

Science Careers at NIH/other govt positions

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Outline

- Why employers seek people with a PhD
- Jobs at NIH
- Jobs elsewhere
- Examples



Why employers seek people with a PhD

- Ability to complete complicated projects with minimal supervision
- Ability to master new subject matter with little guidance
- Accustomed to solving problems
- Ability to analyze complex data
- Ability to communicate clearly
- 24/7 Intellectual commitment; not expecting 9-5 work effort



Leadership Skills gained as a student are useful

National Postdoctoral Association (NPA) Core Competencies Self-Assessment Checklist
 Rate your current level of development in each of the following, with 1 being "Needs attention" and 9 being "extremely competent."
 For more information on these competencies, please visit www.nationalpostdoc.org/competencies.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	n/a
1 Discipline-Specific Conceptual Knowledge										
Analytical Approach to Defining Scientific Questions										
Design of Scientifically Testable Hypotheses										
Broad-Based Knowledge Acquisition										
Interpretation and Analysis of Data										
2 Professional/Research Skill Development										
Literature Search Strategies and Effective Interpretation										
Experimental Design										
Statistical Analysis										
Data Analysis and Interpretation										
Laboratory Techniques and Safety										
Principles of the Peer Review Process										
3 Communication Skills										
Writing										
Speaking										
Teaching										
Interpersonal										
Special Situations										
4 Professionalism										
Workplace										
Institutional										
Collegial										
Universal										
5 Leadership & Management Skills										
Leadership-Strategic Vision										
Leadership-Motivating and Inspiring Others										
Management-Project Management										
Management-Data and Resource Management										
Management-Research Staff Management										
6 Responsible Conduct of Research										
Conflicts of Interest										
Data Ownership and Sharing										
Publication Practices and Responsible Authorship										
Identifying and Mitigating Research Misconduct										
Research with Human Subjects (when applicable)										
Research Involving Animals (when applicable)										

<http://www.nationalpostdoc.org/competencies#six%20core>



Leadership skills and self awareness

Psychological type and the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator assessment, themes of self-awareness and self-management

--often presented with a professional development coach

Group Dynamics and Teamwork

Assertiveness training; communication, influencing others, conflict and feedback, team skills, diversity in a multicultural environment, management, staffing

Mentor Training

Some Examples of Jobs at NIH

- Postdocs and PIs (see next slide)
- Program Directors and Analysts
- Scientific Review Officers
- Policy Officers and Analysts
- Science Writers; Communications
- Clinical Trial Managers
- IT

Research-Intensive Jobs at NIH

<http://www.jobs.nih.gov/vacancies/scientific/>

Principal Investigator, Staff Scientist, Staff Clinician, students, fellows
In the Intramural Research Program; “tenure track”

Applicants should submit a curriculum vitae, bibliography, copies of three major publications, a summary of research accomplishments, a brief statement of future research goals, and arrange for three letters of reference

Jobs @ NIH

<http://searchjobs.nih.gov/jobs/>

Example: Staff Scientist. Candidates must hold a Ph.D., demonstrate expertise in XX, have experience with preclinical animal studies, and a track record in scientific project leadership as well as in training. Applicants should send a brief cover letter, curriculum vitae, bibliography, a 1-2 page statement describing current research activities, copies of up to five recent, relevant publications, and names of three recommenders



Jobs “Elsewhere”

- PIs, Lab Heads
- Postdocs
- Analysts
- Communicators
- Editors
- Fund raisers
- Managers of scientific portfolios
- Policy makers
- Lobbyists



Where is “Elsewhere”?

- Academia, Industry, Biotech (not the focus of this talk today)
- Federal agencies: NSF, VA, DOD, FDA, CDC
- Foundations: Bill & Melinda Gates, Howard Hughes, Disease Foundations
- Non-govt orgs (NGO’s): National Academy of Science, AAAS, Foundation for Biomedical Research
- Publishers

* Note, this list is FAR from complete.



How do you identify these jobs at NIH and “elsewhere” and position yourself to get one?

