

# Role of employer engagement, employability and impact: Professional Internships for PhD Students (PIPS)

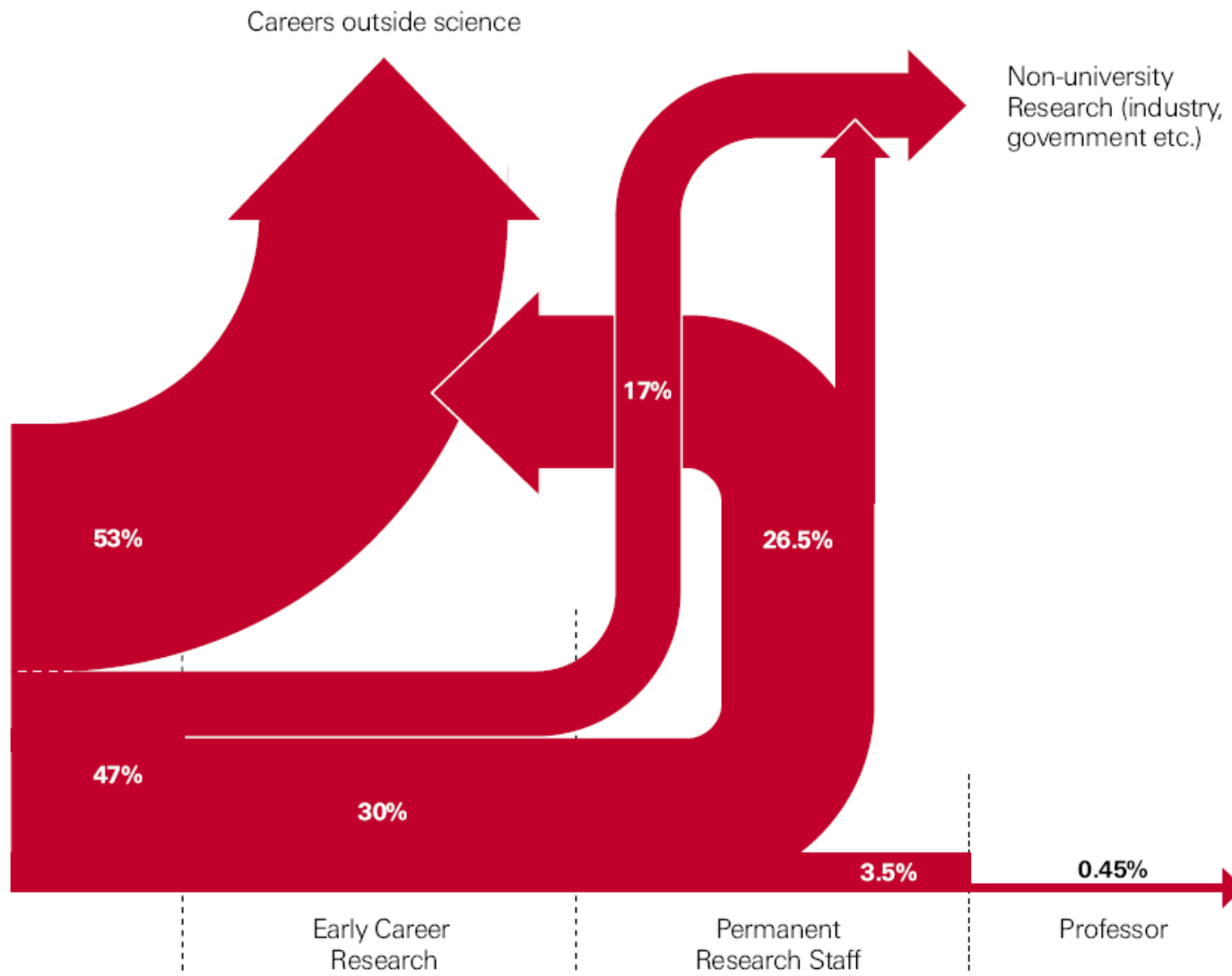


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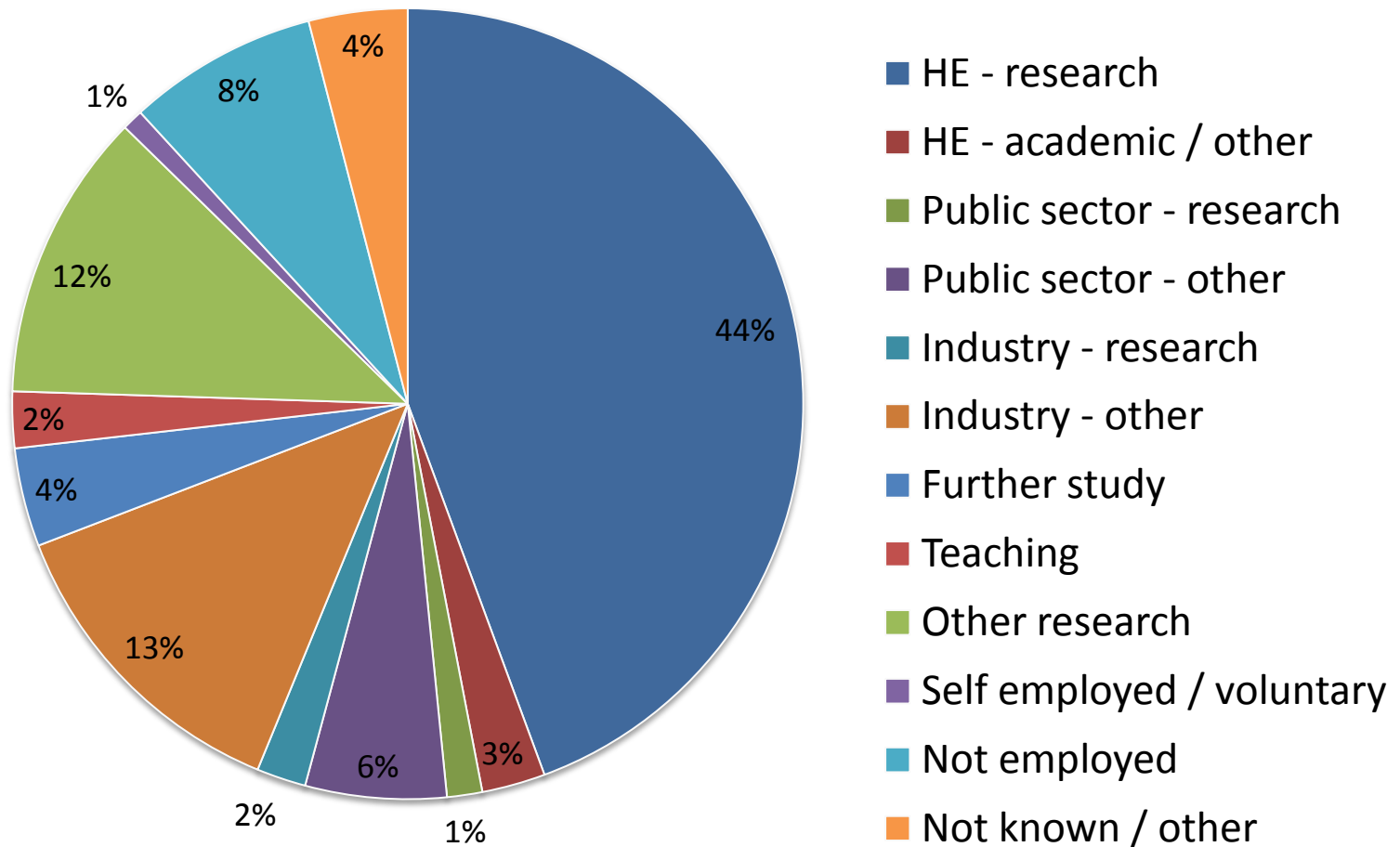
Vitae Conference 5-6 September 2011

# Careers for researchers are variable and complex



Source: The Scientific Century: securing our future prosperity (The Royal Society, 2010)

## Destinations of BBSRC funded PhD students



First destinations of BBSRC funded PhD students qualifying or completing their courses between 1 August 2007 - 31 July 2008 (source: HESA DHLE data)

