

# The professional profile of PhD-holders

**Nevena Slovic**

## **Biotech**

As a PhD candidate focusing on translational molecular and cellular biology, I aspire to transition into industry after my PhD. Challenging, dynamic and multicultural environments inspire and drive me

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## **Core business**

### **PHASE 1 Skill development**

*Sets his professional goals to be ambitious yet realistic.  
Identifies and develops means to enhance his employability throughout his career; manages his professional development.  
Broadens and upgrades his skillset, personal qualities and achievements.  
Uses his networks to expand his scope of competence.  
Knows how to transfer his expertise to other fields of activity.  
Realizes the necessarily international dimension of his career path.  
Accepts input from a mentor or coach to benefit his professional development.*

### **PHASE 1 Evaluation**

*Evaluates the value of various documents concerning his field of expertise.  
Is able to judge his own results in terms of both quality and added value.  
Is willing to expose ideas to a critical audience; takes others' opinions of his work into account.  
Is willing to evaluate the work of other contributors and provides reasoned, realistic judgments of others' work.*

### **PHASE 1 Information management**

*Knows how to review the state of the art (SOTA) in a scientific topic.  
Makes efficient use of information-gathering methods, identifies pertinent resources, particularly bibliographic resources.  
Masters web-based research (e.g., bibliographic databases, patent databases)  
Knows how to judge the pertinence of information, critique sources and check source reliability.  
Designs and implements information-gathering and management systems using suitable technology.  
Addresses issues relating to the security and life cycle of data.  
Seeks out support from experts in information and data management.*

### **PHASE 1 Expertise and methods**

*Masters the basic knowledge and key concepts of his field and knows their history and their significance.*

## Personal and relational qualities

*Is familiar with recent progress in his field.  
Can view his research activities within an international context.  
Is familiar with the investigative methods and techniques of his field (including mathematics and statistics) and can explain why they are appropriate for a given purpose.  
Is able to consider alternative methods and techniques.  
Is able to formulate problems and hypotheses according to needs.  
Defends his research findings in a constructive manner; provides evidence to support his ideas and proposals.  
Organizes his presentations in a clear, informative and concise manner.*

### PHASE 2 Communication

*Adapts his register to communicate with experts in other fields at both the national and international levels.  
Masters communication techniques for various contexts and media.  
Communicates effectively when addressing a diverse and lay audience.  
Knows how to address a community of professionals.  
Educates and trains his staff in the use of digital communication technologies.  
Is able to work and lead a group in at least English and one other world language.*

### PHASE 1 Collaboration

*Develops and maintains cooperative networks.  
Knows how to build a professional network for his own and the company's benefit.  
Is considered an authority in his field of expertise.  
Is able to envisage his work in a partnership framework; evaluates the benefits and limitations of a partnership and identifies shared and conflicting interests.*

### PHASE 1 Analysis, synthesis and critical thinking

*Analyzes his own findings and those of his peers.  
Is able to synthesize; expresses key ideas clearly.  
Can sort and rank information according to the goal.  
Pursues his reasoning and hypotheses free of dogmatism or ideological bias.  
Has the objectivity to consider various schools of thought; is able to modify his point of view.  
Demonstrates intellectual rigor.*

### PHASE 2 Open-mindedness and creativity

*Explores related fields.  
Conceives new projects to find answers to essential questions.  
Encourages his staff to seek challenge, be curious and engage in scientific questioning.  
Defines and carries out innovative interdisciplinary projects with the help of contributors from various backgrounds.  
Serves as a vector of innovation, a realistic visionary, a constructive agitator.  
Encourages creativity and innovation among his staff.  
Has acquired professional experience abroad in a culture other than his own.*

### PHASE 1 Commitment

*Recognizes and can clearly identify his sources of motivation.  
Is able to sustain his commitment and motivation in the face of setbacks and adversity.  
Deals efficiently with the routine aspects of his job.  
Strives for excellence; shows determination.  
Learns from his mistakes and bounces back from failures.*

*Relies on the support and assistance of his peers.*

### **PHASE 1 Integrity**

*Respects the standards and practices of his entity.  
Demonstrates integrity in the processing and dissemination of data.  
Demonstrates integrity with respect to his partners' or competitors' contributions in accordance with intellectual property rules.  
Upholds the confidentiality and anonymity of subjects taking part in studies and research.  
Honors his commitments and ensures the congruence between actions and words.  
Declares any conflict of interest.*

### **PHASE 1 Balance**

*Is aware of his aptitudes, knows how to take advantage of them and demonstrate them.  
Expresses himself relevantly, confidently and didactically.  
Recognizes the limits of his knowledge, skills and expertise, and knows where to find support when needed.  
Is able to consider his practices and experience as part of the bigger picture.  
Develops his strengths and knows how to correct his weaknesses by seeking the opinion of others.  
Is aware of the need to reconcile career and personal life.  
Develops mechanisms to cope with pressure and seeks support when needed.*

### **PHASE 2 Listening and empathy**

*Knows how to engage in active listening in various situations.  
Is careful to take his contacts' needs and frame of reference into account.  
Expresses gratitude regularly.  
Takes the needs of his staff into consideration, is sensitive to signs of stress and able to provide support and advice when needed.*

## **Business management and value creation**

### **PHASE 1 Project management**

*Plans projects to meet goals in accordance with strategy and priorities, and taking quality, deadline and budget constraints into account.  
Knows how to write specifications.  
Is accountable for resources used and for meeting the deadlines and quality requirements of the deliverable.  
Reacts efficiently and appropriately to change and unforeseen events.  
Conducts his project within a framework of auditing and evaluation, deploying the appropriate systems.*

### **PHASE 1 People management**

*Has experience with teamwork; knows how to encourage, support and recognize the contributions of each player.  
Knows how to be a team player.  
Is able to win the trust of his peers and his line management.  
Can report on his activities.  
Supports his peers when needed and can provide assistance.  
Understands human resources policies and management tools such as recruitment, evaluation, remuneration and strategic workforce planning.  
Takes safety, social responsibility and labor law requirements into account.  
Upholds rules on non-discrimination and equal opportunity among employees.*

## **PHASE 1** Intellectual and industrial property

*Has basic knowledge of the rules of intellectual/industrial property and copyright as they apply to his own activities.*

*Understands the advantages and drawbacks of filing a patent.*

*Is aware of the importance of controlling the release of information.*

## **Strategy and Leadership**

### **PHASE 1** Strategy

*Is aware of how his project fits into the organization's strategy and the strategic directions of the sector or field of activity.*

*Understands relationships between entities and individuals (the role and drivers of each).*

*Is able to identify influential people that support his projects and understand what they stand to gain from it.*

### **PHASE 1** Leadership

*Exercises leadership in connection with a project of which he is in charge.*

*Knows how to be persuasive and enlist support for a project*

*.Mobilizes skills for a project of which he is not in charge; manages human resources even when people do not officially report to him.*

*Builds alliances.*

*Establishes relationships based on trust.*