

Getting started in the policy field

By Richard Andersson | Getting Started #2, v. 0.9, December 2014.

1. Build Knowledge.

Find out what the “policy landscape” is where you want to be active. How are decisions made in your field of interest? Which actors are important? (Funding agencies, regulatory boards, university boards, think-tanks, patient advocacy organizations etc.?) Read a lot of reports!

2. Pick a mission.

Focus your efforts into a set number of goals so that you can prioritize what to read, where to go, who to meet. Figure out which organizations have goals similar to yours.

3. Build a presence.

Many government agencies have open seminars where they present their reports—attend these as they are great places to network. Start a blog and a Twitter feed where you comment your “mission area” and seminars you have attended. Link and share stuff! Stay informed, polite and accurate.

4. Stay relevant.

Reiterate the 3 steps above. It is presence, competence, recognition and respect that will inspire organizations in the policy field to hire you. They always need people with intelligent perspectives that can reach out.

See also www.sciencepolicylab.org.

A Crastina Checklist

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