

# Doctoral Graduates in Society:

## Case Studies of Enterprising Researchers

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# University of Surrey

- 
- » Guildford, UK
  - » Over 16,000 students
    - Undergraduate: 13,259
    - Postgraduate taught: 2,526
    - Postgraduate research: 1,085
    - 36% outside of the UK
  - » £1.7bn contribution to the national economy
  - » 2,300 + placement partners
  - » 117,000 alumni



# Doctoral College

The Doctoral College at the University of Surrey supports the academic and professional development of postgraduate researchers and early career researchers to underpin the growth of our world-leading research.



# Our Research Community

- Over 1,000 postgraduate researchers working on unique projects in over 170 research areas supported by 450 academics
- 500 early career researchers



# Doctoral College Alumni Project

**Students understand that a PhD is no longer exclusive to future academics; prospective students applying to study at a doctoral level are also focused on industry, business, start-ups, and more** (*Denicolo & Reeves, 2014*).

- » Documenting the career journeys of doctoral alumni from the University of Surrey.
- » Conduct written and filmed interviews with University of Surrey alumni, focusing on their individual career journeys.
- » Helping us to understand
  - How doctoral graduates translate their transferable skills
  - Perceived benefits of training opportunities and developmental experiences
- » Provide 'real examples' to our current students and early career researchers
- » To support our evolving programme to develop the employability of our postgraduate and early career researchers – The Employability PhD
  - Relevant
  - Tailored
  - Accessible





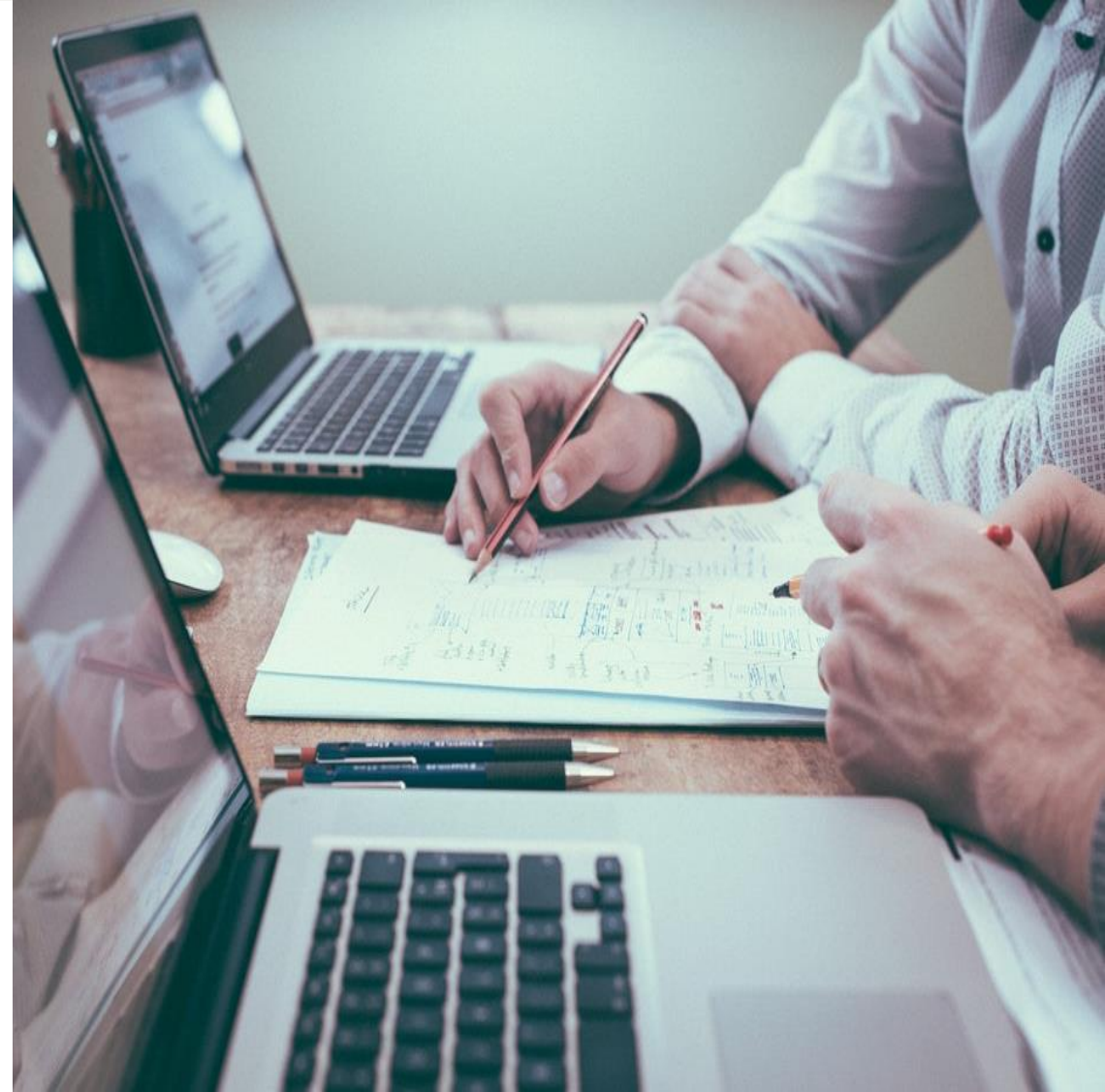
# Transferable Skills

## » Examples from case studies:

- Resilience
- Public speaking and presenting
- Writing for an appropriate audience
- Ability to develop a coherent argument
- Approaching a task with rigor
- Analytical skills (analyse information / data , problem solve and make decisions)

» Often, skills that are not specific to a student's field of research and expertise go unnoticed.