## Postgraduate Research Experience Survey 2011

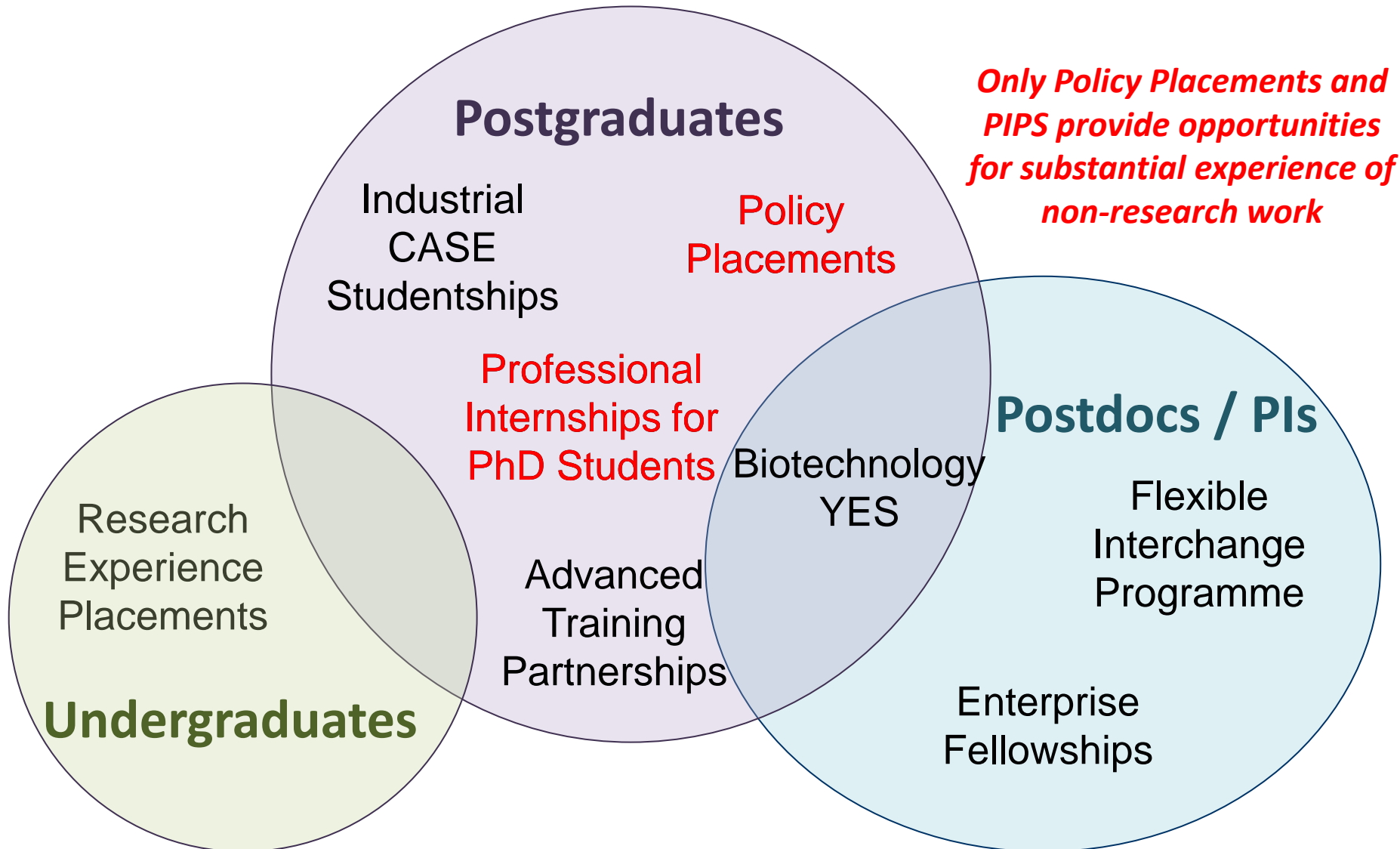
- Main motivation for doing a postgraduate degree:
  - Improving my career prospects for an academic / research career (30.5%)
  - Improving my career prospects outside of an academic / research career (8.4%)

Professional development and career	% agree
I am encouraged to reflect on my professional development needs	50%
I am encouraged to reflect on my career development needs	47%
I am encouraged to think about the range of career opportunities that are available to me	44%

## Further evidence: Society of Biology Industry Survey on Accreditation of UK Bioscience Degrees (June 2011)

- *When asked what had inhibited employing graduates with a BSc and/or MSc approximately 50% of employers gave four major areas where BSc graduates lacked experience or skills:*
  - *Workplace experience*
  - *Employability skills*
  - *Practical experience*
  - *Analytical skills*
- *The above can be summarised according to one employer who stated that “**Work experience is a differentiator amongst graduates.**”*

## BBSRC support for enhancing employability





# BBSRC Doctoral Training Partnerships

New academic block studentships scheme to replace Quota DTG	Shaped by recent <b>Quota Evaluation</b> and BSC Strategy Panel advice	DTPs allow for better <b>strategic alignment</b> and coordination
Students placed in world-class research environments	<b>Integrated Professional Internships for PhD Students (PIPS)</b>	<b>CASE</b> no longer mandatory, now supported through separate schemes
Expect to fund up to <b>15-20 DTPs</b> (most multi-institutional) for 3 yrs (2012-14)	Total investment <b>£60M</b> , funding around <b>220</b> students p.a. (inc <b>£5k RTSG</b> )	Call open 16 March workshop 23 June closing 15 Sept 2011

[bbsrc.ac.uk/dtp](http://bbsrc.ac.uk/dtp)

*Strategic Alignment*

*Excellence of Training*

*Leverage*

*Partnership*

*Concentration*

## Professional Internships for PhD Students: BBSRC expectations

- A mechanism to provide BBSRC funded PhD students with the opportunity to carry out a **non-academic work experience placement** during their PhD
- A **three month placement** not directly related to the PhD project
  - e.g to provide experience of teaching, policy-making, media or industry
- They are **not** intended to replace other generic or core skills training
- They should be **taken by all PhD students** funded through a DTP
  - Including those set on an academic career
  - Encouraged, but not compulsory, for CASE students
- They can be **taken at any time** during the four-year PhD

## Anticipated outcomes of PIPS

- Increased **promotion of movement across sectors** – maximises impact from research and brings great benefit to the UK economy
- Development of an early understanding of potential **impact** of research and training on wider economy and society
- Personal and **professional development** – fulfilling career
- A placements scheme will complement a range of **people exchange schemes** available to researchers
- Help identify **potential careers paths** – only a minority of PhD students go on to a career in academia
- **Benefits** to students, research institutions and host organisations
- **Flexibility** and student choice are vital

## Further information

- BBSRC: [www.bbsrc.ac.uk](http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk)
- Details of the PIPS programme at:  
[www.bbsrc.ac.uk/dtp](http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/dtp) - see Annex 7 of the call text
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