

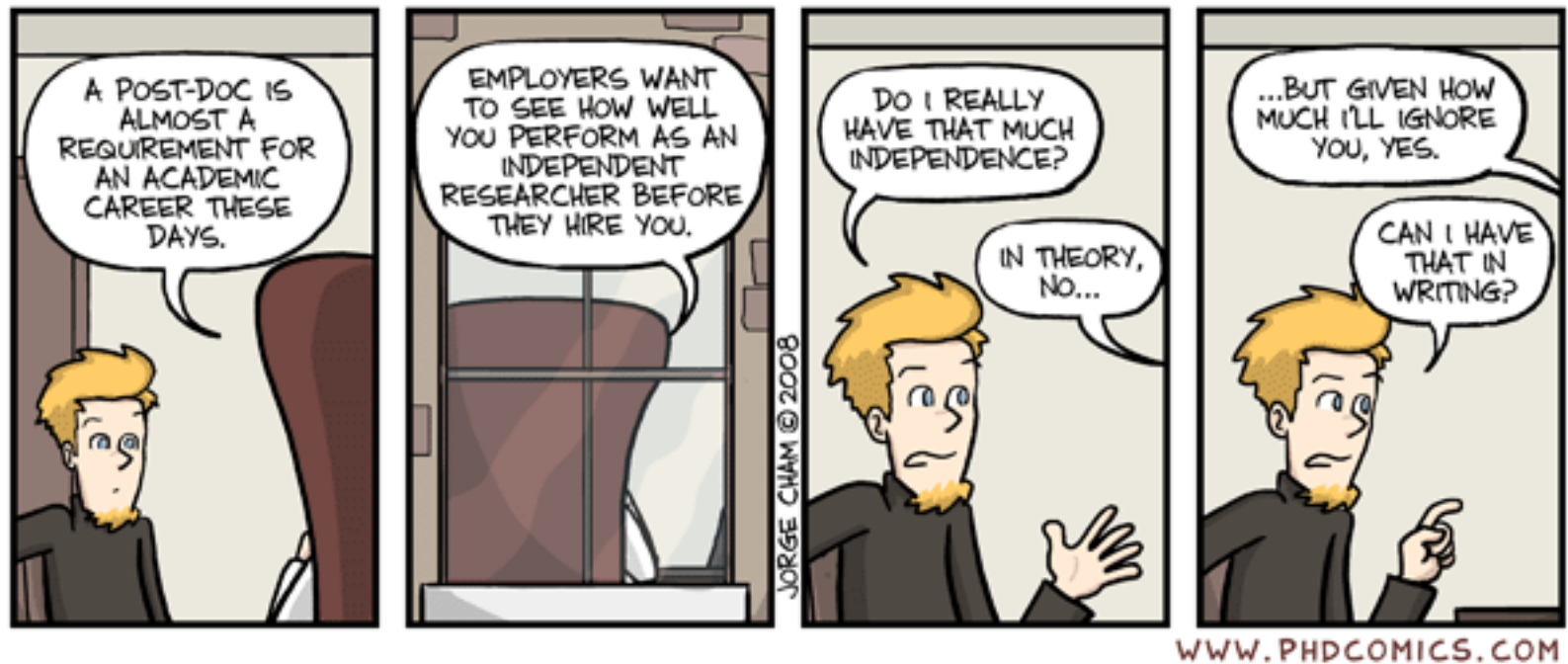
# Finding and making the most of a post-doc on the path to an academic career

