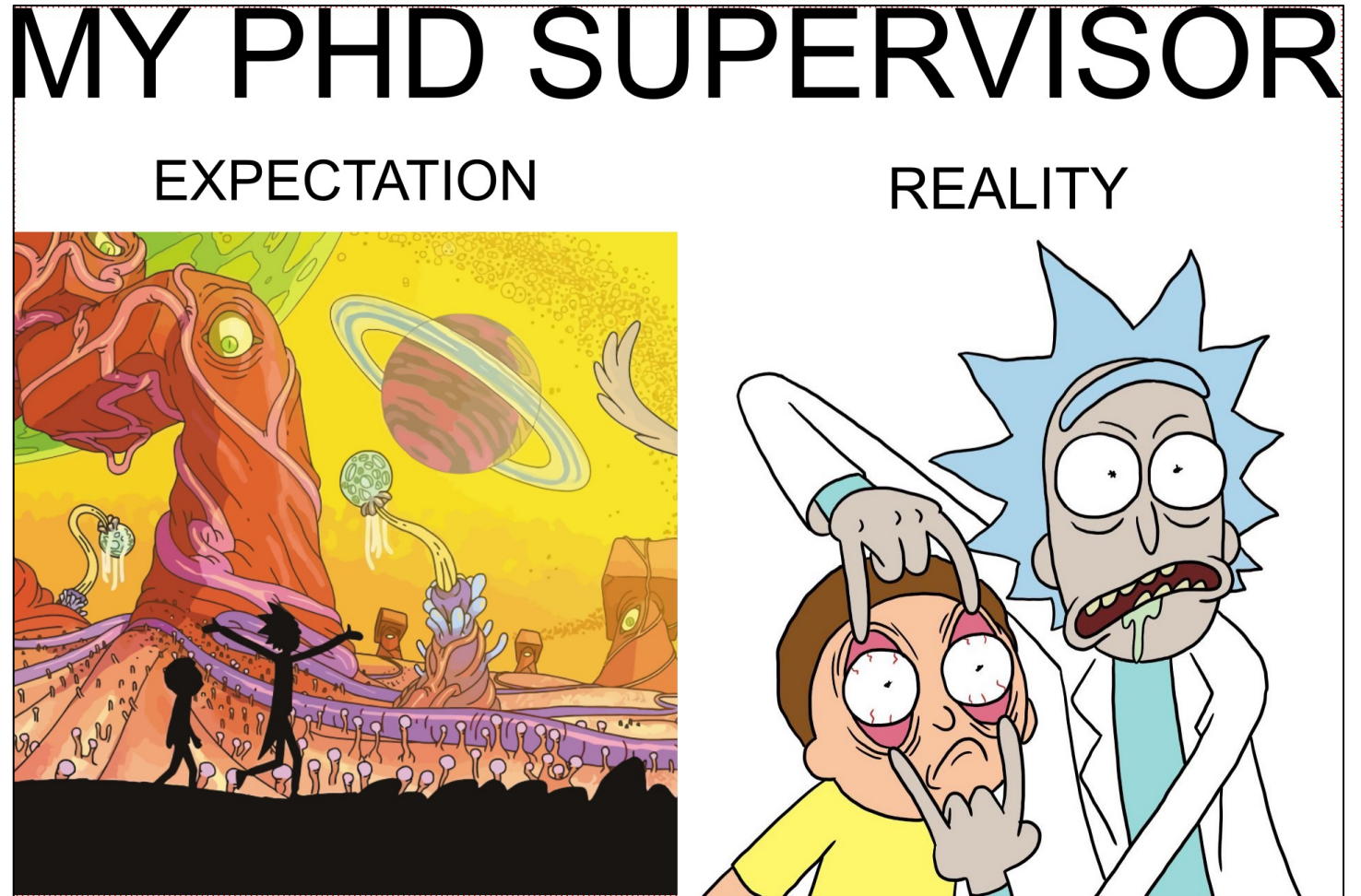


Figure 2: Regional Premiums in economics PhD pay compared to a Master's (INOMICS, 2024)

You and Supervisor

The **supervisor** of a PhD candidate is required to provide academic guidance and practical support from the inception of the project to the submission of the thesis (University of Otago, 2024).



You and Supervisor

- Get to know your supervisor before you begin your PhD
- Communicate regularly
- Know what you are expected to do
- Avoid conflicts with your supervisor
- PhD is an independent research - you know your research better than others (even better than your supervisor)
- Supervisors may be busy, and they may have several supervisees.



You and Supervisor

What are the qualities of a good PhD supervisor?

