



Finding Postdoctoral Funding Opportunities

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Workshop Description and Objectives

This information session is an introduction to searching for organizations and programs that provide salary and research funding to postdocs.

After attending this session, participants will be able to:

- Search for federal and private (corporate/foundation) funding on Pivot and Grants.gov
- Evaluate funding opportunities on the basis of personal goals and other factors
- Create a personal proposal development plan for promising opportunities

Welcome and Introductions

- Facilitator:
Nancy Devino – nancy.devino@gatech.edu
- Participants: Name and Department/Program

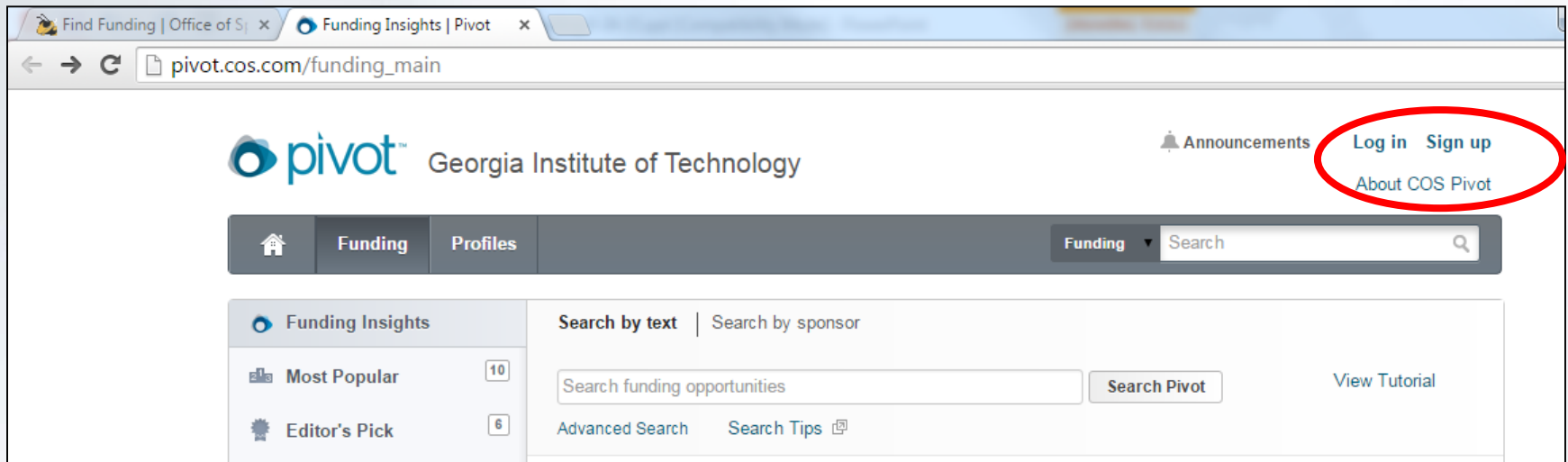
What Organizations Fund Postdocs?

- Federal Agencies
 - Intramural Funding (work in agency labs)
 - Extramural Funding
 - ❖ Budget line in faculty research grant
 - ❖ Direct support for an individual
- Private Foundations
- Professional Societies

Funding Searches on Pivot

- Create an account when logged into GT network

http://pivot.cos.com/funding_main



- Learn more using the “About COS Pivot” and/or “View Tutorial” links on main Pivot page

Basic Pivot Search → Term in Title

“Postdoc” returns 145 results:

Search Funding Results		Your Search: (postdoc)	
		Advanced Search	Save Search Refine Search
		<input type="checkbox"/> 145 Results Sort ▾	Deadline Amount
Submission type		<input type="checkbox"/> Postdoc Fellowships (Denmark)	01 Nov 2015 see record
Limited Submission:	6	Lundbeckfonden (Lundbeck Foundation)	Application Anticipated
Other internal coordin...	2		
Top funding types		<input type="checkbox"/> Postdoc Program - Director's Fellows	01 Oct 2015 see record
Research:	98	United States Department of Energy (DOE)	Full Proposal
Postdoctoral Award:	70	Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL)	Confirmed
Training or Scholarshi...	35		
Collaboration or Coope...	24	<input type="checkbox"/> Follow-Up Funding	Continuous see record
Program or Curriculum ...	14	Deutsche Akademie der Naturforscher Leopoldina - Nationale Akademie der Wissenschaften / German National Academy of Sciences	Application Confirmed
Top sponsor types		<input type="checkbox"/> Postdoctoral Research Associates	Varies \$72,200 usd
National Government, N...	49	United States Department of Energy (DOE)	Nomination
Private Foundation:	25	Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL)	Confirmed
Professional Society o...	24		
Federal, U.S.:	16	<input type="checkbox"/> Richard P. Feynman (RPF) Postdoctoral Fellowship in Theory and Computing	Varies see record
Other Nonprofit:	15	United States Department of Energy (DOE)	Application
Top applicant types		Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL)	Confirmed
New Faculty or New Inv...	134	<input type="checkbox"/> Postdoc	29 Jan 2016 1,600,000 kr sek
PhD or MD or Other Pro...	62	Socialdepartementet / Ministry of Health and Social Affairs	Application
Graduate Student:	34	Forte: Forskningsradet for Hals, Arbetsliv och Valfard / Forte: Swedish Research Council for Health, Working Life and Welfare	Anticipated
Academic Institution:	22		
Nonprofit:	19	<input type="checkbox"/> J. Robert Oppenheimer (JRO) Postdoctoral Fellowship	Varies see record
Top keywords		United States Department of Energy (DOE)	Application
Health and Medicine:	40	Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL)	Confirmed
Natural and Physical S...	35	<input type="checkbox"/> Frederick Reines (FR) Postdoctoral Fellowship in Experimental Sciences	Varies see record
Energy Sciences:	35	United States Department of Energy (DOE)	Application
Engineering:	34	Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL)	Confirmed
Social Sciences:	33		

