PERSPECTIVES FROM POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHERS

National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine
Revitalizing Graduate STEM Education for the 21st Century
Next Generation Researchers Initiative
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Mission: To improve the postdoctoral experience by enhancing training and the professional environment to benefit scholarship and innovation.

Vision: Working in collaboration with the entire research community, the NPA envisions changing the culture of those individuals and institutions engaged in the U.S. research enterprise so that the contributions of postdoctoral scholars are fully recognized.

“Supporting Postdocs, Promoting Discovery”
HOW ARE WE ACHIEVING OUR MISSION & VISION?

By the Numbers

- 79K: Estimated number of postdocs, see NPA Institutional Policy Report
- 200+: Leaders developed: Board and Committee Leaders
- 150+: Institutions adopting the NPA’s Recommendations for Postdoctoral Policies and Practices
- 135: Postdoc offices established. 75 new offices since our founding in 2003.

Selected Resources from the NPA

- Core Competencies
- Family-Friendly Resources
- International Postdoc Survival Guide
- Responsible Conduct of Research Toolkit
- Diversity Programs and Resources
- Institutional Policy Database and Reports
Acknowledgements

- Burroughs Wellcome Foundation for their generous support of this project since 2012
- The Institutional Policy Survey & Report Taskforce
- All member institutions who responded to the survey

History

2013 - First round of data collection
2016 - Second round of data collection
NATIONAL POSTDOCTORAL ASSOCIATION
INSTITUTIONAL POLICY SURVEY

2013 NIH minimum, $39,264
Note: $47,000-48,999 includes 85 institutions that responded to 2016 survey and post-FLSA survey in Feb 2017
Public academic institutions lack parent and family benefits including paid parental leave, subsidized child care and adoption assistance.
RECOMMENDATIONS AND MOVING FORWARD

- NPA’s 6 Core Competencies
- Continue to Advocate for the implementation of using the NRSA stipend scale
- Fair benefits for the postdoctoral community
- Protected time, sufficient resources, and effective mentors to help individuals prepare for their career of choice
- Emerging diversity and international issues
- Further develop partnerships
1. Discipline-specific conceptual knowledge
2. Research skill development
3. Communication skills
4. Professionalism
5. Leadership and Management skills
6. Responsible conduct of research