Le profil professionnel des docteurs

Wouter Van Gompel

Researcher in materials chemistry

I am a driven materials chemist with a passion for R&D and 6 years of research experience gained during my Ph.D. and postdoc.

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Cœur de métier

PHASE 1 **Développement des compétences**

I have a clear vision of which types of functions match my skills and interests. I regularly attend workshops to enhance my transferable skills, including presenting, communicating, leadership, project management, writing, and teaching. I am in the process of expanding my professional network, on a national and international level.

PHASE 1 **Évaluation**

During my postdoc, I have been involved in evaluating the progress and results of 4 Ph.D. students in our research group. I have also guided 4 bachelor/master students during their thesis/research stay, for which I critically evaluated their progress and their written report. I have acted as a peer reviewer for international scientific journals. My own research work and project proposals have been the subject of peer review, and I have received critique following presentations of my results at conferences. I appreciate receiving constructive critique, and I know how to revise my work and my point of view accordingly if required.

PHASE 1 **Gestion de l'information**

Having been involved in the writing of multiple scientific publications, proposals for research grants, and research reports, I have learned how to efficiently and thoroughly perform literature searches. I am skilled in using Google Scholar, Google Patents, Web of Knowledge, SciFinder, and Scopus to perform literature searches. I make use of citation alerts and a searchable RSS feed to be kept up-to-date on new progress in the field. I use EndNote to store and order publications. In the context of my postdoc research, I have set up a data management plan to ensure preservation of the data together with descriptive metadata.

PHASE 2 **Expertise et méthodes**

During my 6 years in academic research, I have gained expert knowledge of my field. I have collaborated with other chemists, physicists, and engineers in the context of (inter)national research projects. Over the past years, I expanded my network to include internationally recognized experts in specialized analysis techniques. I have attended multiple international conferences where I showcased my work through poster contributions or talks. I have co-authored 10 peer-reviewed publications. I have been involved in the writing of proposals for (inter)national research grants. During my postdoc, I have acted as a mentor for 4 Ph.D. students, guiding them in their daily research work, aiding them in interpreting their results, and setting short- and medium-term goals.

Qualités personnelles et relationnelles

PHASE 1 **Communication**

I am experienced at presenting my work to colleagues, researchers in my field, broader

audiences, and students. I have presented live and online, with and without a PowerPoint presentation. My online identity is based on my LinkedIn profile. I teach exercise sessions and student practicals, I have guided bachelor and master students, I provide training sessions to Ph.D. students to use the equipment for which I am responsible and I am a mentor for starting Ph.D. students in our group. I am proficient in English and I have an intermediate knowledge of French.

PHASE 1 Collaboration

I have set up collaborations with researchers from different disciplines, working at national and international universities and institutes. On multiple occasions, I have brought into contact two groups in my network when I felt that both could benefit from their respective expertise. I frequently act as the representative of my group at meetings with collaborators and I host project meetings regularly.

PHASE 1 Analyse, synthèse et esprit critique

I regularly present and defend my findings and ideas at group meetings and meetings with (international) collaborators. I am adept at condensing extensive research results into a few key conclusions. I have experience presenting the key findings of research projects with multiple collaborators to an audience of scientists from different disciplines and a user committee composed of interested parties from the industry. I am able to reevaluate my hypothesis and that of my peers when new results become available.

PHASE 1 Ouverture et créativité

I have initiated collaborations with researchers from various disciplines in an international context, based on contacts at scientific conferences. I have also contacted researchers to collaborate based on an interesting publication where an analysis technique is employed that could benefit ongoing research in our group. Based on findings from preliminary experiments, I have explored new research directions that lead to publications and project proposals.

PHASE 1 Engagement

The first two years of my Ph.D. were very challenging since I started in a new research group with 1 other beginning Ph.D. student. Together with our promotor, we had to discover research directions to make an impact in a fast-moving field of research. There were multiple setbacks, from which we learned. Towards the end of the second year, we identified areas of research in which we could contribute with original research. My main motivators are curiosity and creativity. I aspire to bring new ideas into the field by looking at issues and phenomena from a different perspective.

PHASE 1 Intégrité

Working on multiple projects with different partners, I am well aware of the importance of intellectual property. I adhere to good practices with regard to data processing and dissemination.

PHASE 1 Équilibre

Through my academic career, I have become well aware of my personal strengths and weaknesses and I seek opportunities to employ my strengths and cover my weaknesses. I highly value the possibility to learn from others and I am happy to support team members and collaborators whenever I can. I strive to have a good work-life balance and I find stress release in my hobbies.

PHASE 2 Écoute et empathie

I am a good listener, and I aim to provide support to colleagues on a professional and personal level. I pick up on the frustrations of co-workers and try to mitigate these, either through my own actions (if possible) or by finding a solution as a group.

Gestion de l'activité et création de valeur

PHASE 1 Conduite de projet

I have been responsible for the technical aspects of 2 (inter)national projects with partners from different universities, research institutes, and/or small enterprises. Based on the knowledge gained during these projects, I am currently the responsible person from our group for a new project. I keep track of the deadlines, goals, and deliverables. I manage the Ph.D. students working on the project together with me. I keep track of the collaboration with the other partners in the project and work together with them to mitigate the effect of unforeseen delays to keep the project on time.

PHASE 1 Management des personnes et des équipes

For different projects, I am working as part of a small team that includes Ph.D. students and technicians together with external collaborators. I am well aware of the strengths and weaknesses of my team members and I endeavor to bring out the best in them through motivation and by generating a common cause. I am seen as reliable and skilled by team members, group leaders, and collaborators. We hold regular meetings to report on results.

PHASE 1 Production de résultats

I was involved in the strategic decision to go for a patent application on the subject of my research (https://patents.google.com/patent/WO2019020612A1/en). I am experienced in going through the process from an idea to preliminary tests to extensive experiments to obtaining results to publishing results. By being involved in the Solliance initiative (https://www.solliance.eu/), which brings together universities, research institutes, and interested enterprises, I also gained experience in interacting with partners from the industry.

PHASE 1 Propriété intellectuelle et industrielle

I have been involved in writing the scientific basis for a patent application of my group leaders (https://patents.google.com/patent/WO2019020612A1/en). In the process, I learned about the different aspects of a patent application. I also received training in intellectual property through workshops during my Ph.D. and postdoc.

Stratégie et leadership

PHASE 1 Stratégie

I have collaborated with individuals working at universities, research institutes, and small enterprises. I am aware of the differences in goals and approaches for each of these. Through experience, I have learned how to turn "my" projects into common projects by identifying shared interests.