

My journey to stay in science

Graziella Iossa

@g_iossa



Talk outline

- Undergraduate, Università' di Napoli, Italy
- PhD, Bristol, UK
- Postdoc, Bristol, UK
- Editorial publishing, BES, London
- Back to Science Fellow, University of Lincoln

Undergraduate

- First degree in Natural Sciences 1998



PhD

- University of Bristol, 2001-2006
- Behavioural ecology of red foxes



PhD

- University of Bristol, 2001-2006
- Behavioural ecology of red foxes

- Funded by Rotary Scholarship, fee-waivers, 2 small grants (~£1,000) and part-time work (includes consultancy and language skills)



1-year postdoc

- University of Bristol, 2007



What to do?

- Career coaching:



- Publishing



What to do?

- Career coaching
- Mentoring scheme BES



The screenshot shows the British Ecological Society website. On the left, there is a navigation menu with the following items: Public Engagement, Career development (highlighted), Career development resources, Undergraduates, PhD and Early Career Researchers, and Mid Career and Beyond. The main content area is titled 'Mentoring opportunities' and contains the following text: 'We're always happy to help put you in contact with others who can be able to offer some mentoring, please do get in touch. We offer a range of different mentoring opportunities such as:

- [Women in Ecology Mentoring](#)
- [Associate Editor Mentoring](#)
- [PhD Summer School Mentoring Training](#)

 At the bottom of the main content area, there is a link for the **Women in Ecology Mentoring Scheme**.



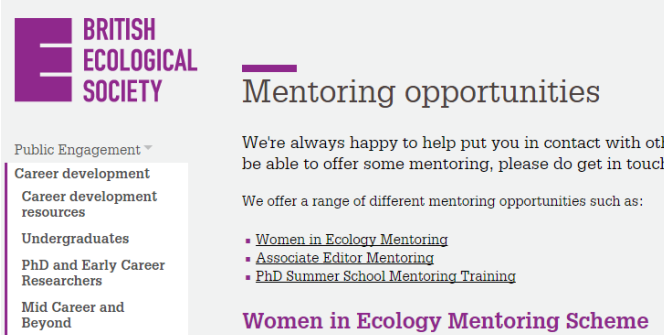
The focus of mentoring is determined by the mentee. They must lead in identifying issues and, with guidance from the mentor, resolving them.

The mentor is not there to provide 'the answers', but to guide the mentee towards 'the answer' that is right for them.



What to do?

- Career coaching
- Mentoring scheme BES



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- Publishing
- CV and interview
- Applied twice, first time unsuccessful

Flexible working

- Negotiated initial period with flexible working
- Moved - full-time
- Pregnant with 2nd child
- Moved abroad during maternity leave



Flexible working

- Negotiated flexible working again, working 1 week abroad, 1 week in London
- For 1 year when pregnant with 3rd child



The call of science

- Back to the UK during third maternity leave
- After a year maternity leave, I really missed academia!
- My mentor was instrumental in my decision



Returners initiatives

- Daphne Jackson Trust



- Back to Science Fellowship, pilot programme, University of Lincoln, Jan 2015-Jan 2017



- University of Lincoln, 2015-2017 (part-time)
- Lab-based project on Lepidoptera
- Comparative analyses
- First paper now accepted
- First small grant received for discipline hopping to the University of York



Thank you

- Feel free to ask me any questions

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