

Career Day Project Management, 2-4th December 2020

The Career Day Project Management took place in the week of 2nd-4th December 2020 and meant to focus the areas of Project Management both in the academic and industrial sectors. In this event, participants will have the opportunity to hear experiences from DKFZ Alumni now working as Project Managers, as well as network and exchange ideas between each other.

As an institution that educates and employs B.Sc. and M.Sc. students, PhD students and Post-Docs working in the most diverse fields of science and research, the DKFZ is also preparing all its employees for future positions and is teaching them how a background in Project Management (PM) can be important to their daily work. Many of DKFZ's Alumni then choose to use this well-acquired knowledge, creating even deeper PM foundations, by enrolling in careers as Project Managers. Therefore, it only makes sense to have examples of "DKFZ-made" Project Managers explaining a wide audience their work at our Project Management Career Day.

In a year where everything as we know it has changed, the Career Day format was not an exception. This event took place in an online format, bringing together people working all over the country for talks, workshops and discussion rounds, everything held through a Zoom platform.



2nd – 4th December 2020, ONLINE

December 2 nd	December 3 rd	December 4 th
08:30 – 13:00 Project Management (PM) workshop "How to develop a project proposal"	09:15 – 09:30 Welcome and introduction	09:30 – 10:50 Session III: PM in Industry Discussion round
	09:30 – 10:50 Session I: Academia vs. Industry Discussion round	11:00 – 12:00 Session IV: Climbing up the hierarchy Discussion round
	11:00 – 12:00 Session II: PM in Academia Discussion round	13:20 – 14:20 DKFZ PM speed dating
	13:30 – 14:50 Discussion round	14:30 – 15:20 Discussion round
	15:00 – 15:45 Discussion round	15:30 – 16:30 Discussion round

Register now!

www.dkfz.de/careeday

Organized by student volunteers and the DKFZ Career Service

Supported by

Deutsches Krebsforschungszentrum (DKFZ) | Im Neuenheimer Feld 280 | 69120 Heidelberg

Thank you to our sponsors:



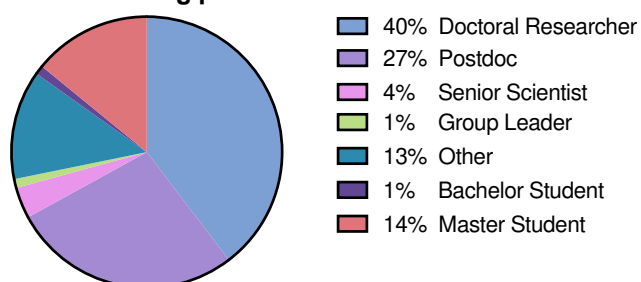
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Participants:

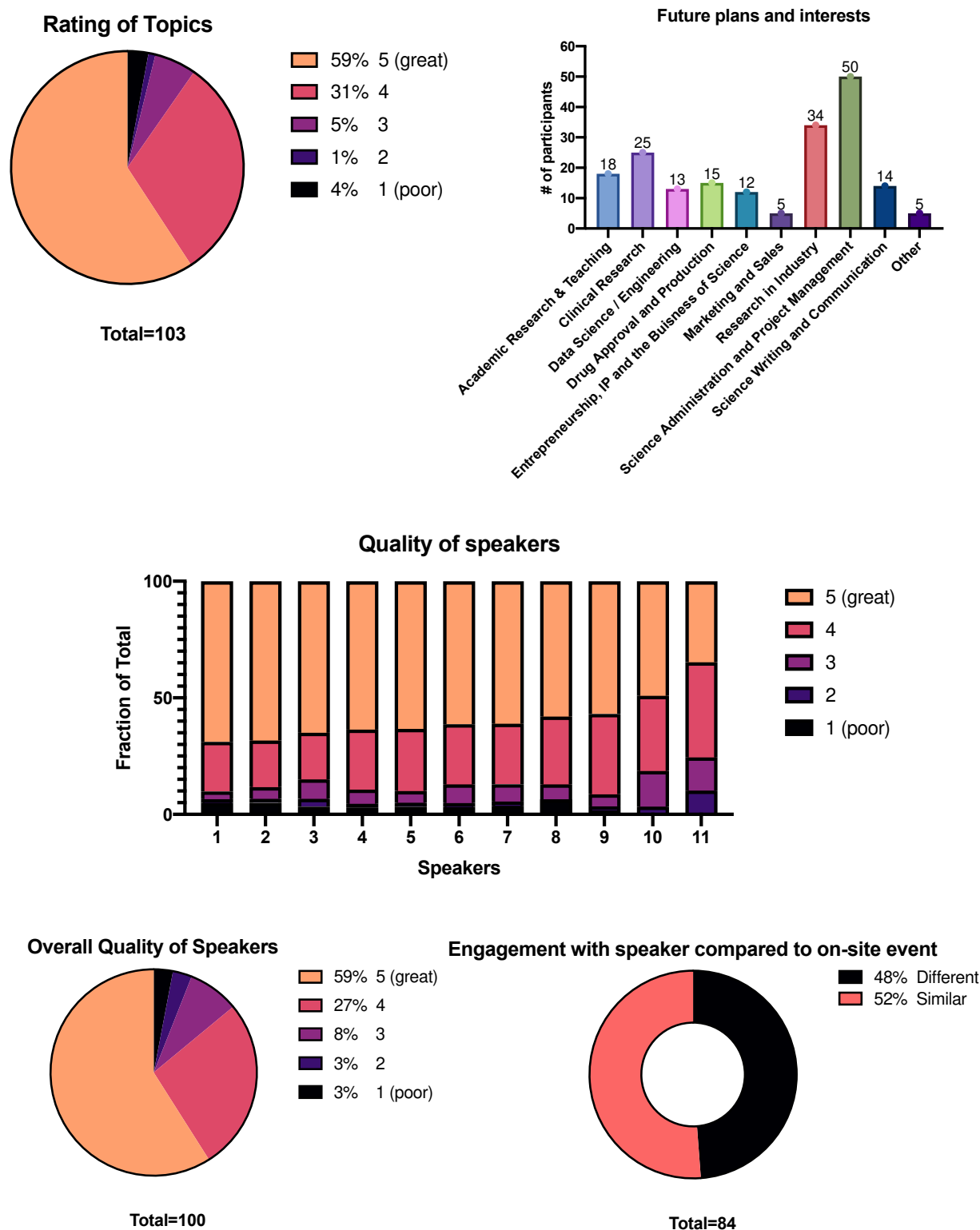
The event counted 376 registered participants (40% PhD students, 27% Postdocs, 14% M.Sc. students), of whom 52% are currently working at the DKFZ, 42% are affiliated with the NCT, ZMBH, Max Planck, HIT and other institutions, and 6% are DKFZ Alumni. We received feedback from 104 participants.

