

Answers from evaluation of seminar

Planning a post-doc, 20 January 2015

Total of 53 responandants

Which two insights will you take with you from the seminar?

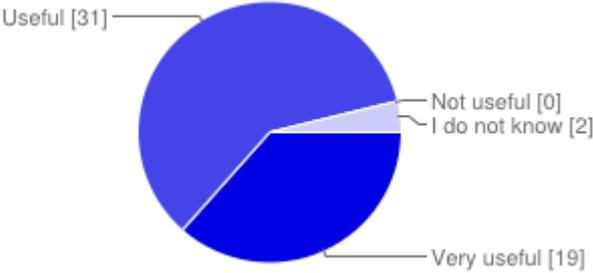
- Clear Ideas regarding the Post-doc and what it all about and who can benefit from it encouragement to apply for the post-doc once I graduate
- How I can get grants When to apply for postdoc
- It is better to find a postdoc position outside Lund
- It is not easy to be accepted
- The application should show independence research ability
- A long but strong invitation letter is more helpful
- A home university/institution is typically needed for post-doc grants, and should preferably be different from your PhD group.
- There are many different sources of post-doc funding.
- The amount of participants indicates, that Lund university prepares many qualified phds thinking about the future academic career, and that information about the next step (from phd to postdoc) is still quite mysterious for many. "Then one of the speakers asked: ""How many in the audience are students from abroad?""", around half of the audience raised their hands.
- After second question: ""How many are planning to stay in Sweden?""", there was maybe two or three hands only..Does that mean that current phds do not like Swedish academic system, or does that mean that the future in Swedish academic society feels very uncertain.. Or what else does this response indicate?"
- Knowing the financial landscape. Funding opportunities are out there, what is important is to determine which option is the best for my experience/ my proposed research/my family situation.
- Research proposals are to be fully developed and presented by the applicant soon after first contact.
- The idea of showing independence in the new research was great!
- I was able to learn about new grants links for postdoc funding
- The insight that independence is a very highly valued criteria in applications.
- That I need to get in contact with the right people as soon as possible to start planning my future.
- General possibilities for funding through FORMAS
- The differences between VR and FORMAS in focus on scientific vs. societal criteria.
- Be smart, thorough and persistent!
- the importance of demonstrating independence in a postdoc application
- that there is always a way to make the practical stuff work, with family etc.
- "That it is possible to apply for money although you change field.
- "That there is quite some focus on the personal development in the evaluation criteria, not just focus of development of the FIELD.
- Contrary to my initial believe, funding opportunities for post doc are available.

- Being in my second year for my PHD, I found that the seminar was not relevant to me at this stage, especially since a doctorate certificate is required when applying.
 - "Important to go another place/group for a postdoc.
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- "Grants from VR/Formas are much competitive.
 - There are a few different potential financing options for a post doc.
 - To be abroad during a substantial part of your post doc seems to be strongly recommended.
 - Starting a post-doc, with your own funding, directly after your PhD is near impossible due to the requirement for having your PhD diploma before the application periods are over.
 - Funding a post-doc outside of your area of expertise is possible, and perhaps even more probable.
 - Even though it is clear to you why you want to start a project it might not be as clear to the panel judging your application - try to convince them of your greatness.
 - Seems to be very hard to get funding.
 - It's time to start planning my future academic career, although I'm only halfway through my PhD studies.
 - There are a lot of different ways into a post-doc life, with large differences by country, and it will take a lot of time looking into it all.
 - I will have to put much more time into career planning than I previously thought.
 - "I didn't know much about post-docs before hand (it's still nearly 2 years to I finish).
 - One insight was that several of the post-doc abroad possibilities require a Swedish 'home' university."
 - Importance of emphasizing career development through a post-doc, not just having a good track-record and a good project.
 - New inspiration to pursue a post-doc of my dream topic & place, and how it could be combined with family life
 - More insight into the criteria on which basis the application will be evaluated - and the help that is available from the university in the writing process
 - a way to show independence in research is to change departments/universities
 - the chance in getting a postdoc grant via formas & vr is 1/6 (for international post docs), while funding for research projects is granted for 1/10
 - Planning ahead because the requirements can be tricky.
 - Independence is valued in grant applications.
 - That independence is a really important feature that is highly ranked when applying for post doc grants
 - That I would still need to find more information about what is valid for A-kassa after doing a post doc, and what about Insurance as a lot of them are only valid for a 45 Days period abroad how does this work together with the 3 months period suggested as a minimum stay abroad?
 - It is important to plan in beforehand.
 - I should have more publications!
 - That there are plenty of ways to try to achieve money for a post-doc by yourself.
 - How to write a good application. I.e. good things could be to get a statement from the host university that you we'll be useful and that you're interest and education specially fit's for their need.

