



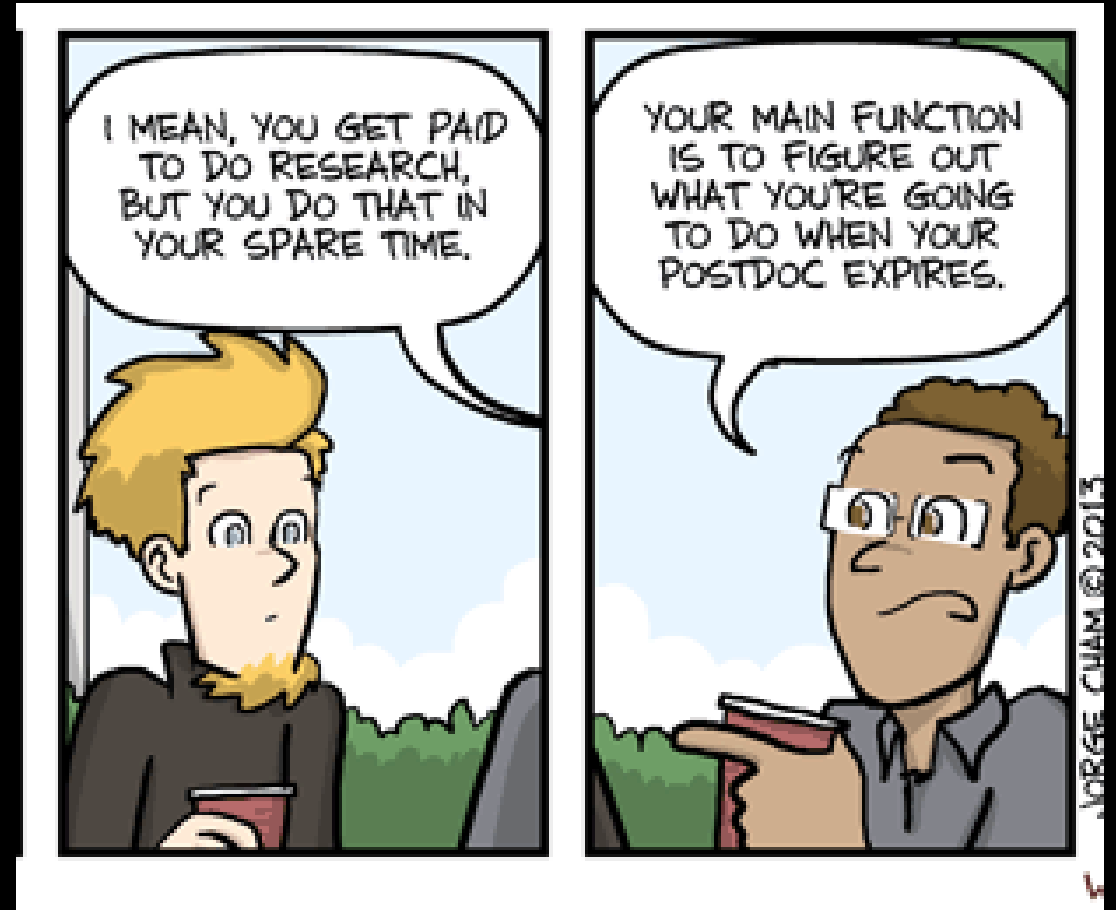
# Finding and applying for jobs in astronomy

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# Job hunting is a job in and of itself!

- It can be very overwhelming!
- It's OK to not know what you want to do
- It's a statistics game – **but you can improve the odds!**
  - Focus on what will help you succeed: outputs (papers/code/proposals), networking
  - Prepare in advance (CV, cover letter, research statement, references)





# Be strategic and flexible (if/when you can!)

- What are your long-term career goals?
  - Work on building your profile
  - Try to apply broadly
- What types of jobs do you want to do?
  - E.g. research vs technical, postdoc vs fellowship
- Do your research before applying (e.g. visa restrictions)
- Try to have a plan B (C, D, E...)
  - What are your circumstances?
- Put yourself out there
  - Talks, networking
  - Always enquire when applying for a job!



# Main resources

- AAS jobs register - <https://aas.org/jobregister>
- UK academic jobs - <https://www.jobs.ac.uk/>
- Mailing lists (e.g. RAS jobs, Astrocommunity, other astronomical societies, collaborations...)
- Funding bodies (esp. for fellowships)
- Conferences, colleagues, Slack
- Consortia, observatories
- Social media (e.g. LinkedIn, Facebook, X/BlueSky)
- Astronomy-adjacent jobs (e.g. space careers, observatory support staff, academic publishing, software development, public engagement, science policy...)



# Fellowships – quick list

<https://university.open.ac.uk/science/physical-science/fellowships/fellowships-202526-academic-year>

- UK
  - "Early career": RAS/Norman Lockyer, 1851 (Royal Commission), Leverhulme, university fellowships
  - "Independent": URF (Royal Society), ERF (UKRI), Future Leaders (UKRI), Einstein, UKSA Aurora?
  - Returning/flexible: Dorothy Hodgkin (RS), Daphne Jackson (UKRI)
  - International: Newton (RS, 2 years)
- Europe
  - Marie Curie
  - ESO (Germany/Chile)
  - ERC starter/consolidator(/advanced) grants
  - DAWN/DARK (Denmark/USA)
  - DFG (German Research Foundation), AstroFIt2 (INAF, Italy), Veni (NL)
  - Institute-specific (e.g. MPIA, IAC, IRAM, Radboud, ASTRON...)

# Fellowships – quick list

- North America
  - The “big three” in the US: Jansky, NASA, Hubble
  - US institution-based: e.g. Clay, CfA (Harvard), Carnegie-Princeton, STScI (Baltimore), ...
  - Dunlap, Plaskett (Canada)
- Other
  - Gruber Foundation (IAU)
  - SARA0, UNISA (S. Africa), DARA (Zambia, Namibia, Mozambique)
  - Jaxa, Kavli, NAOJ (Japan), KIAA (China), ASIAA (Taiwan), institute-specific fellowships in India (some only open to Indian nationals)
  - FONDECYT, ESO (Chile)
  - CSIRO, ICRAR (Australia)

# Some takeaways

- The jobs market in astronomy is increasingly competitive
  - But there are still **many opportunities!**
- The cycle is long – plan ahead!
- Rejection? → Learning opportunity!
- Make the most of each job
  - Grow your network and skills
  - Career shifts
  - You can quit!
- It can be overwhelming
  - There are lots of resources. Pester us for advice!
  - Work/life balance is important – there are many jobs, but only one of **YOU**



# Impostor syndrome... think like a cat!

