



## CASE STUDY: PAWEL CZARNOWSKI

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### What initially excited you about the Career Pathways Mentoring Scheme? What did you hope it would help you to explore further?

When I applied to the CPM Scheme, I was in the middle of planning a transition from the world of academia to the private sector. I was excited to be matched with an experienced professional working in the business sector, who would be able to provide me with advice and guidance. I was looking for someone with whom I could speak freely, share my thoughts, and receive honest comments.

### How was your experience participating in the CPM Scheme? What have you learned or experienced that has been valuable to you?

I have found the CPM Scheme invaluable. I was matched with a committed, helpful, and sharp mentor who was a great fit. Hearing about my mentor's transition to the private sector after his PhD was very beneficial. My mentor helped me organise my thoughts, analyse different opportunities, and plan. My mentor had an impressive ability to analyse and structure information which made our meetings very fruitful.

### How did you approach your sessions with your mentor? What did you discuss?

Every meeting was scheduled weeks in advance. I would prepare 5 to 10 different points that I would like to discuss. The focus of our meetings was entirely up to me. This flexibility allowed me to ask my mentor for advice on issues that I was working on at the time and receive timely feedback. I was very happy to be able to approach the sessions in a relaxed manner. We discussed both academic and non-academic projects I was involved with, my search for new opportunities, and different risks and tradeoffs that I should be mindful of.

### What would your advice be for someone considering an application to the scheme?

I would wholeheartedly recommend applying to the CPM Scheme. Based on my experience and meeting with other mentors and mentees at CPM Scheme events, the quality of the scheme is extremely high. I am glad that I applied.

## Ready to find your mentor?

The Career Pathways Mentoring Scheme pairs PhD researchers with PhD alumni who have gone on to work in the public, private or non-profit sector. Learn how different organisations work, the research they do, and the people they recruit, along with an understanding of the day-to-day responsibilities of a range of role types.

Programme benefits include:

- Dedicated time to focus on career options and planning with access to a knowledgeable sounding board for testing out ideas.
- Increased professional networks and points of contact via the mentor, and the other mentees and mentors in the programme cohort.
- Increased self-awareness, awareness of the transferability of research skills, and confidence in joining new work environments.