- "I thought the part Per (VR) talked about was very interesting, because I was not aware of showing independence is so important already for the early career grants.
- Also the part where Elisabeth (Formas) explained evaluation criteria was important for me.
- I think it could have been even more examples, tips and tricks."
- That there are "central" people at university who can help with some of the applications and also the insurance business - feels good now to know whom to contact and to have a face connected to their names!
- Look out for opportunities to stay abroad throughout the period of doing your PhD
- Make sure that whoever invites you for a post-doc at their University writes a really good invitation letter
- Start your post-doc application process in good time
- put good time and effort into the application, consider how you will be developing by the proposed project
- The importance of making a preparation early.
- Look into the website FORMAS.
- International work is very valuable.
- Formas is who I should target given I'm in agricultural science and will have a PhD from a non-Swedish university.
- The significance of the letter of invitation contents was higher than expected, at least for a/the VR reviewer.
- One might get help from LU centrally, if very specific conditions apply.
- "Find a postdoc is extremely difficult.
- "Social science, in particular, political and social theories cannot attract funding due to the nature of grant form.
- How to write and formulate an application.
- What is needed to make a successful post-doc application.
- It is important to read and understand the fine print of the post-doc application requirements
- Establishing a diverse network is advisable and important especially with different research groups.
- The independence is one of the most important criteria in the VR evaluation application.
- Write the grant application so that it could be easier to read for a vast range of readers.
- "that combining family and postdoc is possible and that it is considered in the budget somewhere for accommodation
- "that postdoc is done abroad, but it's possible to have a combination of host university and somewhere else as well
- also good to know was that it's a good idea to change topic somewhat and do interdisciplinary work in order to get a higher chance of funding"
- That there are a lot of opportunities.
- The importance of seeking new collaborators and exchange of ideas already in the initial phase of the application process.
- This is maybe not what I want to do
- There are many more options than I imagined.
- That it can be possible to make it work even with the other aspects of life.
- I got a picture on how to go through the whole process of getting a post-doc
- There are a lot of possibilities for funding

- Information is not distributed, shared within the departments, with particular attention to non Swedish speakers
- it is advisable to have another group or institution than the one where one has completed PhD from, as a home institution in the applications for mobility grants
- one can start working on application already in the final year of PhD
- Though getting a grant is tough, there might be options.
- I should get this business insurance card from LU for my conference trip - I had forgotten about that
- It is hard to get funding for a post-doc!
- Specific projects are much more likely to get funding
- "It seems very difficult, and a question of timing, to get a grant right after you finished your phd.
- "It is not impossible.
- I have now a better idea what to expect when applying for a postdoc and that things seems to sort themselves out eventually.
- Everything has to happen so very fast after you have gotten your PhD and you hardly have any time to stop and reflect about your career. That is quite scary.
- I will start to think about which group or what area of research I would like to do a post doc in while I read articles and when I go to conferences.
- There are many different funding agencies, but I will start well before (a couple of months) the deadline of the application to think about and to write the application. Also to consider the criteria carefully and write clear and pedagogically.
- Important to show that you are independent when you apply for post doc money. I.e don't write your PhD supervisors name on the application
- One can start an already funded postdoc and apply for money while getting a salary!
- That an international post-doc is important if I want to do a career within the academic field
- Go for it, it is possible
- That you have to go abroad for a Post Doc to stay (or become) in demand, which is some kind of sad.
- The chances to get funding are tiny, but nevertheless it seems to be possible to get funding!
- It is helpful for an academic carreer to be open for change (department, topic, discipline).
- There are several institutions at Lund University where one can find help with a Post-Doc application.

How useful was the seminar in preparing you for planning a future career?



Very useful	19	36 %
Useful	31	58 %
Not useful	0	0 %
I do not know	2	4 %