Frequently Asked Questions: The Postdoctoral Experience

My current internship site has offered to keep me on as a post doc...should I stay?

That depends. If it’s exactly what you want to do and will add value to your “portfolio” of skills and interests then by all means.

The post-doctoral year is a great opportunity to also consider exploring areas of interest where you haven’t had exposure. Set Goals: What do you want out of the experience? Acquire in depth training in an area of expertise? Learn new skills?

There are many options for you to choose including a “formal” post-doctoral fellowship, one that has been long identified with specialty training and/or is approved by APPIC. These postdocs tend to offer more supervision and often offer significantly more formal training and didactic seminars.

Other sites might offer you a chance to work with a particular population you haven’t been exposed to or might be a setting in which you will seek long term employment. You might find a great mentor. This is a year to fine tune your professional identity.

Will I get paid?

Most likely, yes. Most offer a stipend, salary or fee for service. This can sometimes be negotiated. It won’t be a get rich quick year but you can defer your loan payments. The average post-doctoral fellow earns in the low to mid $30’s in Massachusetts and surrounding states.

What are the postdoc requirements?

Your postdoctoral requirements are less stringent than internship. (See Postdoc Requirements)
Where can I find listings of available postdocs?

In MyCampus in the Career Services section you will see a list of 50+ postdocs. These are the listings of opportunities that were offered over the past several years. Many will stay the same and some may no longer be available. These listings will change from year to year and we will try to keep them as up-to-date as possible. Take the time now to review what options there are.

Check the list starting around the beginning of November for the sites to go “live”. You will either see a job description next to the site name or you will see a hyperlink that leads you directly to the site and application. Note: most of this list identifies whether you need an APA internship or not, and the majority do not need one.

When do I need to complete my applications?

Most organizations require that you have your application submitted by mid-January. Some have deadlines as early as December and some as late as the early spring. Think about acquiring three professional references now. At least two should be from a clinical site, ideally your supervisor.

What if I miss all the application deadlines or don’t get any offers?

You will find a postdoc! You can create your own. See the “Need to Know Your Final Year” section on MyCampus for “Creating your Own Post Doc”. You can also make an appointment with Alan Beck, Director of Alumni Relations, to help you brainstorm your options.