Postdoc Corner

Battle over US overtime pay rules leaves many postdocs in limbo

by Anna Nowogrodzki for http://www.nature.com/news

An ongoing fight over overtime pay rules has left many US postdocs in financial limbo. Labour regulations set to take effect on 1 December would have effectively increased wages for many of these researchers, but on 22 November a US federal judge in Texas temporarily blocked the new rules.

Some universities are proceeding with planned salary increases for postdocs, but others have cancelled - or at least, temporarily halted - changes to researchers' pay. The uncertainty over how the legal battle will play out is already affecting some postdocs' career and family plans.

"The injunction coming down, especially right before the holiday weekend, was really disheartening," says Colm Atkins, a postdoc at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston. His institution is cancelling the raises it had planned to comply with the overtime rule. "I know postdocs with spouses and families that were really looking forward to having that safety net."

Click here to read the full article.

NPA Continues to Advocate for Improved Postdoctoral Salaries

News & Press: General The National Postdoctoral Association

The announcement that a federal judge issued an injunction to the Department of Labor (DOL) updates to the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) raised
Do you need assistance with career services, finding funding, developing an IDP or have questions but don't know whom to ask or where to go? Click here to schedule a One-on-One consultation with Valli Sarveswaran.

International Postdocs

- Free ESL Classes for Staff
- J1 Scholar Information
- Living in the United States
- Upcoming Events
- ESL Classes for Spouses
- Temporary Protected Status
- Tax Assistance Program
- Last Payment Process

Career Services

Why You Might Love Working at a Teaching College

By James M. Lang for The Chronicle of Higher Education

A few years ago, when I was directing the honors program at my college, I had the pleasure of teaching a bright and talented sophomore who wanted to pursue a Ph.D. after graduation. Throughout his junior year, he would update me on his studies during both informal chats and formal meetings about his progress. He had his sights set on graduate school and the academic life. Early in his senior year, I ran into him one morning and asked how his graduate-school plans were proceeding. They had been postponed, he said. He didn't have enough money to take the GREs in time to apply to graduate programs for next year. I knew from previous conversations that his financial situation was precarious. Like a third of the students on my campus, he was a first-generation college student. His father was unemployed, and his mother earned low wages. To help make ends meet, he worked more than 30 hours a week at a local store.

Click here to read the full article by Lang.

From Doctoral Study to Administration

By Jennifer S. Furlong and Julie Miller Vick for The Chronicle of Higher Education

Conclusions about the status of anticipated postdoctoral salary increases effective December 1, 2016. Changes in the FLSA released earlier this year would have implemented a new $47,476 salary threshold for postdoctoral scholars, posing multiple challenges to the research community.

In response to the DoL’s request for comments to the proposed rule change, the National Postdoctoral Association (NPA) recommended that the National Institutes of Health (NIH) National Research Service Award (NRSA) minimum stipend be increased by approximately 5% per year to reach a $50,000 stipend within three years ($50,000 was recommended by the 2014 report from the National Academy of Sciences, The Postdoctoral Experience Revisited). A phased-in approach would have allowed institutions time to gradually adjust to the new requirements and would minimize the need to reduce the postdoctoral workforce or impact postdoctoral benefits.

Click here to read the full article.
For a full listing of events on the Notre Dame campus for this week click here.

Academic iNDex

- A secure, easily accessible, online repository for your academic and professional information
- An index of your publications, presentations, grants, work history, and other academic achievements
- A resource for identifying scholars eligible for specific grant and fellowship opportunities
- A tool to quickly create personalized CVs, resume, lists of publication or presentations, and more

For more information about Academic iNDex and how to use it, click here.

National Postdoctoral Association (NPA)

The NPA is a member-driven organization that provides a unique, national voice for postdoctoral scholars. Since 2003, they have taken on the ambitious agenda to enhance the quality of the postdoctoral experience in the US. They have assumed a leadership role in addressing the many issues confronting the postdoctoral community that are national in scope and requiring action beyond the local level.

Jenny: For much of the history of the Career Talk column, we’ve focused on faculty careers. But in the coming months, we are going to turn to a different topic, and explore the career paths and concerns of M.A.s, A.B.D.s, and Ph.D.s who opt for careers in campus administration.