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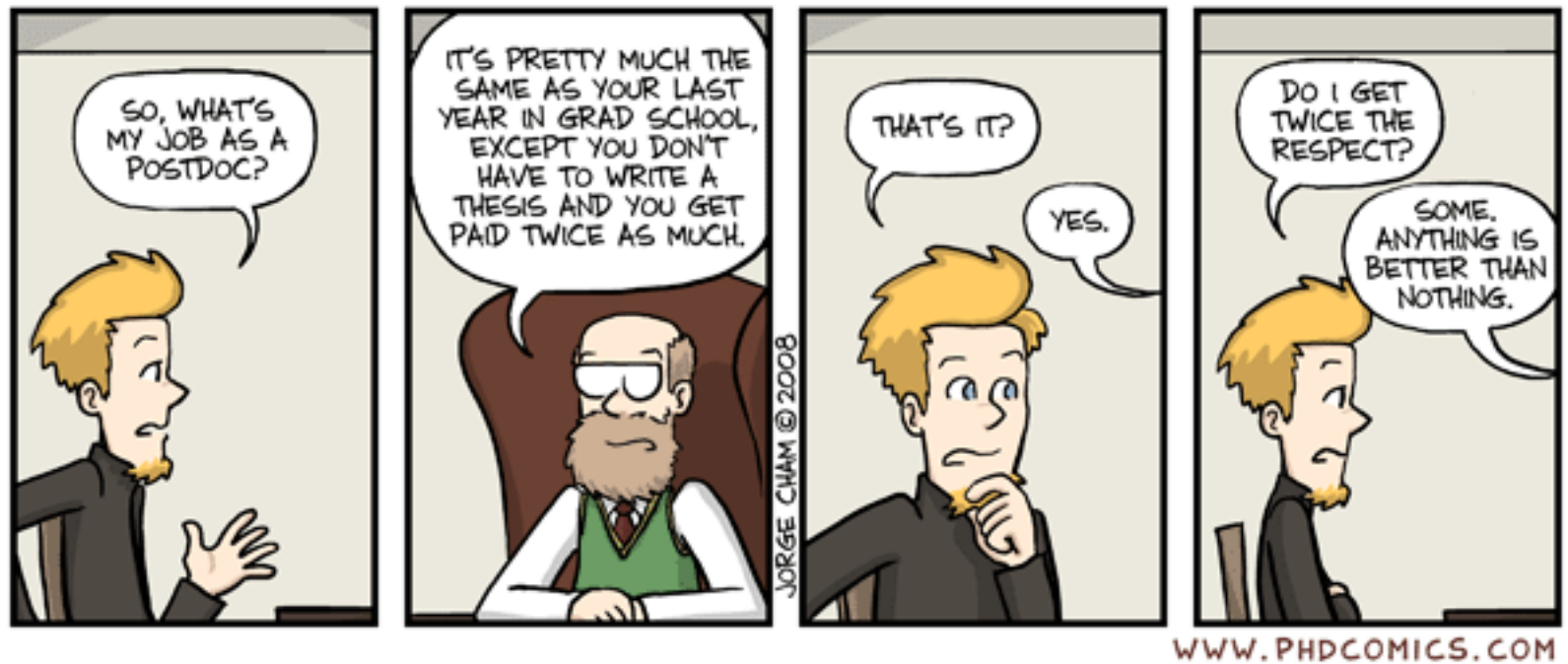
Academic Career Prep 16

# Why do a post-doc?



[Phdcomics.com](http://Phdcomics.com)

## What do you do?



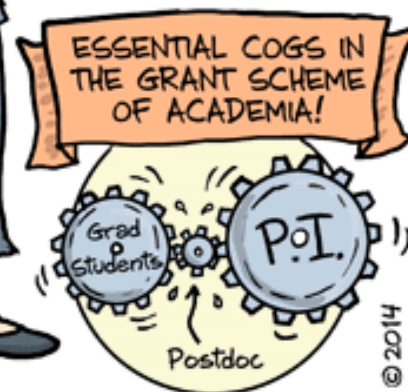
# Time spent

- ❖ Finishing up PhD papers
- ❖ Building your network, expanding collaborators
- ❖ Looking for a job
- ❖ Publishing
- ❖ Establishing your research
- ❖ Mentoring students
- ❖ Doing research

## IT'S NATIONAL POSTDOC APPRECIATION WEEK!

Celebrate  
The Middleman of Academia™

POSTDOCS ARE:



**NEXT WEEK: BACK TO BEING UNDERAPPRECIATED!**

[WWW.PHDCOMICS.COM](http://WWW.PHDCOMICS.COM)

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# How do you find one?

- ❖ Your research and professional network, word of mouth
  - ❖ Cold calling
- ❖ Email listservs and print or online job boards (es\_jobs\_net, EOS)
- ❖ University postings
  - ❖ Federal system (USAJOBS)
- ❖ Formal programs
- ❖ Fellowships

# What kind of post-doc do you want?

- ❖ Continuing in your field, building your career as an expert in this field vs. Branching out to a new field using established skills
- ❖ Large lab vs small lab, senior lab vs junior lab
- ❖ National lab, university, government agency
  - ❖ Reputation of lab and advisor
- ❖ Geography? International?
- ❖ Teaching post-docs or Visiting teaching positions

# Fellowships

- ❖ NSF AGS – 2 year, proposal
- ❖ NSF Hydrology, other postdoc programs – similar
- ❖ USGS Mendenhall -
- ❖ NASA Fellowship – choose advisor, mostly at NASA facilities, some university based
- ❖ UT-Austin Geoscience and Inst. Geophysics, proposal based
- ❖ GEOPRISM – related to NSF program, location based research
- ❖ NOAA climate and Global Change – lab/university based
- ❖ Smithsonian- might be research based, fellowship maybe communication focused
- ❖ Agouron Geobiology fellowship – proposal,
- ❖ Some university have named fellowships
- ❖ NCAR Advanced Study Program
- ❖ National Academy of Science
- ❖ NSF Internationship Post-doc

Some are limited by citizenship

Salary and research funds may differ, employment status differs

# How much do you get paid?

- ❖ Annual full-time 12 month salaries range from mid 30s to upper 50s, with a few exceptions
- ❖ Generally higher pay with more experience or with fellowships
- ❖ Status of post-docs as employees varies by institution, usually considered full, benefits-eligible employees, but worth checking
- ❖ Some fellowships pay you as an independent contractor

# Concerns

- ❖ Finding international postdocs
  - ❖ Germany
  - ❖ Marie Curie (EU limited) – different types
  - ❖ Train to Move
- ❖ Embassy
- ❖ Start date / deadlines – play close attention

# Post-doc Mentoring Plan

- ❖ <http://www.nationalpostdoc.org/publications-5/mentoring-plans/mentoring-plan>