Current working position



Total=376

According to the survey, 90% of the participants consider that the topics covered by the Career Day good and great (ratings 4 and 5, on a scale from 1-5). Moreover, 86% of participants rated the overall quality of the talks given by the speakers with good or great.



Comments about the virtual event:

- I probably interacted more in this version than in real life as they would have been physically surrounded by people and not easily accessible.
- I think the virtual format made it easier to approach the speakers and to also hear which questions other people were asking!
- It was great, the discussions very interesting but still to ask a personal question was not possible
- I don't live in Heidelberg so the online event was a great opportunity for me to take part in the event.
- There wasn't enough networking time

Comments about the virtual speed dating:

- Great idea, more information about this beforehand would have been nice to know what to expect but this was by far my favorite and also the most helpful session during the whole career day! Thanks a lot for putting this up and for the great selection of speakers
- Best part of the career day!!! Loved it! (Speed-dating)
- Nice experience!
- Had expected speakers in speed dating

Comments about the speakers and take-home message:

- Organization, multi-tasking and flexibility are key for PM
- Every PM position is different, communication (incl. listening) is crucial
- There is a chance to shift careers and it is doable
- The presentations were really good and the speakers gave great tips re to a career in project management.
- Dealing with people is the core as project manager
- I definitely enjoyed a lot of the speakers' presentations. My take home messages are "be brave and go for it", as well as "one learns the most on the job".
- Many valuable tips! The most useful for me was the general understanding of PM position in academia and industry.

General suggestions/ideas for improvement

- I think you did a great job, I benefit from this career day a lot!
- It was great! Well done!
- Thank you for the great organization!
- None, it was all very well organized and informative. Thanks!
- Include the following topics next time: Experimental PM, PM tools, Leadership
- ...the virtual format made it easier to approach the speakers and to also hear which questions other people were asking
- was very successful and I gained new insights (despite being an online event)
- Slack did not seem to be of much use ..., discussion/questions mostly took place on the zoom chat.
- Please keep such events in an online format also after Corona restrictions will be lifted - access from other cities than Heidelberg for DKFZ partner sites is really of great benefit!

Career Day: PROJECT MANAGEMENT



Project Manager for Clinical Trials

NCT TRIAL CENTER SERVICE

Supports from first



Duties and Responsibilities

- > Trial budgeting
- > Quality Check
- > Relationship and Time management

EURO BIOMAGING Scientific Project Manager & Technologie Advisor

- > International work across Europe
- > Dealing with different stakeholders
- > Handling multiple roles

INFORM yourself
PERSONAL 'Priority List'
Make yourself VISIBLE

PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Scientific Project Manager DKFZ

PM is about...

