



REAL-time monitoring and mitigation of nonlinear effects in optical **NET**works (REAL-NET)

Deliverable 5.9 – TSW III (details on courses provided and ESR attendance record)

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ACRONYMS

ESR(s): Early Stage Researcher(s)

REAL-NET: REAL-time monitoring and mitigation of nonlinear effects in optical NETWORKS

TSW: Transferable Skills Training

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Figure 1 Screenshot of the 1st session with Dr Sarah Blackford during the 1st day of the TSWIII

Figure 2 Screenshot of the participant during the Prof Andrew Ellis’s session during the 2nd day of the TSWIII

1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This present document is a deliverable based on the third and last Transferable Skills Workshop (TSWIII) held on 24-25th March 2022, completely online remotely due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

TSWIII comprised two full days of training addressing topics such as: career planning, job market, CVs and interview skills.

The event addressed ESRs from the REAL-NET and other ITNS FONTE, MOCCA and WON, with a total of 27 ESRs. All the 6 REAL-NET ESRs attended the workshop.

2 THE EVENT

REAL-NET second Transferable Skills Workshop (TSWIII) took place on 24-25th March 2022. Due to the coronavirus outbreak, the entire event was held online and remotely in an interactive format allowing group work and high-level discussions with experienced facilitators.

During the TSWIII the fellows had a deep insight in career planning and the academic and non-academic job market. The student learned how to look at and try out job seeking strategies to research opportunities and how to access the different job markets. The ESRs learned how to develop long term self-management skills for future career progressions. They understood how to look at the hidden job market and how to use networking for successful job search

The TSWIII was widely advertised through REAL-NET website and Twitter.

The aim of this 2-days workshop was to give an overview of:

- Career planning and management
- Investigation of the job market and the different types of roles
- Funding opportunities
- CV and interview skills

The Speakers for the event comprise:

- Dr Sarah Blackford
- Andy Ridgeway
- Prof Andrew Ellis
- Paul Knobbs
- Heather Livingston

2.1 1st day

Dr Sarah Blackford specialises in providing career development education to doctoral students and early career researchers and has been delivering career workshops and one-to-one coaching for over 20 years. The aim of her session was to help the ESRs to improve their self-awareness and employability, using tools and techniques to assist them in assessing their skills and interests. Sarah prepared pre-course tasks for the ESRs in order to be ready for the workshop with possible questions.

The researchers, with a career planning overview, will understand how to apply this knowledge to make informed career decisions and identify areas for personal development. Following on from this self-examination, we will investigate the non-academic employment market, learn about the variety of opportunities and review job seeking strategies to help the doctoral researchers to be more widely knowledgeable about the world of work and how to secure a position.

Andy Ridgeway delivered a nice talk on Science Journalism as a career. He is a programme Leader of the MSc in Science Communication at UWE Bristol and a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy. One of his areas of research is *Science journalism practices*. The ESRs discovered the possibility to find a unique, highly motivated and rewarding career in science journalism.



Figure 1 Screenshot of the 1st session with Dr Sarah Blackford during the 1st day of the TSWIII

2.2 2nd day

Prof Andrew Ellis provide the ESRs an overview on all the possible career paths in academia and in industry. He described the importance of having a work-life balance, an equilibrium between the demands of having a successful career but also the demands of a personal life.

Paul Knobbs presented the ESRs the funding opportunity available after the PhD.

Heather Livingston presented the job market and provided advice on how to keep up to date with relevant labour market intelligence to support career progression. The participants learned how to develop long term self-management skills for future career progressions. They understood how to look at the hidden job market and how to use networking for successful job search. During the session they spent time on the application and selection processes and on CV's and interview skills. Participants had an opportunity to think about their current skills and knowledge and how to develop them to progress in their chosen career.



Figure 2 Screenshot of the participant during the Prof Andrew Ellis's session during the 2nd day of the TSWII

3 Agenda

The complete agenda of the TSWII is available at the REAL-NET website: <https://real-net.astonphotonics.uk/tswii/> and in annex I.

4 Post event organization

With the purpose of improve the focus and results of the workshops we have created feedback from for the TSWII, in order to collect feedbacks and comments from the ESRs. The feedback form with all the questions can be found in Annex II.

ANNEX I: TSWI agenda

CET, Paris, Berlin, Rome time

Thursday, March 24th

09:00 – 12:00, 13:00 – 15:30

Dr Sarah Blackford, Career planning and the non-academic job market

16:00 – 17:00 Andy Ridgeway, Science Journalism as a career

Friday, March 25th

10:35 – 11:15 Prof Andrew Ellis, Career paths

11:30 – 12:30 Paul Knobbs, Funding opportunity after your PhD

14:00 – 17:00 Heather Livingston, CV's and interview skills

ANNEX II: feedback questionnaire

**Feedback sheet for the
Transferable skills workshop III
(24th – 25th March 20221)**

	Disagree				Agree
1. Relevance of the workshop to your PhD	1	2	3	4	5
2. The programme was well placed within the allotted time	1	2	3	4	5
3. Good speakers	1	2	3	4	5
4. The information/skills presented were relevant and useful	1	2	3	4	5
5. Support during the workshop	1	2	3	4	5
6. Interactive aspect of the Workshop	1	2	3	4	5
7. Duration of the 1 st day of the workshop	1	2	3	4	5
8. Duration of the 2 nd day of the workshop	1	2	3	4	5
I am satisfied with					
9. Delivery methods used	1	2	3	4	5
10. Workshop materials and aids	1	2	3	4	5
11. Speakers' knowledge of the subject matter	1	2	3	4	5
12. 1 st day workshop: Sarah Blackfrod	1	2	3	4	5
13. 1 st day workshop: Andy Ridgeway	1	2	3	4	5
14. 2 nd day workshop: Paul Knobbs	1	2	3	4	5
15. 2 nd day workshop: Heather Livingston	1	2	3	4	5
16. The overall delivery and content of the workshop	1	2	3	4	5
17. How this workshop met my expectations	1	2	3	4	5
18. The workshop increase my knowledge	1	2	3	4	5
19. How do you rate the usefulness of the event	1	2	3	4	5

20. What did you like the most about the workshop?

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