

Job Search Essentials

QUESTIONS

Slides from
this talk available at
[Science Careers.org/outreach](http://ScienceCareers.org/outreach)

Questions to Ask Yourself

- What do you like to do? What energizes you?
- Do you want to do lab work/research?
- Where do you want to work?
- What do you want to wear to work?
- How often do you want to change projects?
- What sorts of hours do you want to work?
- Are you willing to travel?
- What sort of funding situation do you want to be in?
- What nonscience interests or skills do you want to use?
- How important is your income level? Job security?
- What sort of stress levels do you want to deal with?
- Would you like to work independently or as part of a team?

Questions to Ask in an Informational Interview

- What attracted you to this field?
- What do you like most or least about this position or field?
- Describe a typical day or week.
- What steps did you take to break into this field?
- What skills are most helpful in your job? How can I develop them?
- To what professional associations do you belong?
- What advice would you give somebody interested in your line of work?

Questions You Might Be Asked at an Interview

- Tell me about yourself.
- What are your strengths?
- What are your weaknesses?
- Why this organization? Why this job?
- What can you do for us?
- Why are you leaving research? (if applicable)

Questions to Ask at an Interview

- What does the job entail?
- What are the opportunities for advancement?
- How will you help with my professional development?
- What are the future goals for the organization?
- What are the roles of different team members?
- Tell me about the culture of the organization.



Check out the job listings at
sciencecareers.org

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RESOURCES

Differences Between Resumes and CVs

	CVs	Resumes
	Longer & comprehensive	Tailored summary
Depth	Full listing of background and research	Brief snapshot of skills and experiences
Length	Flexible (shorter in industry)	1–2 pages
Critical elements	Full list of publications, presentations, research, service	Transferable skills and experiences
Used for	Academic jobs, industry research, fellowships, grants	Nonresearch jobs outside of academia

Related *Science Careers* articles

- Mastering Your Ph.D.: Preparing for Your Post-Ph.D. Career
- The Cold, Hard Truth about Finding a Job in 2009
- E-Persona Non Grata: Strategizing Your Online Persona
- Maximizing Productivity and Recognition, Part 2: Collaboration and Networking
- The Informational Interview
- The One-Minute Talk
- Making the Most of Career Fairs
- Writing a Winning Cover Letter
- Put Some Muscle into Your Marketing Materials
- Resume Rocket Science, 2007
- 15 Minutes to a Better Interview
- The Walking, Talking Interviewing Machine
- The Dreaded Phone Interview
- Negotiation Boot Camp

Find these articles online at
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Related Books

- *The Chicago Guide to Your Career in Science: A Toolkit for Students and Postdocs*, Victor A. Bloomfield and Esam E. El-Fakahany
- *Put Your Science to Work*, Peter Fiske
- *What Color is Your Parachute? A Practical Manual for Job-Hunters and Career Changers*, Richard Bolles

Other Resources

- LinkedIn for networking
- The Informed Job Search booklet – available at sciencecareers.org/booklets

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