

Course 1: The Strategic Postdoc

Module 1: Positioning Yourself for the Postdoc

Session 2: Start at the End

Activity 2.3: Evaluating Postdoctoral Training Opportunities

For the following job posts, determine if the applicant would need a postdoc in order to be competitive for the position. If a postdoc is needed, identify what type of postdoc would make the applicant more competitive for the position.

1. [Associate Editor or Senior Editor](#) - Nature Materials (London)
For this type of position, although a postdoc isn't required, it is strongly recommended. You would also need a strong publication record. If you aren't able to get a strong publication record as a graduate student, you could take a postdoctoral position with the main goal of increasing your publication record.
2. [Consulting Associate](#) - McKinsey
You only need a PhD (or MBA). A postdoc isn't required and it will not make you more competitive for this type of position.
3. [Assistant/Associate Teaching Professor](#) - Northeastern University
A postdoc is not required. If the candidate has teaching experience during the PhD, a postdoc isn't needed. Candidates do need teaching experience. Doing a postdoc where you could improve your teaching experience and build a stronger publications record will make you more competitive for this position.
4. [iBiology Career and Professional Development Fellowship](#) - iBiology
A postdoc is not required or needed. You only need a PhD and related experience.
5. [Principle Scientist: Oncology Discovery](#) - Bristol Myers Squibb
A postdoc is required. If the candidate doesn't have a postdoc, equivalent industry experience might apply. Strong record of publication is required for the PhD and post-PhD experience.
6. [Process Development Scientist](#) - Amgen
Although a postdoc isn't required, it makes you more competitive for this position.
7. [Senior Associate Scientist, Oncology Discovery](#) - Bristol Myers Squibb
Neither a postdoc nor a PhD is required for this position. Although this is the case, a lot of PhDs will apply to this type of position. If you are interested in a research intensive senior scientist position, you could take a position like this one and work your way up. Be aware that this depends on the company; some companies allow for this transition to happen, but others have different tracks for what they call 'technician' track versus 'scientist' track. This type of position would be classified as 'technician' track.

8. [Senior Scientist, Oncology Discovery](#) - Bristol Myers Squibb
For this type of position, either a postdoc or equivalent experience in industry is required. Although a postdoc isn't required, if you don't have a postdoc, you would have to consider taking a different position in industry that would get you the years of experience required for this position. A high-impact paper from a PhD, or multiple first author publications from a PhD and postdoc, would be needed in order to be competitive.

9. [Faculty Non Tenure Track, Lecturer](#) - Utah Valley University
A PhD or postdoc is not required. A PhD and teaching experience will make you more competitive for this type of position.

10. [Assistant/Associate Professor of Biological Science](#) - California State University, Fullerton
Research and teaching institute. A postdoc is required. A strong publication record would make you more competitive. Teaching experience is required.