Julie: Let’s start with the hiring process. How does it work? What application materials will you need? How is it different from a faculty search?

First, it’s important to understand that, while all colleges and universities have similar missions, they operate in very different ways. Administrative offices may have come into being organically or strategically. The same office - say, international programs - may report to university life at one institution but to the provost at another. When you start applying for a particular administrative position, it’s wise to figure out the office’s place within the institution because that will affect the way you write your letter and contextualize the job.

Click here to read the full article by Furlong & Vick.

Events and Workshops

Martin Luther King Jr. Day Prayer Service

University President Rev. John I. Jenkins, C.S.C. and the President’s Oversight Committee on Diversity and Inclusion recommended in Fall 2015 that we take time as a community on Martin Luther King Jr. Day and in the week that follows which we have come to call Walk the Walk Week to both celebrate the diversity that currently exists on our campus and reflect on how we might each take an active role in making Notre Dame even more welcoming and inclusive.

- Date: January 16, 2017
- Time: 11:00 PM - 11:30 PM
- Location: Main Building

World on Tap
The University of Notre Dame is a sustaining member of the NPA. ND Postdocs can join the NPA for free. Learn about the benefits of a NPA membership here.

For more information about the NPA and to become a member, click here.

Versatile PhD - Humanities & Social Sciences

- Discover interesting career paths as an alternative to the faculty track
- Join a large community of post-academics to consult about your situation and the versatility of your PhD, MA, or postdoctoral appointment
- Read job listings appropriate for postdocs
- Network with successful post-academic PhDs nationwide

For more information about Versatile PhD and how to use it, click here.

Spotlight Jobs of the Week

Engineering
- Research Assistant
- Senior Structural Acoustic Engineer

Diversity webinar: Implicit Bias: An obstacle to achieving diversity

The webinar, "Implicit Bias: An obstacle to achieving diversity," will take place on Tuesday, January 10, 2017 at noon ET.

This is the second in a series of webinars that aim to provide diversity training to postdoctoral scholars. The webinars will enhance self-awareness, advocacy, and leadership competencies. You will understand the challenges to achieve diversity, and how you can contribute to solving the problem of under-representation.

Click here to register/RSPV.

Foundations of Teaching

This four-part series will introduce and develop the fundamental skills of effective teaching, including communicating expectations, facilitating a class, grading, and teaching critical thinking skills. This will give first-time and early TAs a solid foundation for successful teaching in graduate school and beyond.

Date: Thursdays; January 19, 26, February 2 & 9
Time: 9:30 to 10:45 am

For more information and registration, click here.

Funding Opportunities

2017-2018 Whitaker International Fellows and Scholars Program

- All postdocs are invited to The World on Tap, a social at Rohr's held every first Wednesday of the month. Free appetizers will be served, and the first 50 attendees will receive a free drink ticket valued up to $6. Please bring a valid photo ID to this event.
  - Date: February 1, 2017
  - Time: 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
  - Location: Rohr's at the Morris Inn (map)
Humanities
- Assistant Professor - Social Science: Strategic Organization Design
- Assistant Professor, William Penn Honors Program

Business
- Business Assistant Professor
- Assistant Professor of Finance

Science
- Research Assistant Professor, Scientific Writing
- Assistant, Associate, & Senior Scientist (Tenure Track) - Marine Chemistry & Geochemistry Dept

Social Science
- Research Manager, CPG
- Health Research Methodologist

Positive Productivity Points

Proof That Positive Work Cultures Are More Productive

By Emma Seppala & Kim Cameron for Harvard Business Review

Fellowships in Energy Research for Postdocs

ND Energy offers competitive fellowships for undergraduate and graduate students and postdoctoral research associates to conduct energy-related research at Notre Dame. These fellowships support new advancements in energy technologies, while broadening the educational experiences for students and postdocs receiving these awards. If you are interested in energy-related research and would like to apply for a postdoc fellowship, please click on the appropriate link below. For Postdocs, the applications will be accepted year round.

Click here for the ND Energy Postdoctoral Fellowship Program application guidelines.
Scientists discover yet another reason to follow the Mediterranean diet

By Eliza Cracknell for My Body+Soul

Professional Development

Graduate School Professional Development Programs

All postdocs may take professional development programs from the Graduate School.