- lead
- drive
- focus your TEAM
- > transfer knowledge
- > presentation skills
- > collect skills

Senior Consultant

ACADEMIA vs. CONSULTING

> Long-term projects
80% Content

> Low salary

> Need > TECHNICAL...
> TRANSFERABLE...
...SKILLS

> Short engagements
80% management
guaranteed late nights

> High salary

> Need > TECHNICAL...
> TRANSFERABLE...
...SKILLS

WHAT DRIVES YOU

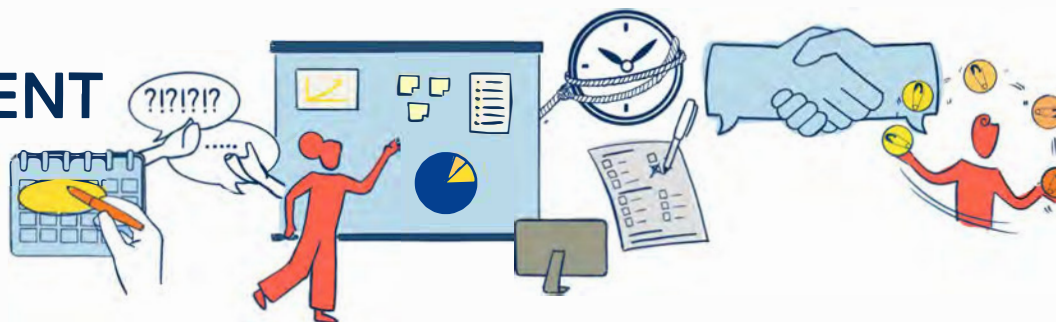


JACK OF ALL TRADES

Communication skills
Self process organisation
Analytical, trouble shooting skills
Consistency and reliability
Soft skills empathy, conflict resolution

Career Day: PROJECT MANAGEMENT

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Clinical Project Lead, KCR

Transferable skills: Scientist vs PM

planning & running experiments
self-management
resilience

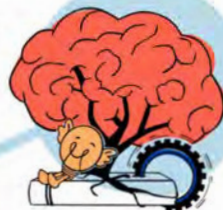


What is different?

Industry highly regulated environment
matrix organization
differences between positions

Clinical research highly regulated industry & standards
documentation

specific knowledge clinical trials - structure + complexity
medical affairs
tools and systems



Global project oversight

labmate.io : Start Up

About Features Contact Login

online tool to collaborate, plan & document experiment
so far unlimited storage



Workspace for your lab

Plan, write and get organized.
Single tool to manage your whole lab from anywhere, anytime!



PM can't work without a team



What has not been documented never happened!

What about career development and having a family or part time work?

- ↳ well as soon as you accept working less hours means sharing responsibilities... it works
- ↳ but it also means being well organized

Discussion: Do I have to become a native german speaker? → no,

it rather depends on the job description, what skill level they expect

Remember, you will never be a 100% fit

How to join a Mentoring-Program or Mentor?

Sometimes via networking you will meet a potential mentor and can ask yourself

↳ Institutions + Universities have such programs, ask around

Or maybe your PI has a tip



Career Day: PROJECT MANAGEMENT

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Communication and Events Lead, Bio RN



Life science Cluster Rhine-Neckar

representing and connecting the regional
innovation stakeholders across all segments

promotion of Life Science Region
Rhine | Main | Neckar

Creation of a rich translational ecosystem

Industrial PM skillset and mindset

- PM is a communicator
- is a facilitator
- is flexible



Skill Set-how to improve?
look out for extra courses,
for mentoring programmes,
and other
→ network

typical workday

- project maps
- priority list
- cluster meetings
2-3 hours of
focused work
- cluster mailing - never work
- multitasking vs diverse tasks



Discussion: Is a PhD / Post Doc necessary? → no, it sometimes helps for
the skills you pick up along the way
↓
if you plan to stay for ex in academia the Post Doc time +
publications is of course important

Communication and Events Lead, Bayer

Starting as a project manager to develop an application to explore
and visualize genomic variants

role starting out:

- budget planning and controlling
- communication with externals
- coordination of deliveries
- report on progress to stakeholders

DevOps
Transfor
mation

changing the job as well

light weight controlling
shift focus to internal development
automation and team responsibility
showcases to relevant audience
explore and iterate



Career Day: PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Climbing up the hierarchy

4/4



Sometimes 80% is enough
be aware of your skills
Know your value
Network!
be respectful
Have fun!
Stay curious!

Head of Unit Research Management, Helmholtz Zentrum München

Global Project Manager, Roche Diagnostics

Inhouse Consulting, Merck KGaA
Global Graduate Program

Plan & set up projects

working on a few projects in parallel

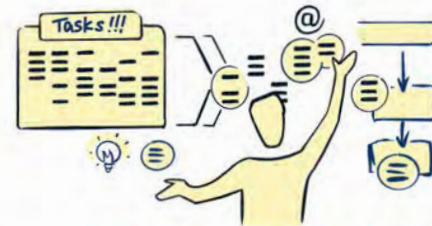
Time management



Freedom to organize ones time

being flexible
vs.
the need to plan your time wisely

flexibility in working hours, as long as you deliver



be a 'people's' person
only in a team you can achieve great things

be a motivator

be a leader & good colleague

ask critical question

PROJECT MANAGEMENT

has no typical day, barely a typical routine
.... maybe patterns

financial responsibility

self-organisation

critical thinking

communication skills

enjoy working in cross-functional teams

presentation skills

team player

resilience

empathy