

Course 1: The Strategic Postdoc

Module 2: Applying for and Choosing the Right Postdoc

Session 1: Planning Your Search and Scouting for a Postdoc

Activity 1.3: Scouting for postdoc positions using your mentoring network

Scouting: Activating your mentoring network:

1. Once you start looking for possible postdoc positions, identify 3 individuals from your mentoring network who could aid the process of finding them. These can be former collaborators or someone you met at a conference. You can always consult your mentoring network or talk to your PhD advisor or thesis committee members for ideas.
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 2. Practice writing an email to a person in your mentoring network (checkout Video 2: [Scouting for Postdoc Positions](#) for additional information). To construct the email, answer the following questions:
 - a. Journey status - Where are you in your journey?
 - b. Reason - Why are you reaching out to that particular mentor?
 - c. The “Ask” - How would you like your mentor to help? What are you asking from them (e.g., advice, recommendations, possible positions, funding opportunities, etc.)? Be as specific as possible.
- Note:** You can find examples [here](#). Read the examples to have a frame of reference, but **DO NOT copy and paste** the information found in the example. It is crucial that you **personalize any email** that you send to people in your mentoring network or any prospective mentor. The more specific and personal you are in your email, the higher the chances you’ll get an answer.
3. Show the draft of your email to another peer or mentor. Ask them the following questions to help them provide meaningful feedback:
 - a. Is my message clear, concise, friendly, and professional?
 - b. Is there any information missing? What would you have liked to know if you were the one receiving this email?