The professional profile of PhD-holders

Milad Jamalzadeh

R&D engineer in haptics

My long term objective is to acquire enough knowledge and skills to create better solutions for providing realistic haptic feedbacks and surfaces and virtual reality.

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Core business

PHASE 2 Skill development

I believe I reached phase 2 for this skill . I achieved skills from a wide range of expertise as I have diplomas from different majors; bachelor in mechanical engineering, master in biomedical sciences and engineering, and currently studying computer science and information technology. My well-known references, my supervisors, were an important factor for the offers I received after applying to. Moreover, I tried to have connections with international researchers in the same field by studying in different countries. I got my master degree from Turkey and I study PhD in France, where I'm involved in an European project which has partners from different European countries. Stronger set of skills will give us better opportunity in future.

PHASE 2 Evaluation

I believe I'm currently at phase 2 and I will be at same phase after graduation. After reading many papers published in my field of expertise, I can easily recognize the novelty of each work and how important it is and I can find the items the researches may have not paid attention to. By knowing the state of the art results in my filed and the statistics method which are used to evaluate the significance of a the results, I can judge my own results in terms of quality and added value. I always discuss my results with the trusted colleagues who I believe are expert in the field before submitting the work. I was reviewers of few papers which were submitted to some journals for publication, where I provided my opinion and feedbacks about their work.

PHASE 2 Information management

I believe I reached phase 2 for this skill after attending various training during my PhD. The state of the art in a scientific topic can be found by following the pioneers of the area on different platforms such as Google scholar, ResearchGate. By looking at the most recent publications of the pioneer authors in the area one can gain information about the most recent and impressive works in the field. Some authors also make their works available on Archive.org before official publication. The review papers are also the most efficient way for gathering information about and have a general view of the researches done in a field. Improving this skill will help me to manage the information more efficiently.

PHASE 2 Expertise and methods

I believe for this skill I'm currently on phase 2 and it looks good to me. During my master studies, I took statistics course and used the methods I learned from the course in my master thesis. While working on the master thesis, I worked with researches from different fields such as neuroscience, mechanical engineering, psychophysics, and electrical engineering. In which, I was able to discuss the problem and my solutions to a wide range of audience from different fields. The thesis resulted in two publications in well-known conferences and journals in haptic community. The most important novelty of my work was a model I proposed for explaining the experimental results more accurately. I was able to convince my advisors and reviewers of my paper about the validity of my model.

Personal and relational qualities

PHASE 1 Communication

I believe I reached phase 2 for this skill. I had several presentation for different audience inside and outside the academy. I also have teaching experience for several courses. I have profile on professional networks like Linkedin and ResearchGate. I speak four languages and I'm proficient in three of them. Recently I attended a public speaking course at University of Lille to improve this skill. I speak 3 languages proficiently.

PHASE 2 Collaboration

I believe I reached phase 2 for this skill. I had the chance to collaborate with people from different countries and expertise before, which I'm still in contact with. By taking a local training course and improving my network with from other countries I can improve this skill to have a stronger network and possible collaboration in future. By attending different conferences and secondment during my PhD I was able to network with new scientists and even work with them on research projects.

PHASE 2 Analysis, synthesis and critical thinking

I believe I reached phase 2 for this skill after attending the ATC2 training and the experiences I got during my PhD. During my PhD I came up with new solutions for human computer interaction. During my master studies, after reading the works of my peers, I proposed several problems as the thesis topic and for each I proposed the solution to how evaluate them. After finishing the experiments, I continued to modify the problem and the proposed solution until we get the results which we can explain. Even, for some of the results which were different than the proposed explanation, I came up with a better explanation which was able to explain the experimental results. The critical thinking is important skill in solving problems and finding new solutions.

PHASE 2 Open-mindedness and creativity

I believe I'm at phase 2 for and I will be at same phase after PhD. During bachelor I focused on mechatronics which is an interdisciplinary field between mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, and computer engineering. Later for master studies, I studied biomedical engineering and sciences with focus on psychophysical experiments in haptics. Then, for PhD I focused on computer science and engineering. My diplomas are obtained from different countries; bachelor from Iran, master from Turkey and I'm studying PhD in France. Moreover, I have defined a problem, and developed an Android application for that. My master thesis was an interdisciplinary problem, where my thesis committee member where from different departments such as mechanical engineering, neuroscience, psychology.

PHASE 2 Commitment

I believe I'm at phase 2 and I will be at same phase after graduation. I have learned in which conditions I can work more and better. For example, seeing other people working around me motivates me to work more. So, my routine of working is going to office everyday till the last person is in the office and after that continue my work somewhere else like a library where there are always some people working. During all my graduate studies I was committed to catch the deadlines by working till late nights or even if needed till morning. I'm an open person to criticize from my colleagues or supervisors and I try to modify the mistakes.