For more information on programming or to register, please click here.

Data Science Fellowship

Data Scientist - the sexiest job in the 21st century, according to Harvard Business Review

The Data Incubator is an intensive 8 week fellowship that prepares masters students, PhDs, and postdocs in STEM and social science fields seeking industry careers as data scientists. The program is free for Fellows and supported by sponsorships from hundreds of employers across multiple industries. In response to the overwhelming interest in our earlier sessions, we will be holding another fellowship.

Who Should Apply: Anyone who has already obtained a masters or PhD degree or who is within one year of graduating with a masters or PhD is welcome to apply. Applications from international students are welcome. Everyone else is encouraged to sign-up for a future session.

Locations: In addition to the below in-person locations, we will have a remote online session:

New York City, San Francisco Bay Area, Seattle, Boston, and Washington, DC.

Dates: All sections will be from 2017-03-27 to 2017-05-19.

Click here to apply and find further information.

Workshops from the Writing Center
Use Writing to Teach Critical Thinking

Want to transform your students into active learners, engage them in solving disciplinary problems, and foster their critical thinking? Research shows that one of the best ways to achieve these goals is to integrate writing assignments into your classes. The University Writing Center is pleased to offer consultations with instructors who want help designing and integrating writing assignments. We welcome instructors from every discipline, especially STEM subjects. Email writing@nd.edu with the subject "Teaching Consultation" to set up a meeting!

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Workshops from the Kaneb Center

Are you interested in learning more about discipline-specific teaching and learning in the university setting? The university offers workshops on university teaching and learning in various fields through the Kaneb Center! Consider enrolling in one of the workshops.

For workshop descriptions, click here.

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Workshops from the NCFDD

The National Center for Faculty Development and Diversity is an independent professional development, training and mentoring community of over 71,000 graduate students, postdocs, and faculty members. The NCFDD is 100% dedicated to supporting academics in making successful transitions throughout their careers. They offer on-campus workshops, professional development training, and intensive mentoring programs.

The University of Notre Dame is an institutional member of the NCFDD. Through Notre Dame’s membership, ND Postdocs may claim an Institutional Sub-account Membership at no cost and enjoy all the benefits of a NCFDD Individual Membership. Register here to join NCFDD.

For a list of the Fall 2017 webinars, click here.

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Hesburgh Libraries Workshops

The Hesburgh Libraries and Center for Digital Scholarship workshops are offered to all ND Postdocs.
Register: [http://library.nd.edu/about/workshops.shtml](http://library.nd.edu/about/workshops.shtml)
Click [here](http://library.nd.edu/about/workshops.shtml) for this week’s list of workshops.

Most of the CDS workshops take place in the CDS Classroom (Room 129), Hesburgh Library 1st Floor Northeast.

**Multimedia and Library Technologies**
- Tuesday, January 31st
- Hesburgh Library
- 5PM - 6PM

**Who Said That? Citation Management**
- Tuesday, February 21st
- 228 Coleman Morse - Learning Resource Center
- 5PM - 6PM

**Finding and Using Images**
- Tuesday, March 21st
- 228 Coleman Morse - Learning Resource Center
- 5PM - 6PM

**CDS Workshop Information and Registration:**
[library.nd.edu/cds/workshops](http://library.nd.edu/cds/workshops)

Library Workshop Calendar: [nd.libcal.com/calendar/allworkshops](http://nd.libcal.com/calendar/allworkshops)
Questions? [cds@nd.edu](mailto:cds@nd.edu)

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**English for Academic Purposes Workshops**

The Center for the Study of Languages and Cultures’ English for Academic Purposes program offers workshops that are open to all ND Postdocs.

More information: [https://cslc.nd.edu/programs/eap/workshops/](https://cslc.nd.edu/programs/eap/workshops/)
Registration: [https://gradconnect.nd.edu/portal/prof-dev-events](https://gradconnect.nd.edu/portal/prof-dev-events)
Questions? Contact [Lisa Joy Oglesbee](mailto:Lisa.Joy.Oglesbee@nd.edu)

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**PhD Humor**

[PhD Comics](http://www.phdcomics.com)

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