Planning Your Professional Development 18 October 2017: Assignment

To claim 1 credit towards RD902, you need to attend the workshop and complete both parts of the following assignment. Save Planning your professional Development as a Researcher as an activity in your record, and upload your mybooking record and this assignment to your portfolio of evidence in NEPTUNE/SPIDER.

**Part 1: Motivations, aspirations and expectations**

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| Department: | Computer and Information Sciences | Research Topic: | Information Retrieval |
| Country of origin: | Greece, Brazil, Portugal and UK | Preferred career sector (e.g., academia, industry) | Industry |
| Which country would you like to work in: | EU/UK | Preferred job title (e.g., Professor – if known) | Developer |
| Describe what motivated you to undertake a PhD: | | | |
| What motivated me to do a PhD are the challenges which are part of this research and development process. I believe that through this experience I will be transforming my character, my soft skills and my professional career significantly towards the best. | | | |
| Describe in more detail what your career aspirations are: | | | |
| My career aspirations are to work as a programmer or data analyst in a medium or large tech company and assist the advancement of the tech community globally. | | | |
| Describe what you think the expectations of your preferred employer are, for instance what do employers want from you as a potential employee: | | | |
| I believe that most employers require at least a bachelor’s degree in computer science or STEM field, but I believe that there is a growing shift towards asking for a master’s degree from the same field as a prerequisite in certain technology positions. As well as 1 to 2 years or relevant work experience. | | | |
| Describe how you plan to meet your career aspirations and employer expectations. Make reference to any professional development planning your are going to undertake, if you think the PG Cert RPD can play a part etc: | | | |
| I am already at a good direction towards achieving this since I have the required degrees and I have relevant work experience on 1.5 years but I believe that after having acquired my PhD I will be able to place a relevant graduate job. | | | |

**Part 2: Training needs analysis**

Complete each of the workbooks in the TNA spreadsheet. enter your current skill level for each descriptor you have highlighted, using a scale of your choosing (this could be the scale you developed in the workshop). The scale should range from a minimum of having no experience or knowledge of a descriptor, to a maximum appropriate for applying for a postdoctoral or junior academic position. The choice of intervals on the scale is up to you, as is the format of the scale (i.e., numerical, ordinal, descriptive etc). Indicate what skill level you think you would need to be able to apply for your first job in the ‘Target level for job ’ and give an indication of when you think you need to gain this level.

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| Give a brief description of the scale you used, and why you chose it: |
| The point scale I used consists of the following descriptors, average, good enough, excellent, professional. I decided to utilise this scale as it clearly describes the learning objectives without overcomplicating the spreadsheet. Average means that the person has average knowledge of a topic. Good enough means that the person has good knowledge of the topic but he or she can further improve their skills. Excellentthe person has very good knowledge of the subject but he/she is not yet at a professional level which is the final goal. |
| Give a brief reflection of how you might meet one of the training needs you have identified: |
| I can be more optimistic about life by introducing more trips during the weekends, visting more often my parents, going out more often with my friends in Glasgow and in Athens. |
| Give a brief reflection of your preferred learning style (i.e., formal, informal, experiential): |
| For cetain subjects such as programming, I prefer the experiential style because you have the opportunity to apply the knowledge that you’ve learnt in a real application with real problems and challenges which in the end is what enables someone to improve his programming skills among other activities. |
| Please indicate how useful you think the training needs analysis tool is, how likely you would be to use it, or what other tools you would find useful: |
| I believe the training needs tools provides a decent starting point for identifying training requirement. This tool supplies a general synopsis of attributes that are associated to the industry and the academia. All in all, I think this tool and curse was very useful for my professional development. |