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## David Karlin

### Professional trainer

Interviewed by [Shruti Pothapragada](#)



*David Karlin is a researcher and a professional trainer for students. He's had a unique journey of going back and forth in academia and is currently helping students in scientific writing, job transition, and science communication. David offers valuable insights on job searches and crafting a CV for those looking to transition from academia to industry or other fields. Visit his [website](#) to learn more about his journey and the courses he offers.*

### **What advice would you give graduate students on how to transition from academia to industry?**

Applying through job advertisements is not as efficient as contacting a professional in the field and enquiring about job prospects. Always try to find a professional in the sector you want to work in and ask them for advice on your CV, the job market, etc. People are always ready to help and will appreciate you more for the effort you make. A job ad can have 100s of applicants, on the other hand, if you personally contact someone and are the only one, your chances are significantly higher.

80% of most jobs are not advertised! Of the 20% advertised, half of the jobs are given to people through recommendations. So, you are applying to a small % of the jobs available if you only rely on job advertisements! Read more about how this works [here](#).

### **How should a graduate student start networking and finding people in a particular field?**

Start with people from your university. It is highly likely they would have friends of friends or acquaintances who are in a similar profession.

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Secondly, if for example, you are specifically looking for an R&D job in the pharma industry in the US, it would be very hard to find someone filling all these criteria. Start by asking around for people in the pharma sector in any country and reach out to them. You can then ask them to put you in contact with someone else in an R&D department, and then enquire for someone in the US.

By broadening your search criteria, you'll connect with more people. If you make a positive impression, they might even recommend you for job opportunities!

### **What soft skills can a graduate student highlight in their CV that would stand out for an industry job?**

#### Multicultural and multidisciplinary background:

An underrated skill in academia is working in a multicultural and multidisciplinary environment. In research, more often than not we work with people of different scientific backgrounds - a biologist may collaborate with a physicist or a mathematician. You can use this to your advantage to say that as a scientist you can work with people from different disciplines like budget or marketing, etc. These are called transferrable skills and you can add this as the first part of your CV to help you standing out from others without a PhD degree.

#### Resilience in the face of setbacks:

Another skill is dealing with failure in your work and bouncing back. Research is 98% failure. Graduate students spend a lot of time troubleshooting failed experiments and coming up with better alternatives. It gives you a great sense of perseverance.

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#### Long-term project management skills:

A graduate student also has management skills, specifically on a long-term. Students have to manage their whole PhD project over three to five years which really stands out from other management skills of a shorter period.

#### Communication with internal and external stakeholders:

If you have collaborated with other labs, it also adds a lot of value to your CV. You know how to deal with the expectations and conflicts of multiple labs. This highlights that you can work in large teams and efficiently collaborate.

Highlighting soft skills in your CV is just as important as showcasing your technical skills. Try to maintain a skills-based CV with an emphasis on not just the timeline of all your jobs but all the skills acquired through them.

### **How should one frame their CV in case they do not have certain requirements for a particular job?**

You should always tailor-make your CV for each new job position you apply. For example, if a position requires you to have a Master in Science Communication and you do not have it, you can break down the skills that are taught from the degree like the theory of science communication, building a network, and also your experience with any of those skills.

Companies are looking for skills learned from the degree and not just the degree itself!

**David Karlin****Professional trainer**Interviewed by [Shruti Pothapragada](#)**What are some of the common mistakes made by students?**

The biggest mistake is not having a title. Students write “Curriculum Vitae” or their name in big bold letters at the top but the name does not mean anything in an industry job, unlike in academia where your name is your brand. It is the first few lines on top that can grab the interviewer’s attention so instead, write 2 to 3 lines on what you can bring to the job.

Another mistake is having CVs that are 3-4 pages long. Limit your CV to one page and keep it concise.

**BIOTechno Forum SUD is coming soon!**



Forum BiotechnoSUD is back for its **3rd edition!**

 **Thursday, 17th October 2024 -**  **World Trade Center, Marseille**

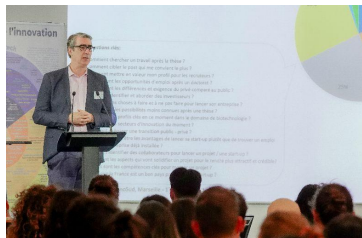
- ✓ Are you a master student, PhD student, scientist or researcher in life sciences?
- ✓ Do you want to explore various career opportunities within academia and the private sector?
- ✓ Would you like to meet hiring companies?

Come meet industrial and institutional partners to boost your career, support your recruitment process and strengthen professional networks in life science sectors!

Last year, we welcomed :



