

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

**I'm
not
sure**

No

VERIFY

ASK

CONSIDER

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?

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?

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 where your advisor is supportive of them.