

Science Careers at NIH/other govt positions

Trish Labosky (OD)
Alison Hall (NIGMS)



Outline

- Why employers seek people with a PhD
- Jobs at NIH
- Jobs elsewhere
- Examples

Why employers seek people with a PhD

- Ability to complete complicated projects with minimal supervision
- Ability to master new subject matter with little guidance
- Accustomed to solving problems
- Ability to analyze complex data
- Ability to communicate clearly
- 24/7 Intellectual commitment; not expecting 9-5 work effort

Examples of Jobs at NIH

- Program Directors and Analysts
- Scientific Review Officers
- Policy Officers and Analysts
- Science Writers;
Communications
- Clinical Trial Managers
- IT

Jobs “Elsewhere”

- Analysts
- Communicators
- Editors
- Fund raisers
- Managers of scientific portfolios
- Policy makers
- Lobbyists

Where is “Elsewhere”?

- Federal agencies: NSF, VA, DOD, FDA, CDC
- Foundations: Bill & Melinda Gates, Howard Hughes, Disease Foundations
- Non-govt orgs (NGO's): National Academy of Science, AAAS, Foundation for Biomedical Research
- Publishers

* Note, this list is FAR from complete.

How do you identify these jobs at NIH and “elsewhere” and position yourself to get one?

- The NIH BEST program is intended to provide this information

How to find NIH (or other federal) jobs

- Specific ads (USA Jobs)
- Government and agency-wide programs
 - AAAS Science & Technology Policy Fellowships
 - Presidential Management Fellowships
 - HHS Emerging Leaders Program

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JOBS@NIH—DISCOVER A CAREER AT NIH: IT'S ABOUT LIFE

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What Can I Apply For?

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What Can I Apply For?

At NIH we understand that applying for a federal position can be confusing. The following is information to help you, the applicant, navigate the federal personnel system as you pursue a career in the Federal service.

GENERAL SCHEDULE










The "General Schedule" (GS) is the basic classification and compensation schedule for white collar federal jobs. (For salary information, visit the Office of Personnel Management's [pay tables](#).) The "Federal Wage System" (FWS) covers Federal blue collar occupations.

In the Federal GS classification system, "occupational groups" consist of related occupations grouped together numerically within the same multiple of 100. Under each group are a number of "occupational series." For example, "GS-600" is the *Medical, Hospital, Dental, and Public Health Group*. Included in this Group is the *Nurse Series*, GS-610, the *Pharmacist Series*, GS-660, and the *Environmental Health Technician Series*, GS-698.

The duties and responsibilities assigned to most positions are covered by one occupational series. Some positions are a mix of duties and responsibilities covered by two or more series. Often the appropriate series for these positions is a general series for the occupational group covering the type of work performed. The Office of Personnel Management's [Handbook of Occupational Groups and Families](#) (PDF) describes each occupational group and series.

An interdisciplinary professional position is a position involving duties and responsibilities closely related to more than one professional occupation. For example, the duties of a position assigned research work in the environmental responses of certain living organisms may be accomplished by an employee trained in either biology or physiology. Thus, the position could be classified to either the

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Explore USAJOBS

The screenshot displays the USAJOBS website interface. At the top, the navigation bar includes links for Home, Search Jobs, My Account, and Resource Center, along with a 'SIGN IN OR CREATE AN ACCOUNT' button. The main search area features a large 'USAJOBS' logo with the tagline 'WORKING FOR AMERICA'. Below the logo, there are input fields for 'Keyword' (containing 'health science administrator') and 'Location' (with a placeholder 'City, State, ZIP Code, or Country'). A 'Search' button is positioned to the right of these fields. Underneath the search fields, there are radio buttons for 'U.S. Citizens' (selected) and 'Federal Employees'. To the left of the search area, a sidebar titled 'You are currently searching' shows the current search criteria and a 'Refine Your Results By' section with various filters like Salary, Pay Grade, Job Categories, Location, Department and Agency, Work Schedule, Work Type, Posting Date, and Exclude These. Below this, there are buttons for 'Save This Search', 'Get RSS Feed', and 'Edit Search Criteria'. The main content area displays two job listings. The first listing is for the 'Director, Office of Children's Health Protection' at the National Institutes of Health, with details on salary, location, and announcement number. The second listing is for the 'Associate Chief Nurse for Acute Care' at the Veterans Health Administration, also with details on salary, location, and announcement number. On the right side, there is a 'RESOURCE CENTER' section with a search bar and a list of links including 'How do I apply for a Federal job?', 'Navigation', 'Security And Privacy', 'Privacy Policy', and 'Terms and Conditions of Use'. The 'How do I apply for a Federal job?' section provides a step-by-step guide: 1. Create an account, 2. Search jobs, 3. Apply for jobs, and 4. Manage Your Career.

