

Preparing for an Academic Postdoctoral Position

⌵ Years 1 – 2

Build momentum + visibility

Prioritize strong research fundamentals and a publication plan with your advisor.
Start a clean academic footprint: CV, Google Scholar/ORCID, simple website.
Present early (group → department). Join a society/community in your subfield.

⌵ Year 3

Signal independence

Write a 1-page
Identify 5–8 target postdoc labs; start low-stakes networking (seminars, conferences).
Present Draft research statement v1; practice a tight 5–7 minute research pitch. (group → department).

⌵ Years 4 – 5

Execute

Apply to (or at least look up) multiple postdocs <i>and</i> postdoc fellowships (build a competitive “fundable” profile).
Prepare a polished job-talk-style seminar and a short chalk talk.
Collect evidence of your leadership: mentoring, project ownership, collaborations, paper-driving.
Keep a running file of “grant-ready” aims, preliminary figures, and broader impacts ideas.