

Applying for Postdocs

Debanjana Kundu

CMS Winter Meeting (Nov-Dec 2024)

November 29, 2024

Table of Contents

1 Preparing for the job market

2 Research Statement

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- ☕ Most likely, your first set of deadlines for postdoc applications will be around **Oct-Dec 2025**.
- ☕ If you are applying for fellowships, your timelines might be slightly different.

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- ☕ If you intend to apply for PIMS/ NSERC/ NSF, contact faculty.
- ☕ Read research/teaching statements of successful candidates.

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☕ Contact faculty members in departments with open job ads.

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- ☕ Apply and then wait!

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Know who will read your research statement:

- ☞ Is it going to be read by the faculty member who will hire you? This is often the case for postdoc positions in Canada, Europe.
- ☞ Will it be read by a postdoc committee at the department level? This is mostly what happens in the US but also for Canadian fellowships like PIMS.

Statement for an expert audience

At the postdoc level, a **5-6 pages + references** is a good length for the research statement.

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- ☕ Highlight mathematical reasons to want to work with the expert.

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- ☞ Some **follow up problems** you want to work on *or* other ideas you intend to explore, another **one page**.
- ☞ Would you follow 50-60% of the content as a 1st year student?

If the page limit is less, cut down on details.

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I wish there was one correct answer!

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Try to get feedback from as many people as possible, and try to incorporate them (without compromising your individuality).

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“Our PIMS PDF panel develops a rubric ahead of time for the actual weighting of each criteria - it is normally expected that the nomination letter will address aspects of each criteria. Candidate's research ability and potential are the major ones for PIMS, other criteria like fit and EDI are considered but not weighted quite as highly.” -- somebody familiar with the PIMS process.

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- ☕ My students and I can learn something new from you.

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