USAJOBS
"WORKING FOR AMERICA"

Keyword: health science administrator Location: City, State, ZIP Code, or Country

U.S. Citizens Federal Employees

Search

USAJOBS
"WORKING FOR AMERICA"

RESOURCE CENTER

Search

Navigation

- Home

Security And Privacy

- Privacy Policy
- Terms and Conditions of Use

How do I apply for a Federal job?

To apply for a job, there are four basic steps:

- Create an account** - Enter your profile information and create a resume. Please note that you do not need to create a "My Account" to search for jobs, but you must create an account to apply for jobs online.
- Search jobs** - Use basic search to enter in job and location keyword information from the USAJOBS home page or the advanced search function. Review the job opportunity announcements and note of those of interest. Carefully review the "Qualification and Evaluation" section to determine whether you will qualify for the position.
- Apply for jobs** - Carefully follow the instructions in the "How to Apply" section for each announcement. Submit any additional documentation to verify your qualifications such as transcripts, SF-50 Notification of Personnel Action, and/or Veterans' Form DD-214.
- Manage Your Career** - Log into your account to obtain application status for positions for which you have applied. Contact the agency for specific follow-up questions or those related to the particular job. The agency contact information is listed on the right hand side of the announcement.

Networking

- Important to develop (and maintain) professional contacts: meaningful ones
- Impressions: every talk or poster you give you can think of as a job interview
- Meet people: talk to vendors at meetings, people in the publication industry, etc....

Our two paths to NIH

- Trish Labosky: PhD, postdoc (4.5 yrs.), Faculty (15 yrs.) with tenure and excellent grant/publication record. Moved to NIH to be able to affect science on a larger level.
- Alison Hall: PhD, postdoc (3 yr), Faculty (21 yrs) Full professor with tenure and Graduate Dean. Moved to NIH to direct training programs.

Bethany Brookshire: PhD, postdoc (3 yrs).

- Began an award-winning science blog under the moniker “Scicurious” while in graduate school at Wake Forest University, continued writing through a post-doctoral position at U Penn.
- Developed expertise on Twitter and Facebook while building a network of science writing mentors.
- Became a freelance writer in 2013 and a staff journalist at Science News 6 months later.
- Currently the Science Education Writer for Science News for Students
- Moved to science journalism to share the wonder and complexity of science with a broad audience.
- Began appearing at conferences to train scientists in communicating with the public.
- Bethany.brookshire@gmail.com, Twitter: @scicurious

Liza Bundesen, PhD, No postdoc

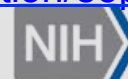
- Science and Technology Policy Fellow (6 months)
 - Sponsored by the Christine Mirzayan Science and Technology Policy Fellowship Program, the National Academies
 - Fellowship placement at *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* (PNAS) journal
 - Continued as freelance science writer for PNAS for 1 ½ years after the fellowship ended
- Science and Technology Policy Fellow (2 years)
 - Sponsored by the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)
 - Fellowship placement at the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH): Office of Science Policy, Planning, & Communications; Science Policy & Evaluation Branch
- Health Science Policy Analyst, NIMH (2 years, 4 months)
- Acting Chief, Science Policy & Evaluation Branch, NIMH (3 years, 8 months)
- Chief, Science Policy & Evaluation Branch, NIMH (1 year, 11 months)
- Science Policy Advisor to the NIH Deputy Director for Extramural Research (3 months)
- Using communication skills to inform policy decisions

No matter what, you have to be “GOOD”

- Track record of success—both scientifically and programmatically
- Excellent communication skills—present yourself well
- Ability to work independently and in a team
- Initiative
- Understand your abilities—be honest, but do not undersell yourself

Links for more information

- AAAS Science & Technology Policy Fellowship program <http://fellowships.aaas.org/>
- Christine Mirzayan Science and Technology Policy Graduate Fellowship program at the National Academies <http://sites.nationalacademies.org/PGA/policyfellows/index.htm>
- The Atlantic Philanthropies Health and Aging Policy Fellowship Program <http://www.healthandagingpolicy.org/>
- IDA Science and Technology Policy Institute Science Policy Fellowship Program <https://www.ida.org/stpi/careers/fellows.php>
- AAAS Mass Media Fellowship Program <http://www.aaas.org/programs/education/MassMedia/>
- A helpful resource compiled by the Congressional Research Service in 2012 titled “Internships, Fellowships, and Other Work Experience Opportunities in the Federal Government”:
http://www.senate.gov/CRSReports/crs-publish.cfm?pid=%26*2%3C4Q%2CO%3F%0A
- Potomac Institute <http://www.potomacinstitute.org/contact-us/interns>
- White House OSTP <http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/ostp/about/student>



National Institutes of Health
Office of Strategic Coordination - The Common Fund