

## TIPS & CONSIDERATIONS

- **Talk with your faculty advisor** about your plans and ask questions about the process. They may have contacts at other universities and can refer you to relevant openings.
- **Start early.** Prepare to start your search at least 6 months before you will complete your degree. This will give you time to consider options, apply for funding, and plan living arrangements.
- **Build your network** in and outside of academia. Attend conferences and other professional development events to connect with people in your field and learn about opportunities.
- **Be creative.** Make a list of potential supervisors and projects relevant to their work. Think about authors of papers you've read, conference speakers and presenters.
- **Consider a range of research opportunities** that will complement your doctoral studies and continue developing your skill set. Also consider international opportunities.
- **There is not one 'right' path to academia.** Consider research positions at a company or organization where you will have access to the latest technology and have the opportunity to publish.

Adapted from *How to Find a Postdoc Position* in [Academic Positions](#) and *Applying for a postdoc job? Here are 18 tips for a successful application* in [The Guardian](#)

## WHERE TO LOOK

Similar to jobs in industry, there can be many places to look when searching for postdoctoral positions. Set up search alerts to get postings sent to your inbox. Also keep in mind that some openings may not be advertised online, so talk with people in your network to learn about “hidden” opportunities.

### At GW

- The **Office of the Vice President for Research** provides resources for current and prospective postdocs. Visit their website for details on finding opportunities: <https://research.gwu.edu/postdoc-resources>
- Use the **GW Expert Finder** to find faculty based on their research and expertise: <https://expert.gwu.edu>

### Outside GW

- **Postdoc Jobs** <https://www.postdocjobs.com>
- **QS Top Universities** to find programs around the world <https://www.topuniversities.com>
- Use “postdoc” as a keyword to filter results on job boards like [Glassdoor.com](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [Handshake](#)
- Go directly to the websites of target schools and organizations to find positions

## NETWORKING

Connecting with people in your field will allow you to find potential supervisors and mentors, learn of openings, and gain insight about the process. Keep in mind that networking is about making a genuine connection – be sure to do your research on the other person to identify common interests. Read the [SEAS Networking Guide](#) for more tips.

- **GW Alumni page on LinkedIn** – Search for alumni who have similar research interests. Be sure that your profile is up to date and includes a summary of your research background.

- **National Postdoctoral Association** ([nationalpostdoc.org](http://nationalpostdoc.org)) – Connect with other postdocs and search for opportunities and funding.
- **Professional associations** – Sign up for newsletters, attend conferences, and search job boards to find openings in your field. Visit your program page on the SEAS Careers website to see a list.

## APPLYING

When submitting your application be sure to follow all instructions. Contact the organization directly if you have questions about deadlines and application materials.

- Get your CV and cover letter reviewed by a career counselor (schedule appointments in [Handshake](#)). Review the [SEAS Resume & Cover Letter Guide](#) or the [SEAS CV Template](#) for examples.
- Customize your documents for each application by highlighting relevant coursework, projects, publications, and clearly identifying your research interests.
- Prepare for interviews by scheduling a mock interview session in Handshake, or practice common interview questions on your own with [Interview Stream](#) (register with your GW email).
- Reach out to current and former supervisors to ask them to serve as references. Provide them with your updated CV and confirm the best method for contacting them (email or phone).

## FUNDING

Either before or after obtaining a postdoc position it may be beneficial to secure additional sources of funding. Check out the [“Find Funding Checklist”](#) from the [GW Office of Sponsored Projects](#) for a list of important considerations when selecting a funding source.

### Sample Funding Opportunities

- GW database of external funding opportunities: <https://sponsoredprojects.gwu.edu/find-funding>  
*\*Contact Office of Sponsored Projects for access*
- American Association of University Women (AAUW): <https://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/educational-funding-and-awards>
- Fulbright Postdoctoral and Early Career Awards: <https://www.cies.org/program/postdoc>
- Grants.gov: <https://www.grants.gov>
- Harvard University list of external funding: [https://research.fas.harvard.edu/postdoc\\_opportunities](https://research.fas.harvard.edu/postdoc_opportunities)
- Minority PostDocs: <http://www.minoritypostdoc.org/resources.html#DivPD>
- National Institutes of Health (NIH): <https://grants.nih.gov/funding/index.htm>
  - Non-NIH list of funding: <https://www.fic.nih.gov/Funding/NonNIH/Pages/postdoctoral.aspx>
- National Science Foundation (NSF): [https://www.nsf.gov/funding/education.jsp?fund\\_type=3](https://www.nsf.gov/funding/education.jsp?fund_type=3)