- Effective communicator
- Passionate
- Knowledgeable
- Supportive of your career
- Active



Preparing for the Job Market

- Create a personal webpage - Google Sites, free and easy to use
- Choose a “*Job market paper*” - Present your paper at conferences
- Update your CV
- Find someone (usually two) academics willing to write reference letters
- Prepare a cover letter.



Preparing for the Job Market

Academic positions:

- Post-docs (temporary)
- Lecturer positions

Non-academic positions:

- NGOs
 - World Bank
 - International Monetary Fund
 - FAO
 - UNICEF
- Government
- Consultancies
- Think tanks



Preparing for the Job Market

Academic Positions

- EconJobMarket - <https://econjobmarket.org/>

Featured advertisement			
Research Economist London, United Kingdom • map Flexible start date.	Office of the Chief Economist (OCE) European Bank for Reconstruction and Development	Other nonacademic Any field	6 Oct 2023 17 Nov 2023 10 Dec 2023
Save Hide Apply now			
Featured advertisement			
Economist (see ad for location) Flexible start date.	European Competition Policy practice Compass Lexecon	Consultant Various fields	19 Oct 2022 20 Nov 2022 15 Oct 2023 15 Oct 2023
Save Hide Apply now			
Associate Professor In Economics London, United Kingdom • map Flexible start date.	Business School King's College London	Associate Professor Any field	5 Jul 2023 31 Mar 2024 31 Mar 2024
Save Hide Apply now			
Lecturer/Senior Lecturer positions in Economics and Finance London, United Kingdom • map Starts 2024-09-01.	School of Economics and Finance Queen Mary University of London	Lecturer • Senior Lecturer Finance	2 Oct 2023 20 Nov 2023 15 Jan 2024 15 Jan 2024
Save Hide Apply now			

Preparing for the Job Market

Academic Positions

- European Job Market - <https://www.europeanjobmarketofeconomists.org/>

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Recruiters Supporting EJME 24/25

Useful Info for Recruiters & Candidates

Candidates

Candidate Name

PhD Granting Institution

I am also interested in non-academic placements

Year/Expected year of phd

Have you participated in any Post-Doc programme?

- Any -

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Preparing for the Job Market

Academic Positions

- American Economic Association JOE (Job Openings for Economists) - <https://www.aeaweb.org/joe/listings>

The screenshot shows the American Economic Association (AEA) website's JOE (Job Openings for Economists) Listings page. The header includes the AEA logo and navigation links: Journals, Annual Meeting, Careers, Resources, EconLit, Committees, Ethics/Ombuds, and a search icon. Below the header, the page is titled "JOE Listings (Job Openings for Economists)" with a date range of "August 1, 2024 - January 31, 2025". A disclaimer states that the website is for personal use only and that all rights are reserved. The main content area features a search bar, a "Filter By" section with checkboxes for "Section/Type", "Countries/Regions", "JEL Classifications", and "Published Date", and a "Sort By" section with a dropdown menu set to "Institution (A-Z)" and a "Results Per Page" dropdown set to "50". A pagination bar at the bottom shows the current page is 1 of 4, with links for "1", "2", "3", "4", "...", and "Last".

AMERICAN ECONOMIC ASSOCIATION

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JOE Network

About JOE Network

JOE Listings

August 1, 2024 – January 31, 2025

February 1, 2024 – July 31, 2024

August 1, 2023 – January 31, 2024

February 1, 2023 – July 31, 2023

August 1, 2022 – January 31, 2023

February 1, 2022 – July 31, 2022

August 1, 2021 – January 31, 2022

February 1, 2021 – July 31, 2021

August 1, 2020 – January 31, 2021

February 1, 2020 – July 31, 2020

August 1, 2019 – January 31, 2020

February 1, 2019 – July 31, 2019

JOE Listings (Job Openings for Economists)

August 1, 2024 - January 31, 2025

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Search

Filter By

Section/Type ☒ JEL Classifications ☒

Countries/Regions ☒ Published Date ☒

Only active listings are shown. To view archived listings in this job market cycle that are now inactive, check this box ☐

View listings from the previous (February 1, 2024 - July 31, 2024) JOE cycle.

Sort By

Order By: Institution (A-Z) Results Per Page: 50

1 2 3 4 ... Last

Preparing for the Job Market

Non-academic Positions

- Economist Jobs - <https://www.aeaweb.org/joe/listings>



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Senior Economist

Are you a skilled economist who can use your experience in modelling to help shape a brand-new regulatory regime, underpinning a key enabler for Net Zero? If so, Ofgem's Heat Networks team would love to hear from you. As Great Britain's regulator for the energy industry, Ofgem exists to ensure a safe, secure and sustainable energy supply to Britain.

