PhD Plus: Enhancing PhD Student Experience
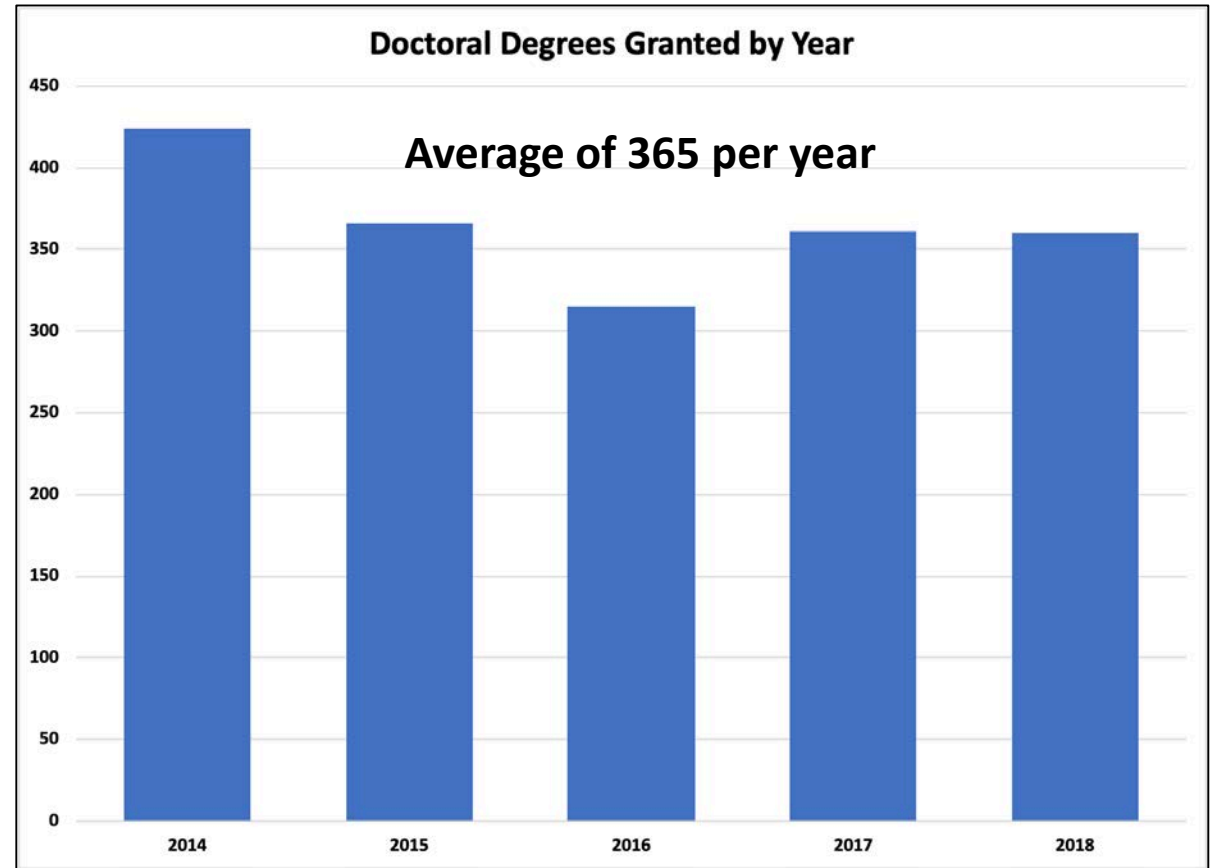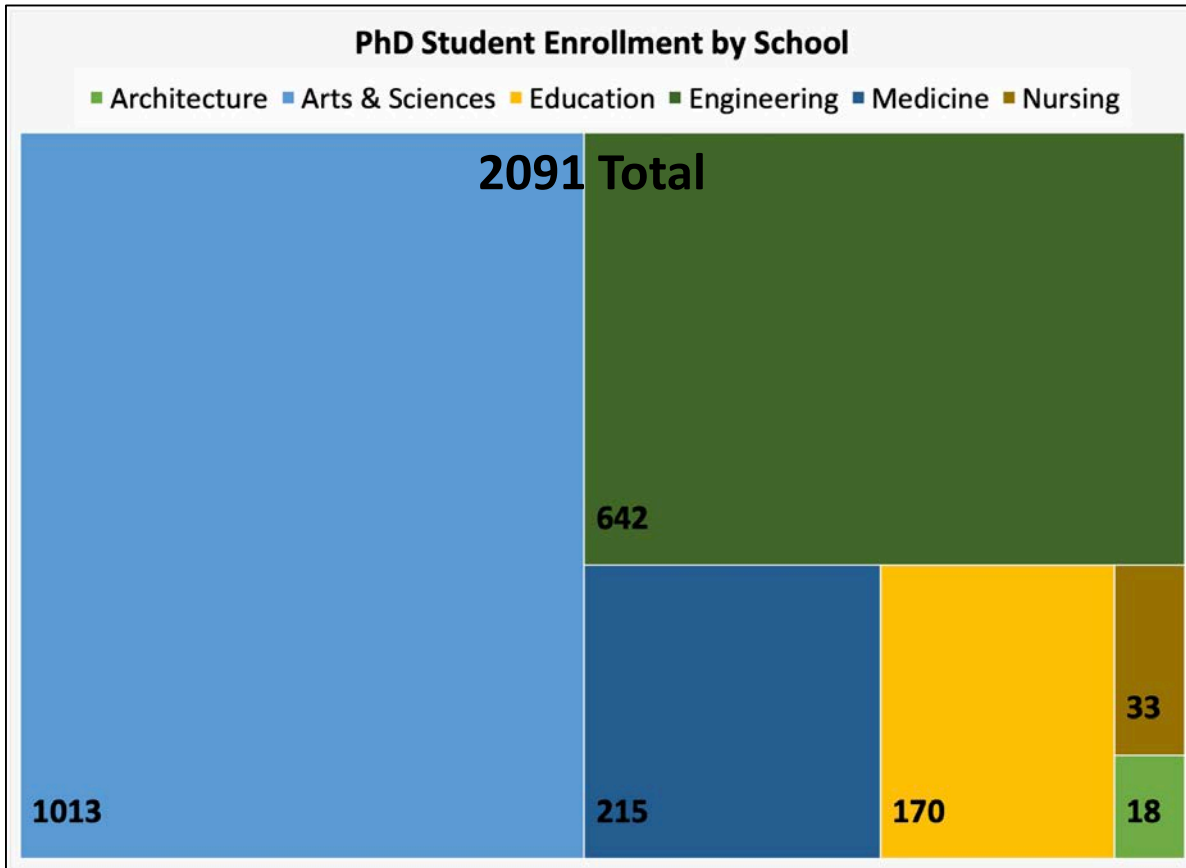
Phil Trella

