

How to get a postdoc

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How to get a postdoc

- 1 Research: publications (focus, breadth)
- 2 (Teaching)
- 3 Mobility/networking: conferences, exchanges, collaborations
- 4 Flexibility

- **Anglophone world:** don't publish PhD thesis as book, even if you get a publisher for free
 - reason: for both postdocs and junior positions, there is absolutely no expectation that you have a book—and if it's not with a top press, people might be suspicious
 - **Continental Europe:** more customary/expected/required that you publish PhD as book, but go with good press that does it for free
 - **refereed papers in good journals** (ESF rating international I or II), or lightly refereed papers in **visible** collections (but don't publish too indiscriminately)
 - **Anglophone world:** you are not expected to have that much breadth; **you are expected to show promise to become a 'leader'** in what you do
- ⇒ requires specialisation
- **Continental Europe:** achieve good balance between central, broad topics and new topics, avoid too much specialisation

- postdocs: generally teaching experience not central
- visiting assistant professorship/lecturer positions: teaching absolutely central (expectation: can teach courses in area without much preparation)
- tenure-track position: important, but focus depends on institution

- participation in conferences: big conferences as well as workshops on area of specialisation
- experience at foreign universities: research stays during or after PhD thesis
- networking: not just with the big fish, but also with cohort
- collaborations

Flexibility, and what to keep in mind

- apply to every position in your domain **that you would accept if it were the only one you are offered**
- during your PhD: understand what an application consists in and what you are being judged on
 - PhD thesis
 - writing sample (appropriate for positions applied for)
 - publications
 - **promise of research program going forward**
 - professional activity
 - **letters of reference**
 - (teaching dossier)
 - soft values (tt positions in particular): would you be a good colleague?

Postdocs in the US (and UK)

- More postdoc positions in Europe than the US
- Centers with postdoc positions: Western, Pitt, Rutgers (?)
- Universities with fellowship programs in philosophy (NYU, Bersoff), or more generally (Princeton, Chicago, Oxford, ...)
- Established large research projects with postdoc positions: Templeton (Cambridge/Oxford, NYU/Columbia/Rutgers?, LSE/UCSD), LSE
- If you are European (by affiliation), then often you can get public funds to do a postdoc overseas.
- A year before you go on the market, make sure you know about opportunities.

European Research Organisations

- **Switzerland:** <http://www.snf.ch>
- **Germany:** <http://www.dfg.de>,
<http://www.humboldt-foundation.de>,
<http://www.volkswagen-stiftung.de>
- **Austria:** <http://www.fwf.ac.at>
- **France:** <http://www.agence-nationale-recherche.fr>,
<http://www.cnrs.fr>
- **UK:** <http://www.newtonfellowships.org>, **British Academy postdoc fellowships** <http://www.britac.ac.uk>
- **Belgium/Flanders:** <http://www.fwo.be>
- **Netherlands:** **Royal Academy** <http://www.knaw.nl>, **NWO** <http://www.nwo.nl>