Life after EVAN: The path of an academic career in the US

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Kinds of Post-Doctoral jobs in the US

Tenure-track Asst. Professor

Teaching/research position at University Requires: Publication record, Teaching experience

Postdoctoral fellow, Visiting Professor

Research, sometimes teaching position Requires: Publications

Adjunct / Visiting

Teaching position, not tenure-track Requires: Teaching experience



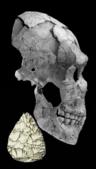
Goals of an Academic career in US

- 1. Get a job!
- 2. Get a tenure-track job!
- 3. Get tenure!

Common path to achieve these goals:

- a. 1-5 yrs post doctoral positions as stepping stone Accumulate teaching experience and publications
- b. tenure track job

Continue record building up to tenure



Postdoc in the US

You may also consider a postdoc in the US even if you are not interested in pursuing a career in the US, for the following reasons:

Greater number of opportunities compared to Europe Valuable experience



What is tenure? or tenure-track?

Tenure-track

Assistant professor level. A tenure-track guarantees that the candidate will be evaluated for obtaining tenure after a predetermined number of years. If successful, the candidate will be awarded tenure, and promoted to Assoc. Professor.

Tenure

Permanent position. Usually awarded at the Associate Professor level.

Visiting, or adjunct University positions

Temporary, non tenure-track teaching position. Candidate is hired on a year to year contract basis. The university is not obliged to consider for promotion, often no benefits.



What is a post-doc?

Postdoctoral fellowship

Temporary position, level intermediate between PhD and Assistant Professor. It is recognized that after completing a PhD a person will often spend one or more years in a postdoc.

A postdoc is not building up to tenure, and is not necessarily a University position. It is regarded as a stepping stone to an Asst. Professor position.

Postdocs can be funded institutionally, or through grants awarded to individual researchers.



What is a post-doc?

How long is a postdoc for?

Typically 1-2 years

What are the duties of a postdoc position?

It depends on the position and institution, also on the PI, if there is one. Usually postdocs are hired to conduct research, though they may have some teaching duties.

Depending on the position, a postdoc's research can be their own project, or one assigned by the employer (PI) who advertised the project.



How do I apply to a postdoc in the US?

Check advertisements. Look at institutional websites for positions listed.

Useful website is the AAPA JOBS link, where all jobs in Biological Anthropology and related fields are listed.

Contact people in advance to find out about the advertised job, or about job opportunities in their lab.

Apply to as many appropriate positions as you can!