

# ***Academic opportunities***

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# Overview

- Postdoctoral jobs (UK & non-UK)
- Permanent academic jobs (UK)

**Ask someone sensible in your  
research area for advice**

# *Some reasons for doing a postdoc*

- I enjoy research and want to continue doing it.
- I want an academic career.
- I want to work in industry X and a few years postdoc experience will be beneficial to my career (less likely?)

# UK postdoc: main types

## ● **Temporary lectureships:**

- funded by the department / institution
- involve teaching and research

## ● **Individual fellowships:**

- you apply for funding to work on your own research project
- funding bodies: EPSRC, Leverhulme, RS, RSE, (Marie Curie), . . .

## ● **“Project” RA/fellowship:**

- funded by (someone else’s) research grant to work on a specific project

# UK postdoc: advantages

## ● Temporary lectureships:

- continue with your own research
- get teaching experience
- sometimes followed by a permanent position

## ● Individual fellowships:

- usually prestigious and good for CV
- lots of time for your own research
- can usually do some teaching if you want to

## ● “Project” RA/fellowship:

- opportunity to learn new skills and work on a different research project

# UK postdoc: disadvantages

## ● **Temporary lectureships:**

- they are likely to only last for one or two years
- you may be overloaded with teaching

## ● **Individual fellowships:**

- usually difficult to get
- can feel isolated from the rest of the department (teaching involves the whole department, but research areas may only involve a small number of people)

## ● **“Project” RA/fellowship:**

- project may be boring / difficult / ...
- supervisor's only priority may be the project and not the development of your skills

# Where to look: UK jobs

- [www.jobs.ac.uk](http://www.jobs.ac.uk) (lists many permanent and temporary UK jobs)
- Guardian newspaper (Tuesday's Education supplement)  
free electronic alerting service:  
<http://jobs.guardian.co.uk/jobs/education/>
- Times Higher Educational Supplement (weekly)  
[www.thesjobs.co.uk](http://www.thesjobs.co.uk)
- New Scientist (weekly — less likely for maths jobs)  
[www.newscientist.com](http://www.newscientist.com)
- Personal connections (also good for non-UK jobs)
  - ask your supervisor, others in your research area
  - meet people at conferences
- Special interest electronic newsletters (also good for non-UK) e.g.  
[www.netlib.org/na-digest-html](http://www.netlib.org/na-digest-html) (numerical analysis)  
[www.maths.leeds.ac.uk/Applied/news.dir](http://www.maths.leeds.ac.uk/Applied/news.dir) UK nonlinear news
- Also [www.findapostdoc.com](http://www.findapostdoc.com)

# Where to look: non-UK jobs

## North America:

- AMS Employment Information in the Mathematical Sciences (EIMS)  
<https://www.ams.org/eims>
- Academic job ads in SIAM News [www.siam.org/news](http://www.siam.org/news)
- CAMEL web pages of the Canadian Mathematical Society  
<http://camel.math.ca>
- <http://phds.org> (comprehensive site)

## Europe (EU):

- Marie Curie Intra-European Fellowships (EIF)  
<http://cordis.europa.eu/mariecurie-actions/home.html>

## General:

- Try typing something sensible into Google — e.g.  
[academic job listings mathematics](#)  
gives lots of links that look useful.

# Postdoctoral fellowships: EPSRC

- **Individual** fellowships (you apply to EPSRC). They last for **3 years** (postdoctoral fellowships, up to 3 years postdoc experience) or **5 years** (career acceleration fellowships, at least 3 years postdoc experience).
- EPSRC provides funding for your salary, equipment, travel.
- Maths and Theoretical Physics programme have about 10 postdoctoral fellowships together per year. **Ask EPSRC** if you're not sure which to apply for.
- **Hodge Fellowships** (administered by EPSRC). 1 year at the Institut des Hautes Études Scientifique near Paris.
- Follow all the application rules **exactly**.
- Downside: they are **extremely competitive**.

# PDFs– other funding sources

- **Royal Society:** <http://www.royalsoc.ac.uk/>  
University Research Fellowships (5 years); Dorothy Hodgkin
- **Leverhulme Trust:** <http://www.leverhulme.org.uk/>  
Early Career Fellowships (part-funded); Research Project Grants
- **Royal Commission for the Exhibition of 1851:**  
<http://www.royalcommission1851.org.uk/about.html>  
Research Fellowships (2 years)
- **Royal Society of Edinburgh:** <http://www.royalsoced.org.uk/>  
Research Awards / Fellowships (various)
- **Cambridge JRFs:** (see individual college websites)
- **Weierstrass Institute:** <http://www.wias-berlin.de>
- **European Postdoctoral Institute for the Mathematical Sciences:**  
<http://seven.ihes.fr/EPDI/>
- PDFS at the IMA (Minneapolis) and at Canadian institutes (AARMS, Fields, PIMS, ...).

# Grants & family

- **Royal Society:** <http://www.royalsoc.ac.uk/>  
**Dorothy Hodgkin Fellowships** (applicants must demonstrate a current need for flexible support at the time of application)  
**UK Relocation Fellowships**
- **UK Resource Centre for Women in SET:**  
[www.setwomenresource.org.uk](http://www.setwomenresource.org.uk) follow links to careers > returners for lots of sources, including L'Oreal UK/UKRC bursaries for British women returning to scientific research careers.
- **Daphne Jackson Trust:** Grant to resume career after a minimum three-year break [www.daphnejackson.org](http://www.daphnejackson.org)
- **London Mathematical Society:** <http://www.lms.ac.uk/> Grace Chisholm Young Fellowships (pay local research expenses, no salary)

# Permanent academic jobs — general

- **Where advertised?** — same places as fixed term posts.
- **Pay scales / progression** (in flux)
- Find out about the department's research and teaching and think about what you would **bring or add** to it.
- Find out how to write a good **academic CV**.
- Research Assessment Exercise (**RAE**)
  - RAE 2001 and RAE 2008 ratings will give you (some) info on the dept.

# Permanent posts — selection criteria

- **Research ability** (potential or track record)
- **Research initiative** (independent researcher)
- **Research area** (fit in with department)
  
- **Teaching:** you usually need to have demonstrated that you can do it; if not, then need to be convincing.
- **Miscellaneous:** overall competence; something that sets you apart from others. Make sure you have some positive output from all your postdoc jobs.
- You may need to have a lot of **good publications** to be considered for some jobs. Other places may prioritise potential. Good departments get hundreds of applications in some areas; dozens of these applicants may be appointable.

# Hints

- Ask **someone sensible** for advice (in your research area).
- If you are not getting interviews, then get advice on your **CV** or choice of **referees**.  
Are you applying to the right places?
- If you are getting interviews but not jobs, then try to get some feedback — but be very careful.