February 28, 2019

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UVA PhD Student Data Overview
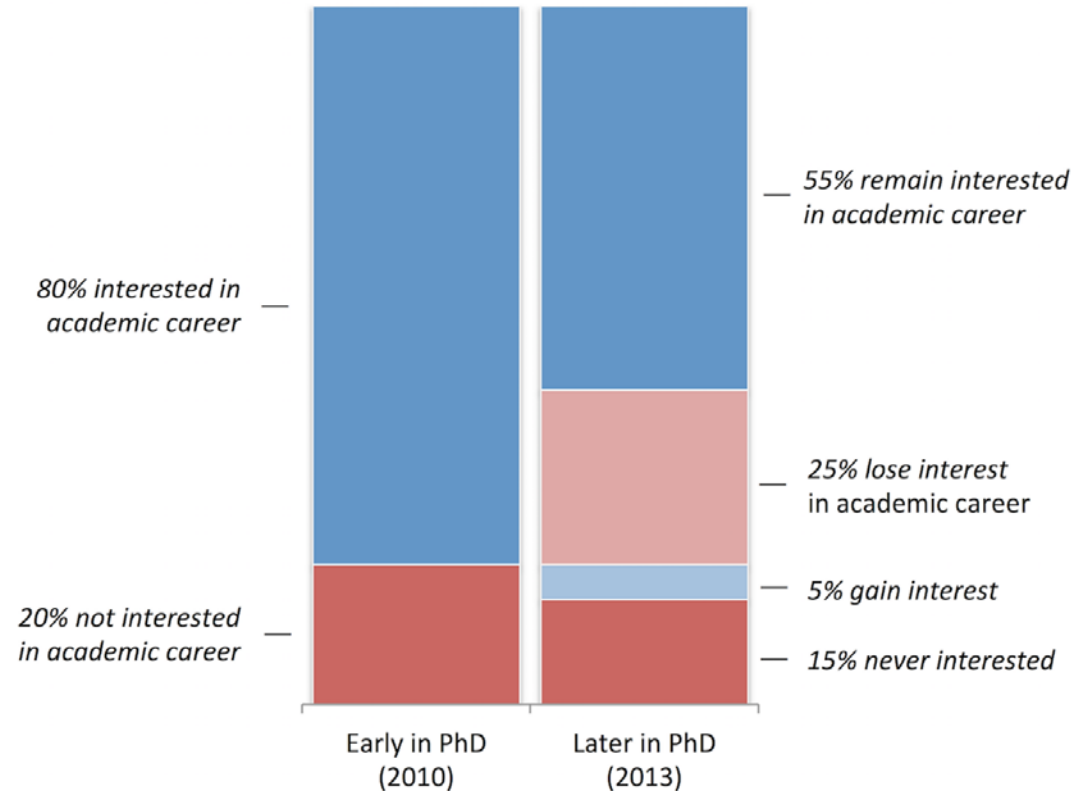
UVA PhD Employment Outcomes