Preparing for the Job Market

- Be organised: keep a list of job openings and deadlines (spreadsheet)
- If you worry that your CV might be too short, you can add a short summary of your most relevant papers
- Be ready to get disappointed, but it will ultimately pay off (share your disappointment with others).



Personal suggestions

Before PhD:

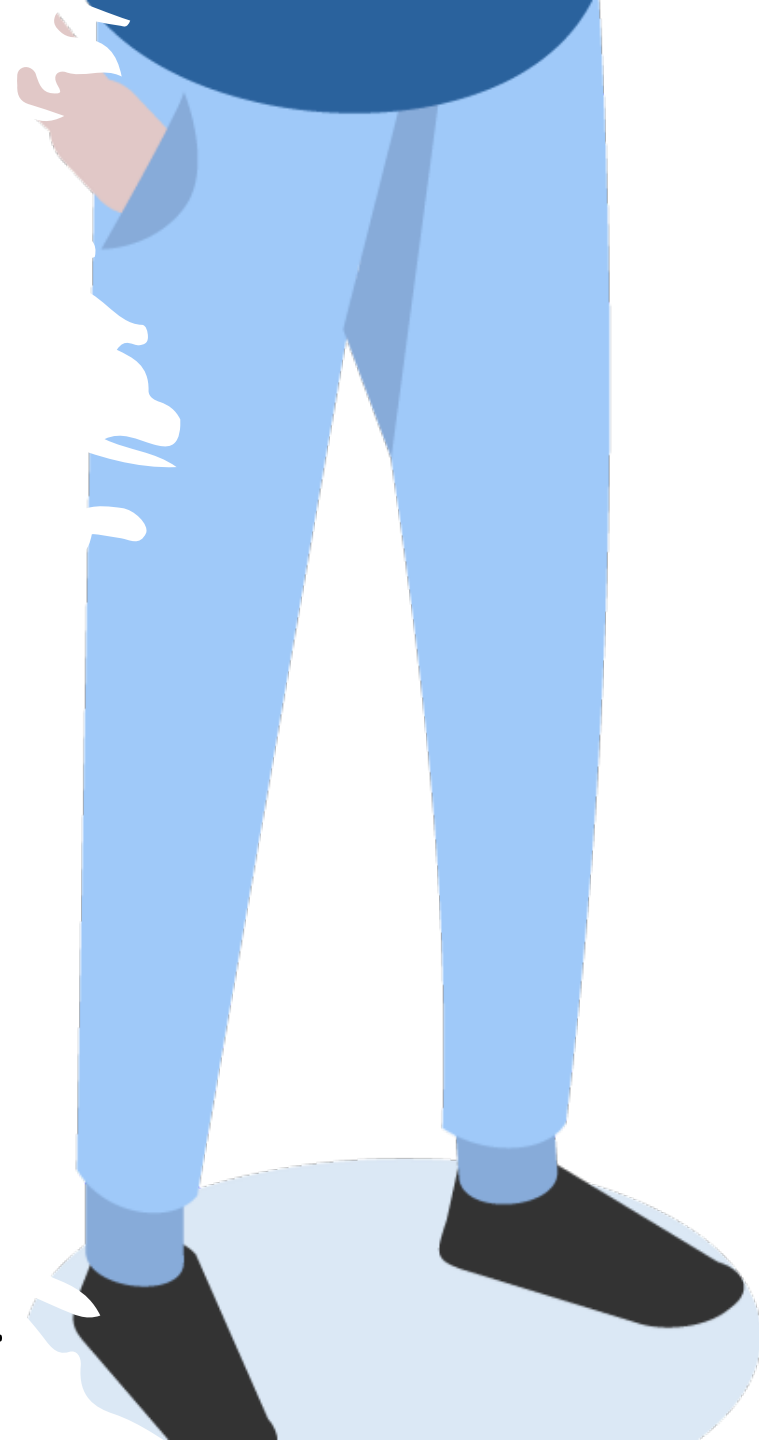
- Master your 'metrics
- Master your coding (Stata, R, Matlab, Python)
- Know what you want to do before starting your PhD
- Get research experience as soon as possible (find a suitable RA program)
- Secure your funding.



Personal suggestions

During PhD:

- Establish good relationship with your supervisor
- Write, write and write
- Collaborate
- Work hard in a first year
- Balance studies, work and personal life
- Aim to develop into an effective communicator (Practice giving small applied talks)
- Making mistakes does not make you stupid
- Participate in conferences, seminars, workshops
- Build your network
- Start job application during your last year of PhD.



Hello, Doctor...

