

# 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 *and* 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.