

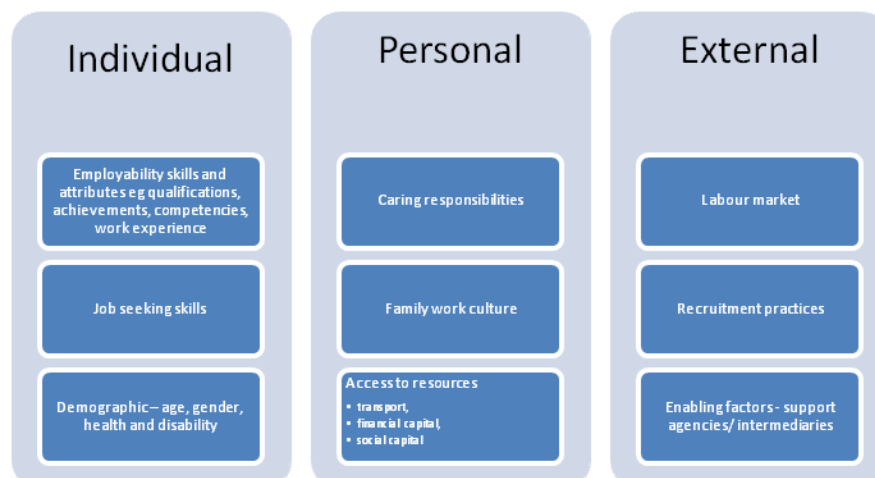
# Careers and employability for STEM professionals

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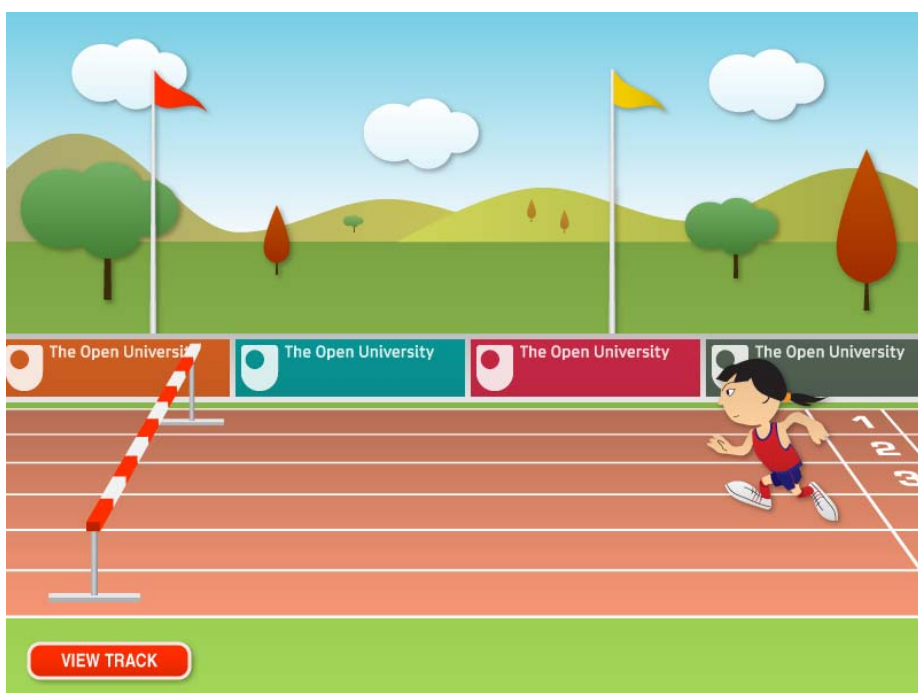
## Learning from the impact of T161/T160 Return to SET course - 5 years on

A postal survey was sent to 165 women who had taken the T160 course in 2005/6. They were all graduates in STEM subjects who were looking to return after a career break and had given their permission to be part of a longitudinal follow up study and to be contacted from time to time. There were 91 responses (55% response rate). Of these 63% were in employment or self-employed, and only 5 unemployed/ looking for work.



We carried out 23 in-depth interviews examining factors leading to reported outcomes which were analysed using an employability framework (McQuaid and Lindsey 2005). Usual explanations of employment and unemployment focus solely on either supply-side or demand-side factors. This analysis uses a more holistic framework that includes individual factors, personal circumstances and external factors.

## Overcoming hurdles to employability



The project team have developed an animated 'racetrack' tool to support students with employability. The team have been in discussion with the Centre for Inclusion and Curriculum and the Careers Advisory Service about possible ways to use this animated racecourse to support university strategic plans and help meet targets for student engagement with employability issues.

### Practical Tools and Support for Employability

- Researching the labour market
- Career planning
- Improving confidence
- Professional skills
- CV development
- Interview skills
- Work Life Balance