

Getting a Post-Doc

What is a Post-Doc?

- A position that allows you to strengthen your c.v. prior to getting a full-time academic job.
- There are 2 main types of post-docs:
 - 1) Teaching post-docs. These are basically fancy lectureships with relatively little teaching – maybe 1 course per year.
 - 2) Non-teaching post-docs. These are better.

Differences

- Pay and benefits: ranges from \$30,000 to \$80,000 per year.
- Research support: ranges from zero to little.
- Fellowship period: usually 1, 2 or 3 years.
- Institutional Resources: office & maybe a computer.
- Teaching: usually 1 course per year.

IRIS

- The IRIS database, which you can access through the Sponsored Project Office, gives a list of over 30 general post-docs in sociology. Many more are available for specific sub-fields.
 - URL: <http://www.spo.berkeley.edu/Fund/socpostdoc.html>
- Prestigious post-docs (e.g., Columbia Society of Fellows, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation) have activities where the fellows meet and talk.
- Less-prestigious post-docs basically give you an office.

IRIS: Example Page

Program	Deadline	Program Synopsis
American Antiquarian Society Fellowships	varies	Offers short-term fellowships (one to three months) and long-term fellowships (four to twelve months) to support residential research on the life of America's people from the colonial era through the Civil War and Reconstruction.
American Association of University Women Fellowships and Grants	varies	AAUW is one of the world's largest sources of funding for graduate women. Fellowship and grant recipients perform research in a wide range of disciplines and work to improve their schools and communities.
American Cancer Society Postdoctoral Fellowships	April 1, October 15	Funds training of recent Ph.Ds in cancer research, including psychosocial and behavioral research. U.S. citizens and permanent residents are eligible.
American Council of Learned Societies Fellowships and Grants	varies	ACLS offers fellowships and grants in more than a dozen programs for research in the humanities and related social sciences at the doctoral and postdoctoral levels.
American Councils for International Education Research Fellowships	varies	American Councils administers several major grants for independent, overseas research in the humanities and social sciences as well as language training. In recent years, American Councils scholars have conducted independent research in Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Ukraine.
American Diabetes Association Current Grant Opportunities	January 15 for training awards	Supports research aimed at preventing, treating, and curing diabetes, including studies in education and behavioral issues. Open to U.S. citizens and permanent residents.
American Educational Research Association Funding Opportunities	varies	AERA is a national research society that strives to advance knowledge about education, to encourage scholarly inquiry related to education, and to promote the use of research to improve education and serve the public good.
American Historical Association J. Franklin Jameson Fellowship in American History NASA Fellowship in Aerospace History	varies	Jameson Fellows spend 2-3 months at the Library of Congress for American history research. Applicants must be no more than 7 years beyond receipt of the Ph.D. Aerospace Fellows undertake a 6-12 month research project in aerospace history.

UCB Sociology's FAR Resource

- The department has a Graduate Fellowship/Post-Doc Database called FAR (Financial Aid Reader) in a Google Reader format. Currently there are over one hundred Post-Doc entries specifically for sociology graduate students.
- To use this resource, go to the Graduate Student Wiki; sign on with the directions and link on the Wiki to search the database.
- Please see the Graduate Advisor with any questions.

Add screen shot of the wiki here – black out
the password before posting to the web

How do I get a post-doc?

Applying to a post-doc is very similar to applying for a job. The main difference is that post-docs often require a proposal.

Submission Checklist

- ✓ curriculum vitae
- ✓ writing sample
- ✓ cover letter
- ✓ proposal
- ✓ research statement
- ✓ recommendation letters
- ✓ teaching statement

Proposal

- Asks a question that moves beyond the dissertation.
- Justifies the question in terms of **your** research agenda.
- Identifies sources of data and methodology.
- Explains why your research proposal is a perfect fit for the program.

Thinking Beyond the Dissertation

- Developing a good post-doc proposal can have benefits that go beyond getting a post-doc.
- This will make you think about your intellectual agenda broadly – far beyond the dissertation.

Evaluating Post-doc Applications

- Quality of the research proposal.
- Strength of the c.v.
- Fit with the institution.
- Basically getting a top-notch post-doc is just as difficult as getting top-notch job.

What should I do if I get a post-doc?

- Develop a schedule.
- The first 2 months are likely spent getting settled and (if you are on a 1-year post-doc) applying for jobs.
 - This is so costly that in some cases it may make more sense to stay close UCB rather than take a post-doc that requires a major move if there is no major prestige difference.
- Put most of your energy into publishing. Remember the clock is now ticking. You have to produce.

Teaching

- Be strategic. Teaching is not an opportunity. At this point in your career, it is a major drag on your time.
- Try to teach a class that is closely connected to your research, or try to get a vague class title that you can tailor to stuff you have already taught, read, thought about thoroughly.
- Be a competent teacher, but do not try to win any teaching awards.

Prioritize Your Research



- What you need most is **time**. Go to the obligatory seminar, have a lunch with a few key people, and then get your work done.
- Don't waste time sampling the intellectual riches of your new environment. There will be time for this after tenure. Remember – you don't have a permanent job yet.
- Do as much networking as you can while getting your work done.
- If you are on a 2- or 3-year post-doc, do NOT apply for jobs during your first year – get work done and enhance your c.v.!