

# Postdoctoral Timeline

MIT Global Education & Career Development Ctr. ♦ 12-170 ♦ (617) 253-4733 ♦ <http://careers.mit.edu/>

## First Year, Fall

Attend or use [online career workshops](#).

Get familiar with the MIT Careers Development Center resources, programs and services.

Plan your postdoctoral program with your advisor. See the [Postdoctoral Scholars at MIT](#) and the [Individual Development Plan for Postdoctoral Fellows](#). Also see the [Seven Steps to a Successful Postdoctoral Experience](#). (with permission of The Scripps Research Institute)

Attend department orientations, training sessions.

Attend talks on various fields with student groups such as [MIT GSC](#), [MIT SEBC](#) and [Tech Link](#).

Meet peers from many departments.

## Industry

Attend events on many career topics.

## First Year, Spring

### Academia

Develop your CV. Attend a [CV workshop](#).

Set up an annual review meeting with your postdoc advisor. Go to [Postdoc Research and Career Progress: Annual Review](#). Suggestion: (discuss with your department whether/how this protocol might be useful).

Attend conferences in your field.

Seek experience overseeing student research.

Develop your teaching portfolio through the [Teaching & Learning Laboratory](#)

Attend GSC presentations on academic careers.

### Industry

Attend panels on career opportunities outside the lab.

Read about career options.

Participate in IAP programs to expand your marketability/skills (finance, entrepreneurship, management).

If you are doing research that has industry applications, build industry contacts. Gain experience presenting your work to people in industry.

Attend career presentations sponsored by your department. Learn about careers alumni/ae have pursued.

# Postdoctoral Timeline - Continued

## Second Year, Fall

Attend or use online version of career workshops on the job search process (resumes, interviews, negotiating offers). Attend presentations by employers.

Use alumni networking to research career fields.

Meet with a career advisor to discuss your career plans.

Ask for critique of cover letters for job search.

## Academia

Participate in hiring process for new faculty candidates for your department. Attend their job talks.

Ask your advisor for advice about pursuing an academic career. Discuss your career plans with your advisor. Seek faculty advice and recommendations.

Actively pursue first interviews for faculty positions at academic conferences (fall-winter of final year).

Develop your publications.

Participate in [IAP seminars](#).

Seek advice on publications from the [MIT Writing Center](#).

Seek advice on rehearsing job talks from the [MIT Writing Center](#).

## Industry

Seek faculty contacts who have connections with industry.

Network with students who have internship or interview experience in various fields, e.g., case interviews.

Attend [career fairs](#).

## Second Year, Spring

Arrange a [mock interview](#) to polish your interview skills.

Use the [MIT CareerBridge](#) system to arrange on campus interviews.

Attend industry seminars sponsored by your department.

Participate in any department recruiting activities (with industry employers).

Repeat [annual review process](#)

[see online version of this timeline at <http://web.mit.edu/career/www/graduate/timelinepostdoc.html> ]