- The NIH BEST program is intended to provide this information



How to find NIH (or other federal) jobs

- Specific ads (USA Jobs)
- Government Contractors (Especially for non-US Citizens!)
- Government and agency-wide programs
 - AAAS Science & Technology Policy Fellowships
 - Presidential Management Fellowships



U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

NIH National Institutes of Health
Turning Discovery Into Health

NIH Employee Intranet | Staff Directory | En Español

Health Information | Grants & Funding | News & Events | Research & Training | Institutes at NIH | **About NIH**

NIH to Host PRECISION MEDICINE WORKSHOP
Digital health data in a million-person Precision Medicine Initiative cohort will be discussed at the May 28-29 workshop.
[More >](#)

1 2 3 4 5

Quick Links

- NIH...Turning Discovery Into Health®
- Impact of NIH Research
- Visitor Information
- Jobs at NIH**
- NIH Director's Blog

Mission

- The NIH Director
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- Budget
- History
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- Frequently Asked Questions
- The NIH Almanac
- Visitor Information
- Campus Shuttle

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NIH at a Glance | Funding for Research | Labs at NIH | Training at NIH

NIH is the nation's medical research agency—supporting scientific studies that turn discovery into health.

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Dr. Francis S. Collins,
NIH Director

NIH National Institutes of Health
Office of Strategic Coordination - The Common Fund

Explore USAJOBS

The screenshot shows the USAJOBS website interface. At the top, there's a search bar with the keyword 'health science administrator' and a location filter set to 'On: Rank, ZIP Code, or County'. Below the search bar, there are two job listings:

- Health Science Specialist**: An advanced integrated health care system in the Nation... the GRECC. Serves as administrator for the Sp... Specialist (PDA) 523-0038-0... appropriate to the position of Health Science Specialist. The numb... Salary: \$64,020.00 - \$83,227.00 / Per Year. Department: Department D. Series & Grade: GS-0601-11111. Agency: Veterans Affa. Location(s): Boston, Massachusetts. Position Info: Full Time - Pe. Open Period: 5/27/2015 to 6/16/2015. Who May Apply: Status Candid. Announcement Number: RS-15-DK6-1402507-BU. Eligibles.
- Biological Science Administrator (Program Director)**: The National Science Foundation (NSF) is seeking... development for the areas of science assigned to you... Foundation is conveniently... Federal Credit Union on site... services unit on site Employee... Salary: \$107,325.00 - \$167,252.00 / Per Year. Agency: National Science. Series & Grade: AD-0401-04/04. Position Info: Full-time, - Pe. Location(s): Arlington, Virginia. Who May Apply: Applications w. Recent change. Announcement Number: MCB-2015-0003.

On the right side, there's a 'USAJOBS RESOURCE CENTER' with a 'How do I apply for a Federal job?' section. It lists four basic steps:

- Create an account** - Enter your profile information and create a resume. Please note that you do not need to create a "My Account" to search for jobs, but you must create an account to apply for jobs online.
- Search jobs** - Use basic search to enter in job and location keyword information from the USAJOBS home page or the advanced search function. Review the job opportunity announcements and note of those of interest. Carefully review the "Qualification and Evaluation" section to determine whether you will qualify for the position.
- Apply for jobs** - Carefully follow the instructions in the "How to Apply" section for each announcement. Submit any additional documentation to verify your qualifications such as transcripts, SF-50 Notification of Personnel Action, and/or Veterans' Form DD-214.
- Manage Your Career** - Log into your account to obtain application status for positions for which you have applied. Contact the agency for specific follow-up questions or those related to the particular job. The agency contact information is listed on the right hand side of the announcement.

Explore Actual Job Posts

The screenshot shows the Science Careers website. At the top, it says 'Science Careers | Jobs | Choose from 2,264 live vacancies'. Below that, there's a navigation bar with 'Home', 'Find a Job', 'Jobs by email', 'Your account', 'Your profile', 'Your shortlist', and 'Employer A-Z | Career'. The main content area shows 'Found 3,581 jobs matching your criteria' and a list of job posts:

- Gruss Lipper Post-Doctoral Fellowship Program**: New York, NY | Undisclosed. The Gruss Lipper Postdoctoral Research Fellowship Program supports outstanding young Israeli scientists who have the opportunity to work in a biom... EGL Charitable Foundation | Today. Apply ☆ (159)
- Group Leader / Team Leader Genome Biology and Proteomics**: Heidelberg, Germany | Undisclosed. We are looking for outstanding candidates in proteomics and biological mass spectrometry. The position involves running an independent research gro... European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL) | Today. Apply ☆ (120)
- Assistant, Associate, or Full Professor, Pulmonary Biology Investigator**: La Jolla, CA | Undisclosed. The position will require a PhD, MD or MD/PhD degree or equivalent, and sufficient experience beyond postdoctoral training to have, or to be compet... The UCSD School of Medicine | Today. Apply ☆ (93)
- Director of the Biodiversity Research Center**: Taipei, TAIWAN | Undisclosed. Interested candidates should have a PhD or equivalent degree, with outstanding research accomplishments and demonstrated leadership ability. Academia Sinica | Today. Apply ☆ (84)