**+250 participants**



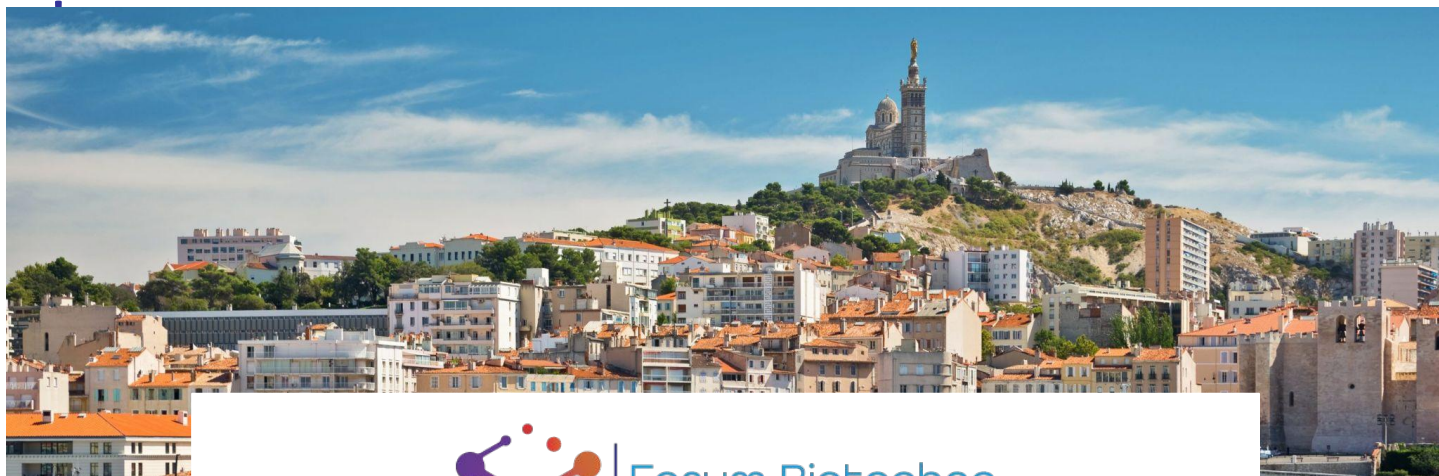
**+40 speakers among  
+150 professionals**



**+60 partners**

Photo credits : Alexis Long / Prosperfun  
Forums BiotechnoSUD 2022 / 2023

## BIOTechno Forum SUD is coming soon!



This year, the Forum's godmother is the general manager of Eurobiomed: Emilie Royere. Last year's theme focused on the different positions in innovation whereas this year's theme will revolve around embracing innovation for the "Plan France 2030". Indeed, for 10 years France will be investing 54 billion euros to catch up on the country's industrial innovation and to support ecological transition.

Hence, innovation will be the subject in the morning. The afternoon, as usual, will make room to sessions where participants can attend workshops and have a closer look to more specific topics such as intellectual property, mental health at work, closeups on various positions... The workshops planned will be about CV correction, how to negotiate a salary in an inequality context, ...

Stay tuned for the detailed program and the registrations!

**BIOTechno Forum SUD is coming soon!**



**We thank our national partners  
and our Forum BiotechnoSUD 2024 sponsors for their support!**



\*amU (Aix Marseille Université) : we thank ED62 (école doctorale Sciences de la Vie et de la Santé, Master BIP Biologie Intégrative et Physiologie and Bureau de vie des étudiants du camp de luminy

The **REAL** section (for **Read** – Analyze – Listen) highlights our recommendations of the month.



### What you can **READ** this month ?

- ***Range: Why Generalists Triumph in a Specialized World by David Epstein***

If you dabble or delay, you'll never catch up to the people who got a head start. But a closer look at research on the world's top performers, from professional athletes to Nobel laureates, shows that early specialization is the exception, not the rule. This book argues that breadth of knowledge and diverse experiences are key to success in any field, especially for researchers who can benefit from thinking across disciplines. Click [here](#) for more.



### What you can **ANALYZE** this month ?

- ***IPO Watchlist: 10 European startups most likely to go public by Leah Hogeson***

Here are the region's 10 venture-backed companies with the highest likelihood of going public. The list was created using PitchBook's VC Exit Predictor, if you consider to invest or explore other opportunities in a "brand new" startup, check it out! For more click [here](#).



### What you can **LISTEN** to this month ?

- ***The Knowledge Project by Shane Parrish***

Why Listen: This podcast dwells into mental models, decision-making, and complex problem-solving, featuring conversations with thought leaders and experts. It's perfect for young researchers interested in improving their critical thinking and decision-making skills. Listen in [Youtube](#).



Sept

19<sup>th</sup>

**Live LinkedIn “Les nouvelles clés pour réussir votre carrière dans l’industrie de la santé”**

**When:** 19th september 2024 from 12:00-13:00

**Where:** Online

[in French language] Learn more about the latest evolutions in the health industry, and what it can mean for your career.

More information [here](#)



Sept

26<sup>th</sup>

**Afterwork PhD Talent x Réseau Biotechno**

**When:** 26th september 2024 from 18:30-21:00

**Where:** Bar “Le Piano Vache”, Paris

Want to meet other PhD students and PhDs? Every last thursday of the month, PhD Talent and the Réseau Biotechno partner for an afterwork! The first drink is on PhD Talent! Registration is free but required, sign up [here](#)



X



Sept

27<sup>th</sup>

**La Nuit des Chercheurs**

**When & where :** 27th september 2024 evening in Albi, Angers, Besançon, Brest, Dijon, Limoges, Nîmes, Pau, Saint Denis and La Réunion

Oct

4<sup>th</sup>

**When & where :** 4th october 2024 evening in Toulouse

11 magical nights to discover science and meet researchers from a variety of fields through games, experiments, visits, speed searchings and much more! Find out more [here](#)





Oct

**NutrEvent**

1-2<sup>nd</sup>

**When** : 1st & 2nd october 2024

**Where** : Lille

NutrEvent is a european partnering event dedicated to innovation in food, animal, and human nutrition. Meet academic institutions, research institutes, pharmaceutical industries and distributors, innovative ingredient suppliers and related professionals! Read more [here](#)



Oct

**Festival Le Curieux Tremplin (in French)**

4<sup>th</sup>

**When** : 4th october 2024

**Where** : Strasbourg

[event in French language] Discover the scientific projects of artists and amateurs through theatre, music, comedy, impro, stand-up, marionnettes and more! Register [here](#)



Oct

**Fête de la Science (in French)**

4-14<sup>th</sup>

**When** : 4th to 14th october 2024

**Where** : throughout France and overseas departments

[events mainly in French language] This years “Fête de la Science” theme is “Ocean of knowledge”. Meet renowned experts and discover a great variety of events and subjects [here](#)