PHASE 1 Integrity

I believe I'm currently at phase 1 and will be at same phase after graduation. I have conducted hundreds of experiments including human subjects. In which I always respected standards, One important thing I learned is if the experimental results are different than your predictions from theory or simulation without doubt there is something wrong with the theory or the experiments. The reason for the difference can be a valuable finding. So, respecting the integrity can be more in favor of researcher. I had two publications where I didn't mention anything about the identity of participants.

PHASE 2 Balance

I believe I'm currently at phase 2 and will be at same phase after graduation. I only apply to positions which I think fit to my skills and aptitudes. So far, all my employers and supervisors were happy with my performance. I was able to balance my personal and professional life before which caused to have peace in life and being an example for others.

PHASE 2 Listening and empathy

I believe I'm currently at phase 2 and will be at same phase after graduation. I'm a person who listens more than talking and give others enough time to express themselves. Also, I always tried my best to express gratitude toward others.

PHASE 1 Negotiation

Though I don't have any experience in this skill but after taking a local training, I believe I will be at phase 1 after graduation. This skill does not seem very important for my future plans. That's what I'm not planning for any significant development in this skill.

Business management and value creation

PHASE 1 Project management

At the beginning of my PhD, I didn't have any experience with managing a project. Though, I took part in different project which in many I had key role and I was helping the managers in different aspects. I attended a local training to achieve phase 1 for this skill as I may need this skill in future career.

PHASE 1 Managing change

I believe I'm currently at phase 1 for this skill and I will be at same phase after graduation. During my thesis, I had to change the schedule a couple of times due to problems with the experiments or getting results which were different than expected.

PHASE 2 Managing risks

I believe I reached phase 2 for this skill. Based on the experience I have with the experiments, I can predict some of the risks we may face and avoid them. Like the risks the experiments may have for participants or the failure probability for equipment. I attended ethical course in University of Lille where I learned to consider my responsibilities toward society and environment in my research.

PHASE 1 Decision-making

I believe I'm currently at phase 1 and I will be at same phase after graduation. I have four years experience in conducting experiments and I'm aware of stages of experiments and what decisions should be made in each step. Like which method should be chosen for experiment or which method should be chosen to analyze the result.

PHASE 1 Obtaining and managing funding

I don't have any experience in obtaining or managing funds but by attending a local training I can get some experience and be at phase 1 after my graduation.

PHASE 1 People management

I'm currently at phase 1 and I will be at phase 2 after graduation. I have worked as teacher assistant for several courses where I was working with other peers. In some of those courses since I was the head TA, I had more responsibility and had to help the course instructor to manage the other TAs activities. Where I was monitoring other TAs to be sure they meet the deadlines and provide help for them if necessary. I will improve this skill by attending the "Revealing the entrepreneurial potential of PhD students" course as this skill most likely will be

necessary in my future career.

PHASE 2 Producing results

I'm currently at phase 1 and I think I will be at phase 2 after graduation. I had an idea for research topic which resulted in two publications and an idea for mobile application which resulted in an android program. Moreover, the projects I chose for my courses were chosen in a way that they are useful in daily life like library manager and book recommender. During my PhD I'm learning to use tools like Unity for creating products in virtual reality which can be used in the recent trended environments such as Metaverse. I also learned how develop apps for smartwatches. Moreover, I developed my programming skills for backend developing which is widely used for commercial products such as mobile apps and websites.

PHASE 1 Intellectual and industrial property

I'm currently at phase 1 and I will be at same phase after graduation. I'm aware of controlling the results before publishing paper and also I attended a training about rules and regulation for patents.

PHASE 1 Customer focus

I'm currently at phase 1 and I will be at same phase after graduation. I developed an android program and after publishing the program I got familiar with how much customers feedbacks matters and implementing their expectations in the product is necessary.

Strategy and Leadership

PHASE 1 Strategy

I don't have any experience about defining a project for organization's strategy. Though, taking the "Know the companies and organizations" course can give some insight about this matter and I will be at phase 1 for this skill after graduation.

PHASE 1 Leadership

I'm currently at phase 1 and I will be at phase 2 after graduation. I was acting as head TA (teacher assistant) for several courses, where I was leading other TAs so that we can meet the required deadlines. I will improve this skill be taking "Revealing the entrepreneurial potential of PhD students" course. This skill can be a positive point in the resume and can bring the chance to get better positions in future.

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