Advanced Search Yields Tailored Results

<http://pivot.cos.com/funding/search>

- Title & abstract fields include “postdoc”
- Dollar amount: leave blank
- Deadlines: Look for deadlines at least 2 months out; include those with optional or undefined deadlines
- Citizenship: if not a U.S. citizen, select “Unrestricted” and “Unspecified”
- Funding Type: “Postdoctoral award”; “Research”; “Training/Scholarship/Fellowship”
- Can also “exclude” opportunities of your choice

Grants.gov: Starting Point for Federal \$

Start with the SEARCH GRANTS tab:

<http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/search-grants.html>

Keyword = “Postdoctoral” → 73 results

- NIH = 23
- NSF = 12
- Department of the Army = 12
- FDA = 7
- Office of Science = 5
- 9 other agencies = 14 total (1-2 each)

BOTTOM LINE: Behavioral/Biomedical Research and Basic/Applied Science account for ~80% of all federal postdoctoral funding opportunities

Evaluating Funding Opportunities: Questions to Consider

- Does my area of research match the funder's priorities?
- How many awards does the agency/organization make each year?
- What is the amount and duration of funding?
- How realistic is it that I could put together a competitive application?
 - When is the application due?
 - What does the application require?
 - What other obligations do I have between now and the deadline?

Crafting a Proposal Development Plan for High Return-on-Investment (ROI) Opportunities

These steps can take 6-8 months

Not Funded: Return to Planning & Writing



National Science Foundation Postdoctoral Funding: High Investment, High Return

Start at www.nsf.gov

Choose “FUNDING” then “For Postdoctoral Fellows” (Special Programs Group) → [Postdoctoral Fellows](#) page

- Astronomy & Astrophysics (11-559): 2nd Wed. in October
- Atmospheric/Geospace Sciences (14-509): 2nd Mon. in January
- Biology (15-501): 1st Tues. in November
- Earth Sciences (15-568): 2nd Tues. in January
- Law & Social Sciences (15-514): January 15
- Mathematical Sciences (14-582): 3rd Wed. in October
- Social/Behavioral/Econ. Sciences (14-495): Last Mon. in October

National Institutes of Health Postdoctoral Funding: High Investment, High Return

Start at www.nih.gov

Choose “Grants & Funding” then “Funding Opportunities” then “Research Training & Career Development”

Two Main Postdoctoral Funding Programs:

- [Kirschstein-NRSA Postdoctoral Fellowship](#) (F32): PA-14-149
- [Pathway to Independence Award](#) (K99/R00): PA-15-083

F = Fellowship

K = Career Development; R = Research

Many NIH Programs Have 3 Annual Due Dates

	Cycle I	Cycle II	Cycle III
F32	April 8	August 8	December 8
<i>Work period:</i>	<i>early December to early April</i>	<i>early April to early August</i>	<i>early August to early December</i>
K99/R00	February 12	June 12	October 12
<i>Work period:</i>	<i>mid-October to mid-February</i>	<i>mid-February to mid-June</i>	<i>mid-June to mid-October</i>

What Happens During “Work Period”?

- Workshops 2-3 weeks apart, focused on specific proposal components
- Assignments and peer review of component drafts during the intervening weeks
- Collaboration with Office of Sponsored Programs to set up any necessary proposal submission accounts
- Individual assistance with proposal narrative drafts and proposal assembly

Still Interested? Want to Learn More?

1. Review links to proposal guidelines and identify the best program for your discipline and career goals.
2. Register for the upcoming NIH Proposal Workshop Series (8:30-10:30 AM, Chem-MSE 3201A):
 - October 14: Navigating the NIH
 - November 4: Specific Aims and the NIH Review Process
 - November 18: Writing a Compelling Research Strategy
 - January 13: Polishing Your Proposal
3. See Postdoc Resources Page on postdocs.gatech.edu