» Emphasises the importance of recognising transferable skills as part of the PhD experience for effective use in future career.



# Dr. Geoffrey Knott



PhD in Mechanical Engineering Sciences (awarded 2019)

Research Fellow (ECR) in Bistable Composite Shell Design

Founded start-up HOP, creating nutrition supplements using cricket protein





# Dr. Manrutt Wongkaew

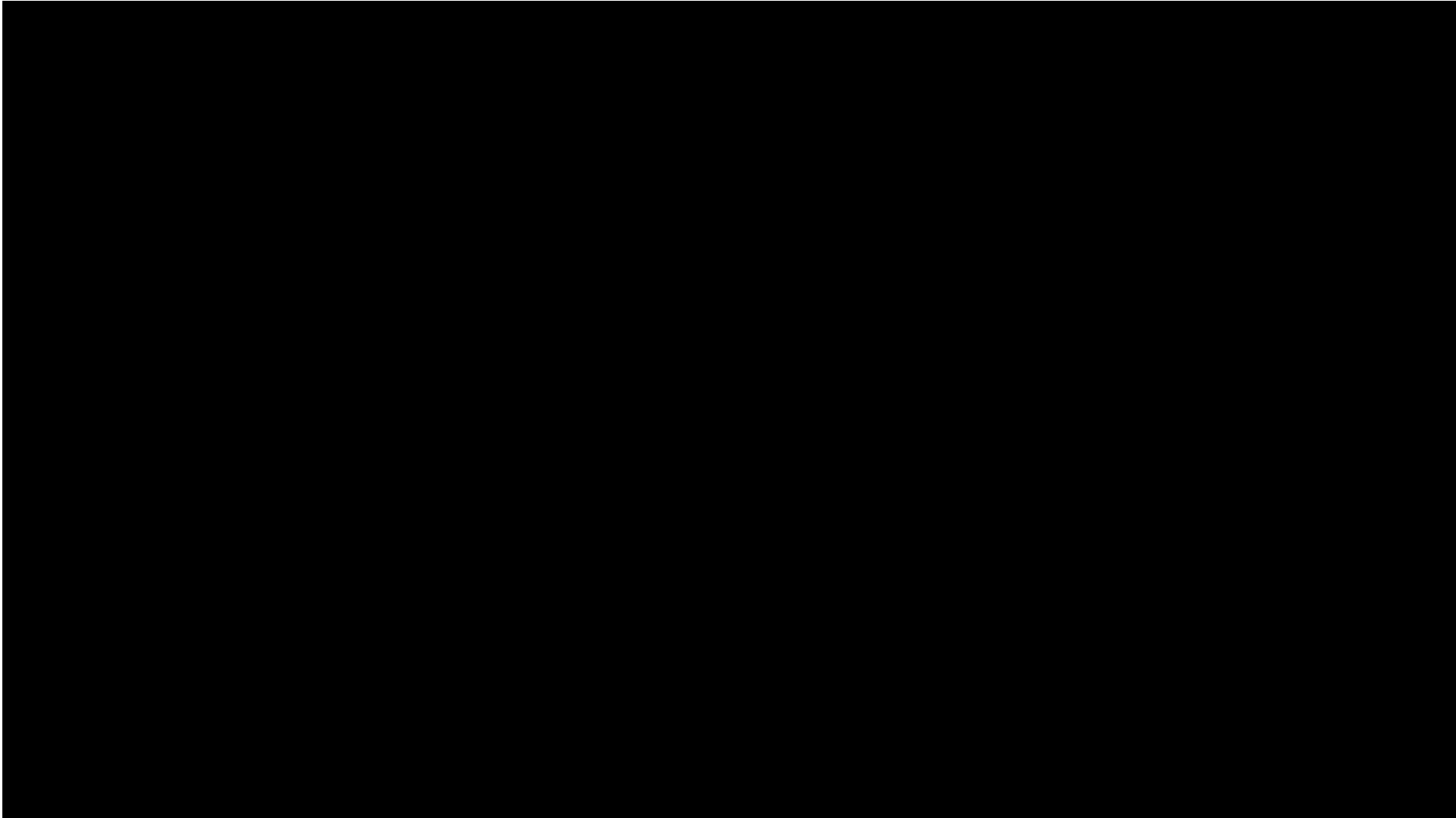
PhD in Fashion & Dance Studies (awarded 2015)

Lecturer in Fashion Styling & Production at UAL London College of Fashion

Freelance Creative Director & Design Consultant



# Video Excerpt: Transferable Skills



# Dr. Samantha Cooke



“You are not alone. Irrespective of your relationship with your supervisor, your personal situation, or your own confidence levels, there is someone who can relate. Don’t be afraid to ask for help and advice. But, most importantly, have faith in your own abilities and don’t let anyone affect your confidence in a negative way!”

Dr. Sam Cooke

Teaching Fellow in International Security

Deputy Director of Student Experience and Progression

University of Warwick



# Dr. Paul Yates



“Keep your options open, keep pushing the edges of your comfort zone, and keep learning. Also, don’t panic if you don’t find a job straight out of uni!”

Dr. Paul Yates

Stuart Delivery, North East Regional Manager

Director, Gentoo Sports

# Next Steps



- » Continue gathering our case studies
- » Review to inform future programme developments
- » Create a platform to enable students to access them
- » Develop a programme of visiting alumni

# Questions to Consider



- » What infrastructure and institutional support is necessary to support doctoral researchers' ability to successfully translate their skills across sectors?
- » How can supervisors best prepare their doctoral researchers for a career outside of academia?
- » What should doctoral researchers do during their doctorate to gain the skills necessary to succeed in the ever changing job market of tomorrow?



