What is a postdoc?

Following completion of a doctoral degree, many PhD holders in science fields go on to obtain a postdoctoral research position, or “postdoc.”

A postdoc position is meant to be a bridge to a professional career.

How many postdocs are there?

In 2018 there were almost **65,000 postdocs** in science, engineering, and health fields.

- **74%** Academic institutions
- **26%** Business, government, or industry

International postdoc presence

Majority of all postdocs in science, engineering, and health fields in 2018 were temporary visa holders.

- **45.7%** U.S. citizens or permanent residents
- **54.3%** Temporary visa holders