

Career workshop

Martin Pohl

DESY and University of Potsdam

Curriculum vitae

- 1990: Physics Diploma at University of Bonn
- 1991: PhD in Astronomy at University of Bonn
- 1992-1997: Postdocs at MPI for Radioastronomy and MPI for Extraterrestrial Physics
- 1997-1998: Postdoc at Danish Space Research Institute
- 1998-2003: Staff Scientist at University of Bochum
- 2003-2009: Assistant Professor, then Associate Professor at Iowa State University
- 2009-now: Full Professor at University of Potsdam and Lead Scientist at DESY

What exactly do I do?

Research

- Supervision of students and postdocs
- International collaborations

Acquisition of external funding

Teaching

Service work for collaborations and the scientific community

Administration

What I like

- My own research
- Teaching
- Exchange with junior and senior scientists

What I do not like

- Administration
- Strategy meetings
- Program-oriented funding

Relevant skills acquired during my PhD preparation

Analytical calculations

Presentation skills

Understanding rather than believing

Relevant skills developed in later career phases

Significantly improved mastery of English

Networking

Breadth of physics knowledge

Suggestions

- Publish and talk about your research
- Train yourself to be able to explain your own research in detail to non-specialists
- Ask questions
- Move around and build your own network
- Develop a broad knowledge base, don't be a one-trick pony

When you apply for a job

- Understand the motivation of the employer
- Explain what you did, your motivation, and your future plans
- Ask questions