

What to consider in view of your future career (as a postdoc)

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Steps in my own career

- Diploma Biology II, Biozentrum, Uni Basel (1980)
- PhD thesis in molecular genetics (W. Arber) (1984)
- Postdoc in Ciba-Geigy (1986/87)
- Postdoc at UC Berkeley (1988/89) (SNF Grant)
- Setting up own research group at ETH (1989)
- Habilitation in Genetics (1994)
- Project leader in Center for Teaching and Learning (1999-2001)
- Head of Network for Educational Technology (2001-2007)
- Stabsposition Vizerektorat Uni Basel (since 2007)

PhD student versus postdoc

As a PhD student you....

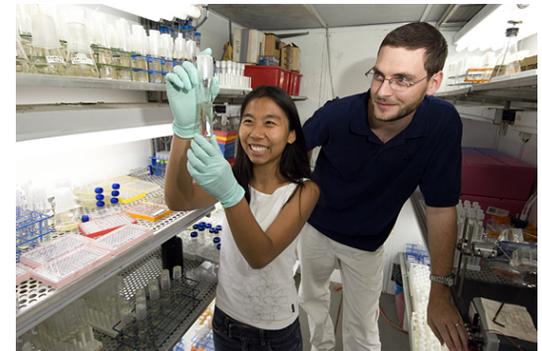
- start to become a researcher
- get deeply involved in your subject
- learn different techniques and skills
- learn by trial and error
- adopt scientific thinking, formulate a hypothesis
- learn a lot from others



PhD student versus postdoc

as a postdoc you...

- come as an expert to a foreign lab
- may have more specific knowledge than your boss
- have the privilege to do research without other obligations
- will teach your knowledge to other people in the lab
- have necessary time to publish
- may stay in an attractive lab in attractive place



How to find a position as postdoc?

- advertisements in Science, Nature, Cell etc. (however, highly competitive)
- ask your boss, your peers
- any preferences on location? Look for universities there! Visit websites, annual reports etc. find what interests you



Bring your own grant

- with own grant you are highly attractive
- consider applying for a fellowship for prospective researchers from the SNF
- visit the group(s) that interest you (in form of a vacation or after attending a congress)
- give a talk on your PhD project
- discuss possible projects
- use one project for your grant application
- consider the application deadlines

Develop your skills during your PhD thesis

- get interested in projects of your colleagues
- discuss with them their projects
- read papers
- practice to present your projects in seminars
- ask your colleagues for feedback
- write a paper as soon as possible
- get experience with teaching

And in general

- try to get tolerant to frustrating phases
- don't do what you like
- but try to like what you do

- good luck!