

Sara Fiction

A tenacious and committed science researcher experienced at working effectively in teams and independently. Proven expertise at managing projects, solving problems and developing strategic partnerships; experience which I now aim to apply in a business development role.

Skills Demonstrated

Problem solving - analysis of complex data, identification of trends and development of new approaches to ensure work is ahead of rival groups
- overcome obstacles with a combination of personal experience, expertise from others and adapting ideas from relevant publications.

Project & resource management

- defining research goals within a timeframe agreed with funding partners; monitoring progress with PM tools, such as GANTT charts
- developed feedback system to ensure awareness of any slippage or emerging issues at an early stage.

Communication - high level interpersonal, written, editorial and public speaking skills through teaching, supervision, research papers and conference presentations
- accomplished at presenting complex material in a clear, concise, and persuasive manner, tailored for a range of audiences.

Commercial awareness

- responded to limited funding by building collaboration with local company;
- promoted advantages of joint project in a marketing strategy; accurately costed staff and equipment time to establish funding levels; report on progress to company directors.

Strategic thinking - further research funding strategy by reviewing the work of other groups, analysing trends in funding, attending conferences to hear of novel approaches and developments
- discuss potential value of work with a range of researchers to identify original opportunities.

Leadership and Teamwork

- effectively manage own time and ensure other team-members meet agreed objectives
- oversee multiple projects, set priorities, meet deadlines and provide direction to the work of junior researchers and research technicians.

Current Status

Since October 2000

Senior Research Associate, University of Wales, Swansea

Responsibilities

- identification and achievement of research goals
- promotion of research work and institution
- management of research budgets and resources
- identifying funding opportunities and pursuing these successfully
- representation of research staff opinions to senior management
- co-supervision of research students (6)
- effective communication of project outcomes

Achievements

- successfully secured £120,000 funding (2003)
- multiple outputs in prestigious journals (2000-3)
- organisation of social dinner for 200 staff and students (2003)

Previous Experience

1998-2000 Research Fellow, University of San Diego

Research area: Development of conductive polymer coatings. Supervisor: Professor Sam Uncle. Responsibilities: Improving physical properties of experimental materials, disseminating achievements at international conferences and through publications. (Further details on request)

1996 - 1998 Research Assistant, University of Kingsmarkham

Research area: Phase separation of polymer blends. Supervisor: Professor Long Suffering FRS. Responsibilities: safety in research lab and supervision of research students. Presented research work at national conferences and through publications. (Further details on request)

1992 Summer Internship, Procter & Gamble

Research project: Monitoring effect of pro-vitamins on human hair. Responsibilities: planning and carrying out experimental work, interpreting data, presenting results and conclusions to senior management. Also attended graduate development workshops on presentation skills, negotiation, marketing and other commercial functions.

Qualifications

2003 Certificate in Research Management, University of Wales (1 year PT) including project management, research supervision, time management, technical communication

1996 Awarded Chartered Chemist (CChem MRSC) after peer review, submission of portfolio and recommendation

1996 PhD Physical Chemistry, University of Wales, Swansea "Optical and Dielectric Properties of Polymer Dispersed Liquid Crystals". Thesis awarded University of Wales Harry Hallam prize for Outstanding Research.

1992 B.Sc. (Hons) Chemical and Analytical Science, Ili University of Wales, Swansea

Other Experience

In March 2003, I mentored a group of students at a GRADschool to further develop my facilitation skills.

2001- present: Research Staff representative on Departmental Committee

1995 - present: Self-employed A-level tutor. Running my own small business has developed my organisational skills, ability to communicate complex principles in an engaging way, financial management (in the completion of my own tax return) and commercial awareness.

Interests

I try to balance my office and lab based working environment with outdoor activities and I am a keen walker and canoeist. My reading interests include crime, biographies and modern fiction.

Personal information

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References

upon request