Examination of UVA PhD Graduates from 2008-2009 indicates that **while Research Universities are the most prevalent employer for PhD alums, more than 50% of UVA PhDs engage in long-term employment outside of traditional academic roles.**

These data are consistent with current national studies conducted at other research universities.

Employment Sector	Number	Percent
Research University	79	33
Master's / Regional University	23	9
Liberal Arts College	17	7
Community or Two-year College	2	1
College or University System	1	Less than 1%
Preschool, Elementary, Middle, Secondary School or System	16	7
US Federal Government (Including Military)	13	5
US State or Local Government	4	2
Non-US Government	2	1
Not-For-Profit Organization or NGO	19	8
Business/For-Profit Company	67	28
Total	**243**	

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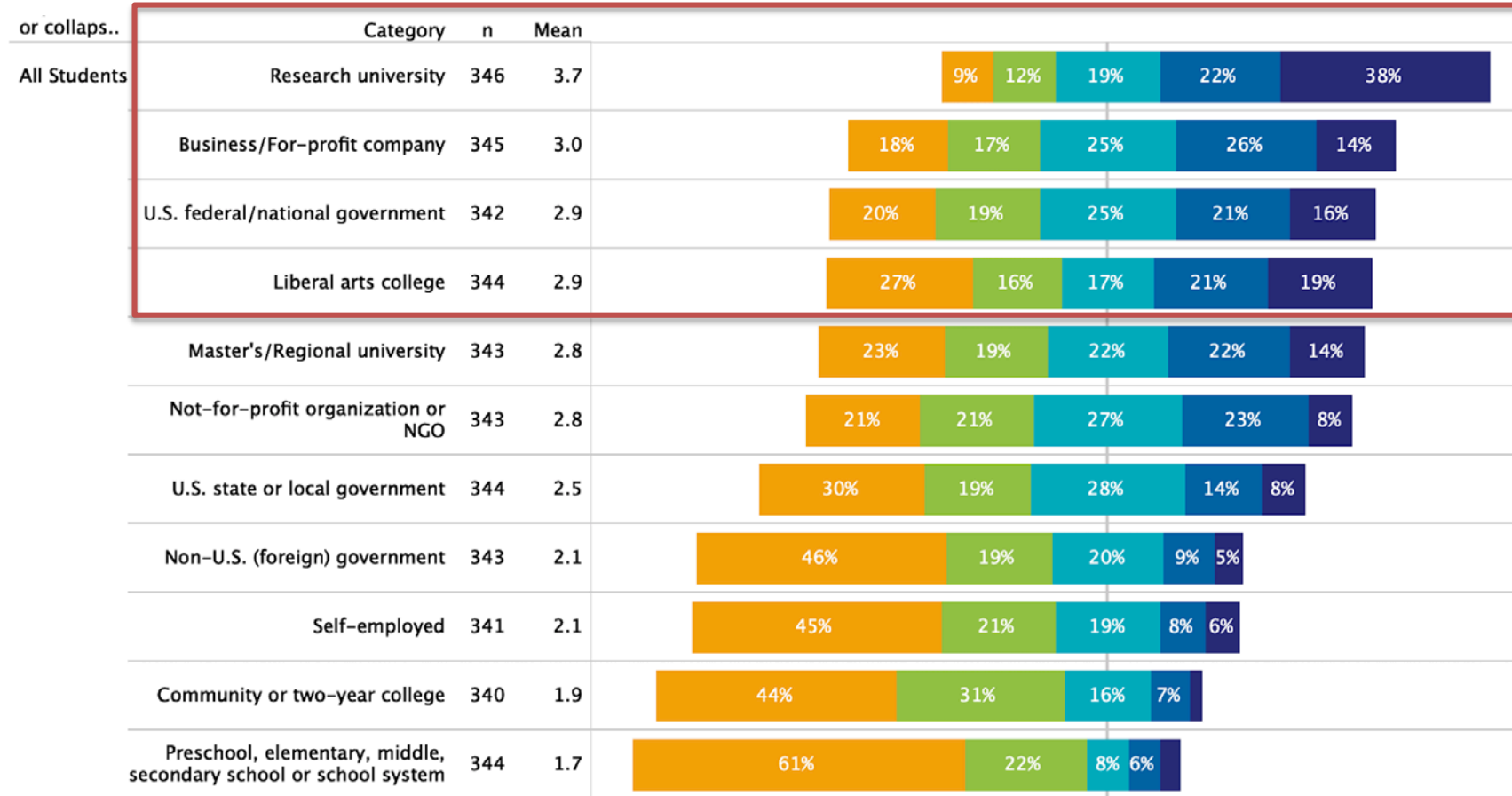Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost

PhD Student Career Interests Change Over Time

- Asking STEM students over the course of their PhD about their career preferences tells us that many students lose interest in an academic career the closer they get to graduation.

- Those who lose interest in an academic career are no more or less fearful of the academic job market, but they may not enjoy research as much

80% interested in academic career

20% not interested in academic career

55% remain interested in academic career

25% lose interest in academic career

5% gain interest

15% never interested

Early in PhD (2010)

Later in PhD (2013)

Roach M, Sauermann H (2017) The declining interest in an academic career. PLOS ONE 12(9): e0184130. https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0184130

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UVA PhD Student Desired Employment Sectors

or collaps..	Category	n	Mean	1–Not at All Desirable	2–Slightly Desirable	3–Moderately Desirable	4–Very Desirable	5–Extremely Desirable
All Students	Research university	346	3.7	9%	12%	19%	22%	38%
	Business/For-profit company	345	3.0	18%	17%	25%	26%	14%
	U.S. federal/national government	342	2.9	20%	19%	25%	21%	16%
	Liberal arts college	344	2.9	27%	16%	17%	21%	19%
	Master's/Regional university	343	2.8	23%	19%	22%	22%	14%
	Not-for-profit organization or NGO	343	2.8	21%	21%	27%	23%	8%
	U.S. state or local government	344	2.5	30%	19%	28%	14%	8%
	Non-U.S. (foreign) government	343	2.1	46%	19%	20%	9%	5%
	Self-employed	341	2.1	45%	21%	19%	8%	6%
	Community or two-year college	340	1.9	44%	31%	16%	7%	
	Preschool, elementary, middle, secondary school or school system	344	1.7	61%	22%	8%	6%	

