

School of Biological Sciences Career Event

In 2022 BioDocSoc organised a full-day SBS Careers Event. The aims of this event were (i) to celebrate the diversity of career paths that can be pursued following postdoctoral research, (ii) to stimulate discussions on overcoming challenges in career development, and (iii) to provide information on career development resources available from the Institute for Academic Development, and (iv) research funding available to Early Career Researchers through Edinburgh Innovations. The morning session focussed on careers within academia, while the afternoon session focussed on careers beyond academia. Each session involved short talks from diverse speakers, followed by facilitated breakout sessions (speakers positioned themselves at different tables, and attendees were encouraged to move between the tables at regular intervals). Representatives from IAD and Edinburgh Innovations were also available at information desks, with information on further resources that are available.

College (where initiative took place):	College of Science and Engineering
School (where initiative took place):	School of Biological Sciences
Stakeholders involved in the planning, organisation and execution of the initiative:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Staff Society (BioDocSoc) • Staff who support researchers
Webpages:	n/a
Submitted by:	Emily Johnston on behalf of BioDocSoc
Concordat principle:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment • Professional & Career Development
Area the Concordat Initiative Supported:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Redeployment Support • Careers Support
Stakeholders:	Researchers
Comments:	Results from annual feedback forms have indicated a high interest in career-focussed events amongst postdoctoral researchers; 86 % of respondents in 2022, and 72 % of respondents in 2023 said that they were interested or very interested in careers-focussed events. Feedback from the 2022 SBS Careers Event was positive, although it was commented that it is difficult for postdoctoral researchers to commit a whole day to such an event.
Outputs/Impact:	<p>Example feedback from attendees:</p> <p><i>“This was a great event to gauge the scope of the things we can aim for with the skills we have gained through our academic training.”</i></p> <p><i>“Hearing about other people’s career timeline/experience really open up my mind about how many choices are there that's not research/academic-based.”</i></p> <p><i>“...it was a great event with a nice varied selection of speakers to give insights into their career journeys. I personally especially appreciated the high ratio of females giving their aspects on how family plans affected their careers.”</i></p>