Find a Suitable Career Incubator

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A bit about myself ...

[Principle Investigator]

Hsin-Hung (David) Chou, Ph.D.

Education & Training

- 2013-2015: Marie Curie Fellow, University of Cambridge
- 2012-2013: HFSP Fellow, University of Cambridge
- 2010-2012: EMBO Long-Term Fellow, ETH Zürich
- 2003-2009: Ph.D. in Biology, Harvard University
- 1996-2000: B.S. in Plant Pathology, National Taiwan University
Find a Suitable Career Incubator

Career Plan

Find a Lab

Decision Making
Career Plan

Think first!

Talk to your advisor

Narrow down your list

THE PLANS:

THE PLAN YOU TELL YOUR ADVISOR: “I'M GOING TO BE A PROFESSOR AT A MAJOR RESEARCH UNIVERSITY AFTER I GRADUATE.”

THE REAL PLAN: LOOK FOR CAREER ALTERNATIVES.

THE SECRET PLAN: BECOME A BAKER/ROCKSTAR/WRITER.
Find a Lab

1. Personal networking (AEAP!)
   - Conference, workshop
   - Collaboration, research inquiry

2. Investigate your targets
   - Current: PI, projects, lab members
   - Past: publications, lab alumni

3. Making contact (1~2 yr priori)
   - Make use of your mentors
   - Write a polite & concise letter

4. Submit job application
   - Cover letter, CV, publications, recommendation letters, forms
   - Fellowship application (+ research proposal)

5. Interview
   - Visit lab, job talk, discussion with PI and lab members
Make “Effective” Contact

1. Be polite and specific
2. Include your and your referee’s contact
3. Attach your CV and relevant publication
4. RE-inquire after 1~2 weeks

Tips for Cover Letters

No more than 1 page! (A “Short” AP)
Sale yourself to PIs

Content organization:

1. Who you are? (Who knows you?)
2. Your intention?
3. Your abilities and research subjects
4. Relevance to PI’s projects.
5. Your career plan.
Decision Making

Lab/Institute
Supportive environment

Life/Family
Cost of living, safety
Spouse career
Childcare

Offer/Timing
Salary, benefit, stability

Scientific potential
Impact / Risk
Continuity

PI’s personality
Work philosophy
Research freedom

Do you like it?
Prepare Early and Get Ready!

Post hoc vs Post-Doc

The Post hoc Fallacy
To incorrectly assume "A" is the cause of "B" just because "A" preceded "B".

e.g. "All Professors have Ph.D.'s, therefore getting a Ph.D. means you'll get a Professor job (right?)"

The Post-Doc Fallacy
To incorrectly assume you'll have a job just because you have a PhD.

e.g. "Now what??"

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