



**Dirk Ziemann**

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# Career Perspectives with a PhD in Natural & Life Sciences

**Doctorate:**

Physics, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Institute of Physics, 2019

**Current Position:**

VDI/VDE-IT and Federal Ministry of Education and Research

**What plans and ideas did you have for your post-Ph.D. period?**

Take a step out of science and use scientific methods and principles in my career; become a consultant.

**What does your current professional life look like?**

I design research funding for specific areas. I talk to people in science, business, and politics and create funding programs and calls for proposals. I review laws and regulations and try to facilitate cooperation and exchange.

**What are you currently working on?**

Funding for start-ups and strategic orientation in a certain research area

**How did you find out about your current job?**

Typical job search on the Internet

**What was the biggest challenge in starting a new job after your PhD studies?**

A high degree of autonomy, adherence to deadlines, and professionalism in a field and work culture unfamiliar to me.

**What role do skills gained in your PhD studies play in your current job?**

The most important thing is to be able to solve problems on your own, to be willing to learn a lot of new things and not to be deterred by any challenge.

**What skills do you need now that you did not learn during your PhD studies?**

Think, act, and behave in a business-like manner.

**What do you enjoy most about your current job?**

What I like most is the wide range of possibilities and the variety of activities, places to work and people to meet.

**What is the downside of your work?**

There is always time pressure, and tasks can never be completed in the depth you are used to from your doctoral studies.