On the right side, there's a 'Job Type' dropdown menu with a list of job types:

- Academic Dean/Dept. Head
- Faculty
- Group Leader/Principal Investigator
- Lab Manager
- Lecturer/Senior Lecturer
- Manager
- Medical Doctor
- PhD Fellowship
- PhD Studentship
- Postdoc
- Postdoc Fellowship
- President/CEO/Director/VP
- Project Manager
- Research Scientist
- Senior Scientist
- Staff Scientist
- Sales/Marketing
- Student Fellowship
- Technician
- Other

At the bottom, there's a 'May 2015 search' label with an arrow pointing to the search results. The NIH logo and 'National Institutes of Health Office of Strategic Coordination - The Common Fund' are also visible.

Networking

- Important to develop (and maintain) professional contacts: meaningful ones
- Impressions: every talk or poster you give you can think of as a job interview
- Meet people: talk to vendors at meetings, people in the publication industry, etc....

Our two paths to NIH

- Trish Labosky: PhD, postdoc (4.5 yrs.), Faculty (15 yrs.) with tenure and excellent grant/publication record.
- Nancy Desmond: PhD, postdoc (4 yrs), Staff Scientist (4 yrs), Research Faculty (16 yrs) with federal grant funding.

Bethany Brookshire: PhD, postdoc (3 yrs).

- Began an award-winning science blog under the moniker “Scicurious” while in graduate school at Wake Forest University, continued writing through a post-doctoral position at U Penn.
 - Developed expertise on Twitter and Facebook while building a network of science writing mentors.
 - Became a freelance writer in 2013 and a staff journalist at Science News 6 months later.
 - Currently the Science Education Writer for Science News for Students
 - Moved to science journalism to share the wonder and complexity of science with a broad audience.
 - Began appearing at conferences to train scientists in communicating with the public.
- Bethany.brookshire@gmail.com, Twitter: @scicurious



NIH National Institutes of Health
Office of Strategic Coordination - The Common Fund

- **Science and Technology Policy Fellow** (6 months)
 - Sponsored by the Christine Mirzayan Science and Technology Policy Fellowship Program, the National Academies
 - Fellowship placement at PNAS
 - Freelance science writer for PNAS for 1.5 years
- **AAAS Science and Technology Policy Fellow** (2 years)
 - Placement at the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH): Office of Science Policy, Planning, & Communications; Science Policy & Evaluation Branch
- **Health Science Policy Analyst**, NIMH (2 years, 4 months)
- **Acting Chief**, Science Policy & Evaluation Branch, NIMH (3 years, 8 months)
- **Chief**, Science Policy & Evaluation Branch, NIMH (1 year, 11 months)
- **Science Policy Advisor to the NIH Deputy Director for Extramural Research** (1.5 years)
- **Using communication skills to inform policy decisions**

Liza Bundesen, PhD, No postdoc



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No matter what, you have to be “GOOD”

- Track record of success—both scientifically and programmatically
- Excellent communication skills—present yourself well
- Ability to work independently and in a team
- Initiative
- Understand your abilities—be honest, but do not undersell yourself

Links for more information

- AAAS Science & Technology Policy Fellowship program <http://fellowships.aaas.org/>
- Christine Mirzayan Science and Technology Policy Graduate Fellowship program at the National Academies <http://sites.nationalacademies.org/PGA/policyfellows/index.htm>
- The Atlantic Philanthropies Health and Aging Policy Fellowship Program <http://www.healthandagingpolicy.org/>
- IDA Science and Technology Policy Institute Science Policy Fellowship Program <https://www.ida.org/en/STPI/STPIResearchStaff/FellowshipProgram.aspx>
- AAAS Mass Media Science & Engineering Fellowship Program <http://www.aaas.org/program/aaas-mass-media-science-engineering-fellows-program>
- A helpful resource compiled by the Congressional Research Service in 2012 titled “Internships, Fellowships, and Other Work Experience Opportunities in the Federal Government”: http://www.senate.gov/CRSReports/crs-publish.cfm?pid=%26*2%3C4Q%2CO%3F%0A
- Potomac Institute <http://www.potomacinstitute.org/contact-us/internships>
- White House OSTP <http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/ostp/about/student>