PhD Broad Discipline: *All*

■ 1–Not at All Desirable ■ 2–Slightly Desirable ■ 3–Moderately Desirable ■ 4–Very Desirable ■ 5–Extremely Desirable
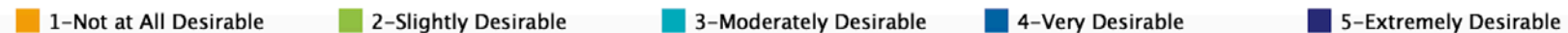
PhD Plus: Program Design
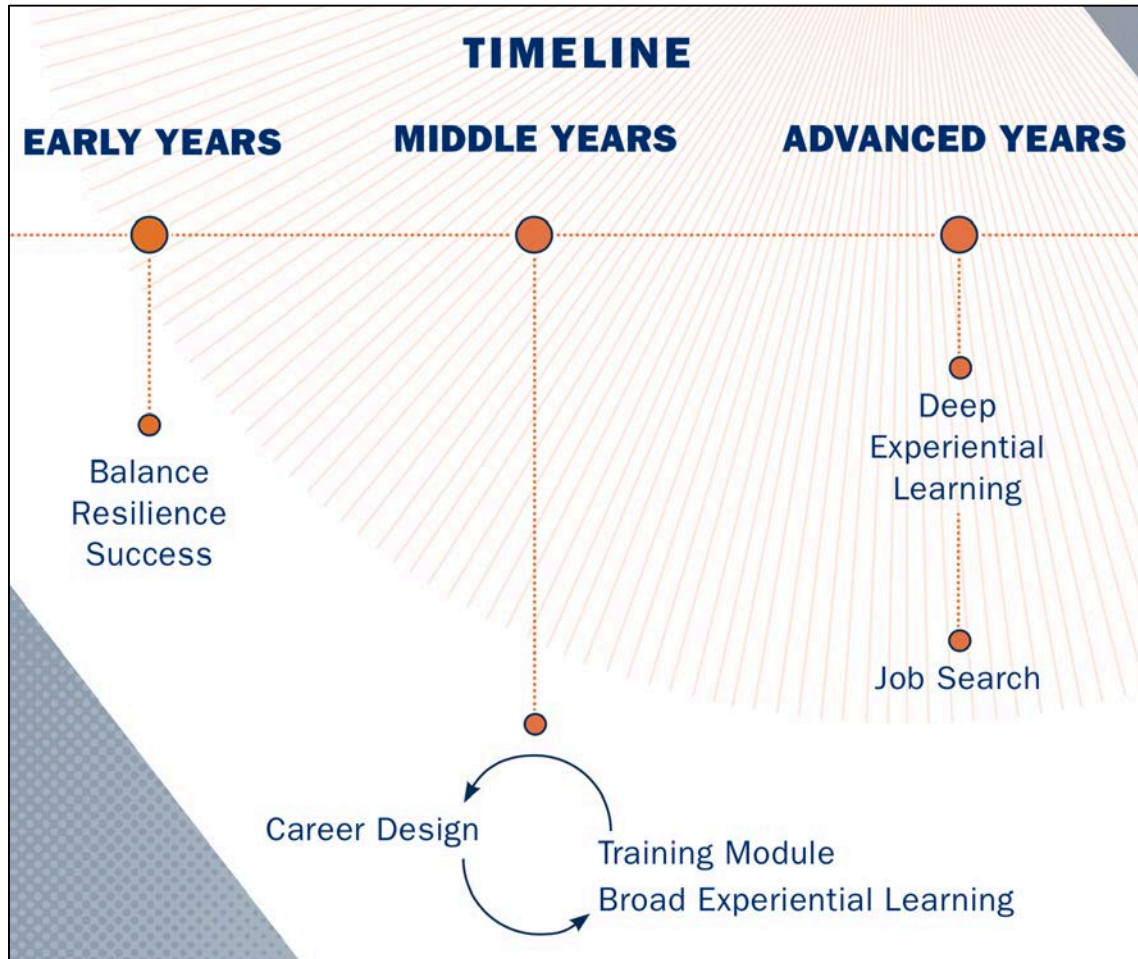
Early Years: Balance, Resilience, Success
- First-Year Foundation Series, Example Topics
    - Leveraging Strengths
    - Effective Communication
- Career Design for 2nd Year Students

Middle Years: Tiered Training Modules for Careers
- Example Modules
    - Science Policy Initiative
    - Graduate Consulting Club
- Tier One: Career Exploration
- Tier Two: Skills Acquisition

Advanced Years
- Tier Three Experiential Learning Opportunities

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PHD + CORE MODULES

PhD + Core Modules are dynamic extra-curricular training experiences designed to provide students with an enhanced suite of skills and competencies necessary for success across all careers paths. Additional modules will be added as the program develops, so please check back soon.
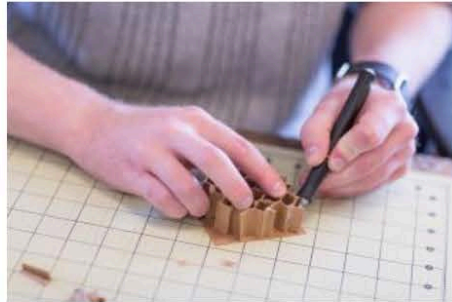
PhD + Foundations Series
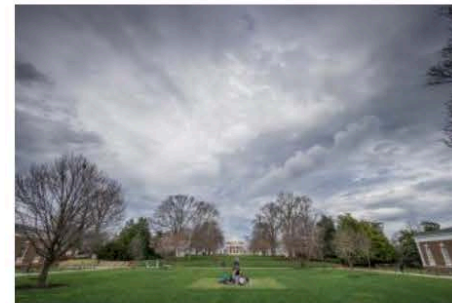

