

Evaluation results: Transformation from Scientist to Data Scientist (June 23, 2020)

Course details

Instructor: Dr.Chris Armbruster

More information is provided on the webpage: <https://.bgc-jena.mpg.de/domains/impres-gbgc.de/index.php/Courses/ScientistToDatascientist>

8 out of 14 participants filled in the survey by June 25, 2020

Survey results

1. Did the goals and the structure of the course matched well with the course description?

- Yes = 8*

Yes, I think so. At the beginning I was not sure but in the end I feel having a much better impression about what it means to shift outside academia with the tools learned within the academic career path.

2. To which extend has the course improved/clarified your general notion of your career planning outside of academia?

- Very high = 8*
- The course was really good. Common contract types could have been mentioned a bit more (full-time vs part-time with the combination of consultancy and other types of companies).
- Better idea about what would be the benefit and what could be possible disadvantages
- To a great extent, the transition from PhD to postdoc seems like an expected course of action; it is good to have a different perspective. I was also not aware of the current demand in this job market.
- Quite a lot. I'm drifting more toward leaving academia now.
- Improved, especially on how/why this particular field could be an interesting choice and what the trade-offs are compared to a career in academia

- Very much. The course touched many aspects of career planning and practicalities that make it easier to grasp "what are the odds" of getting which job, and what to do for it
- It introduced a new career possibility that I was not aware of before.

3. Do you think the workshop was helpful? Would you recommend this course to others?

- Yes= 8*

- yes. Also as an early stage PhD it was very helpful because at this stage it is still easier to also have a bit more control about possible advantages for academia career and career outside (e.g. learning another programming language or taking specific courses...) really helpful, would recommend
- Yes, I would definitely recommend the course for the people interested in a data science career

4. Did the trainers take sufficient time / opportunities for questions and discussions?

- Yes = 8*

5. Which parts were especially good (and why)?

- All of the interactive parts of the discussion were good. It motivated us to think in a structured way for a future career
- I liked it that he invited someone who made this transition recently.
- For me personally I enjoyed the invitation of Kirstin Taufertshöfer, being a young woman 3 years outside academia because I could just well identify with her.
- I found it especially interesting to see the requirements for a CV in industry as I know this is crucial but it is sometimes hard to find the relevant information. I also especially enjoyed meeting with the data consultant (sorry, I forget her name) as she gave what felt like a very honest description of the reasons she took this path, the challenges she faced, and what she does in this position.
- Meeting a PhD case who made a successful shift from academia to data-industry.
- The opportunity to ask questions. Plus having a person over that actually did a successful transition from academia to data science.
- Chris knows the data science field really well, and knows about our academic mindset too. Therefore, I think the session was really targeted at the right audience and very informative to me. The interactive part with Kirstin provided insight in what the day-to-day life of a data scientist can look like and what to expect when you start the job. I also appreciated ample room for personal questions to Kirstin and Chris.

6. Which parts were not so good / not so fitting / not well enough presented?

- No = 5*

- Common contract types in different style of companies and typical turnover time of the employments could have been presented in detail.
- For me, the course was a little bit too theoretical. And Chris repeated himself quite a lot. I would have found it interesting to have a session where we work on our on CV and discuss them afterwards

- Very minor point. I had (small) trouble understanding some of the jargon, as well as not always knowing the German companies Chris was talking about sometimes

7. Do you have other suggestions for a future workshop?

- No = 3*
- A break of 10-15 minutes would be nice. Sometimes it's hard to keep focused continuously for 3 hours
- Clean coding, advanced statistics
- I am not sure if you ask for ideas of a similar topic or in general. In general, it would be nice to have more Core-courses at the IMPRS. It is not easy to collect all the needed credit points for this category.