Course 1: The Strategic Postdoc
Module 1: Positioning Yourself for the Postdoc

Session 2: Prepare to leave your PhD
Activity 2.2: Should I Do a Postdoc?

Should I Do a Postdoc?!

Insert Dream Job Here

Do you currently meet the qualifications for your dream job?

YES

VERIFY

Do informational interviews.
In some cases, even if a postdoc is not required it might be expected/preferred.
Would having a postdoc make you more competitive?

I’m not sure

ASK

Check job descriptions and qualifications.
Do informational interviews.
What does it take to be competitive for this job? Will a postdoc give you the training you need? Would a postdoc allow you more time and resources to be more competitive?

No

CONSIDER

A postdoc may not always be the answer. You could pursue another training program, a fellowship, or an entry position.

Will a postdoc give you the training you need? Could a postdoc allow you more time and resources to be more competitive?

If your answers are YES: Consider a postdoc if it will give you training for your dream job, if it will make you more competitive, or if it will allow time, resources, and opportunities to explore further your career interests. If you need a postdoc, research different types of postdoc programs and choose one that aligns with your training goals and were your advisor is supportive of them.