PhD+ Career Design
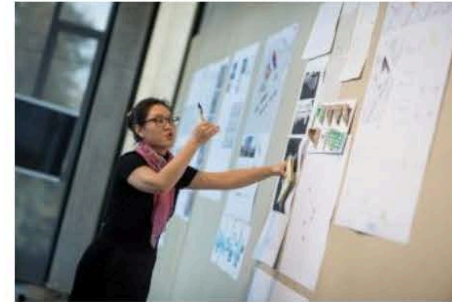
Communicating Research

Consulting

Data Literacy

Praxis Program

Science Policy

PhD+ Startup Series: Entrepreneurship & Commercialization

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PhD Plus Launch Event: *Shaping the Future of Graduate Education.*
January 17, 2019

PhD Plus: Early Participation

- More than 250 Students participated in PhD Plus training modules in Fall 2018

- PhD Plus is leading to the development of new experiential learning opportunities

- PhD Plus training experiences are helping students transition to new opportunities and careers

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PhD Plus: Program Goals

- New training modules with credentialing using the non-credit career

- New experiential learning opportunities leveraging alumni networks

- Improve PhD student recruitment with enhanced program marketing

- Exploration of new degree pathways for PhD students engaged in novel career development

- Reduce the "turbulence" surrounding transition from degree program to career

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UVA PhD Alums Job Preparation by Broad Sector

PhD Alums in Academic Roles by Graduation Year
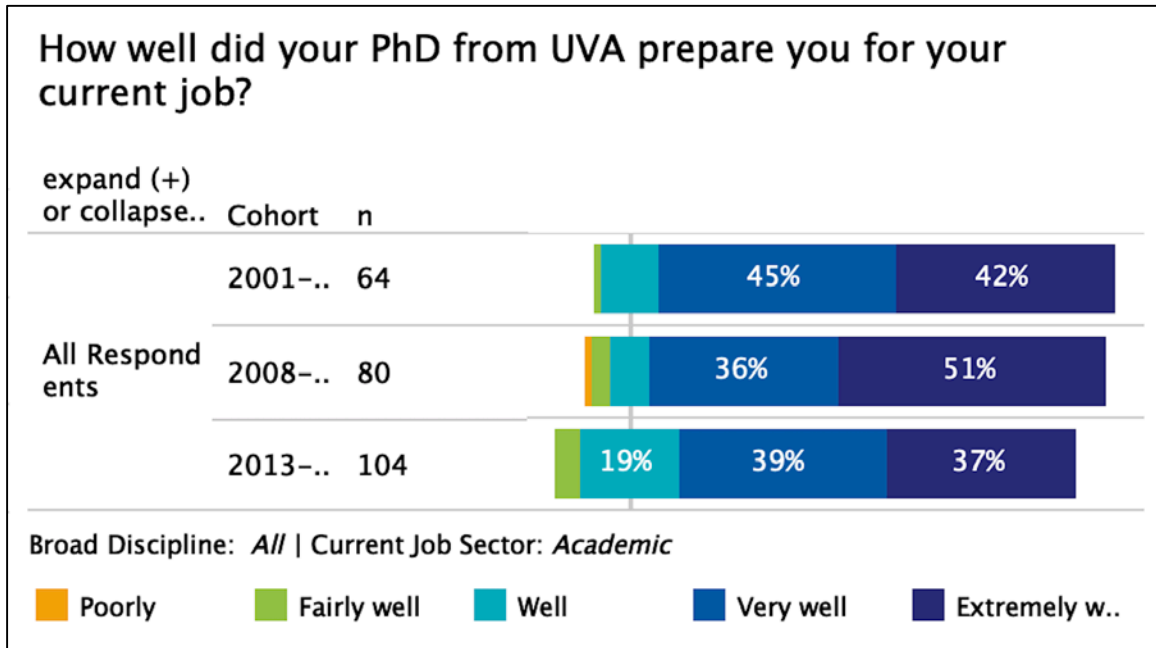
PhD Alums in Non-Academic Roles by Graduation Year