



## Postdoctoral Researchers

A postdoctorate (postdoc) is a temporary position awarded in academia, industry, government, or a nonprofit organization primarily for gaining additional education and training in research. Ideally, the individual employed in a postdoc position gains these skills under the guidance of an adviser, with the administrative and infrastructural support of a host institution and with the financial support of a funding organization. However, the conditions of postdoc employment vary widely between academic and nonacademic settings, across disciplines, and even within institutions, and formal job titles can be an unreliable guide to actual work roles.

Postdoctoral researchers are important to the S&E enterprise and perform a substantial portion of the nation's research. Most have recently earned their doctoral degree, so they bring new techniques and perspectives that broaden their research teams' experience and make them more competitive in the job market. In addition to conducting research, postdoctoral researchers also educate, train, and supervise students engaged in research; help write grant proposals and papers; and present research results at professional society meetings (COSEPUP 2014).