

JLU

NEUE WEGE. SEIT 1607.

JUSTUS-LIEBIG-  
UNIVERSITÄT  
GIESSEN

pcmo  
Postdoc Career and Mentoring Office

POSTDOC CAREER AND MENTORING OFFICE

WORKSHOPS AND EVENTS 2026  
IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE



We are the central point of reference for postdocs at JLU. At PCMO, the Department for [Human Resource Development](#) closely cooperates with partners at the

- International Giessen Graduate Centre for the Life Sciences ([GGL](#)),
- International Graduate Centre for the Study of Culture and the Giessen Graduate Center for Humanities ([GCSC/GGK](#)),
- Giessen Graduate Centre for Social Sciences, Economics and Law ([GGS](#)),
- Giessen Graduate Center for Natural Sciences and Psychology ([GGN](#)), and the
- [HD – Service Center](#) for Didactics of Higher Education

## OUR RESPONSIBILITY

- We welcome postdoctoral researchers at JLU
- We offer workshops and individual advice on your career
- We bring together postdocs at JLU – within your own discipline and beyond
- We support your attendance at conferences
- We organize mentoring programs with experts from different occupations

## THE COURSE PROGRAMME

The PCMO is offering you a variety of events, courses and network meetings. Would you like to learn a new method, get to know the JLU or reorient yourself professionally in the long term? Here you will find events, which are free of charge for all postdocs at JLU.

You can find the complete JLU-internal training programme for all employees on the website of the [Human Resource Development](#). Further offerings for postdocs can be found on the website of the [PCMO](#), the graduate centres [GCSC/GGK](#), [GGL](#), and [GGS](#) and of the Service center Didactics of Higher Education - [HD](#).

The following overview is a compilation of courses and events, which are offered in English language. The PCMO offers a broader range of courses in German. Please visit our website regularly to find out about new or rescheduled courses.

## CONTACT

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# OVERVIEW OF ALL SCHEDULED PCMO EVENTS IN ENGLISH

# E-LEARNING: BASICS OF SCIENCE COMMUNICATION

**online, flexible, 14 modules totaling 8 hours; available for 6 months after registration**

This introductory course focuses on topics such as the dimensions of science communication, the interaction between stakeholders and target audiences, and media management. The course is modular, with diverse content that incorporates animations and videos. The e-learning is available online at any time and can be easily integrated into busy professional and academic schedules.

Topics:

- Dimensions of good science communication - target group, goal, topic, medium and style
- Science and the media
- Actors and their roles
- Basic rules for comprehensibility
- Trust in science
- Guidelines and pitfalls

A handout is available for each module. Those who complete all modules and a test receive a certificate from the [Nationalen Institut für Wissenschaftskommunikation \(NaWiK\)](#). NaWiK is a non-profit organization supported by the Klaus Tschira Foundation and the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology. NaWiK teaches the basics of good science communication in practice-oriented training and continuing education formats for researchers. The WissKomm Campus is NaWiK's e-learning platform, through which JLU offers the course.

Registration: E-Mail to [pcmo@admin.uni-giessen.de](mailto:pcmo@admin.uni-giessen.de)

# E-LEARNING: COMMUNICATING SCIENCE ONLINE

**online, flexible, 6 modules totaling 4 hours; available for 6 months after registration**

Whether for a professorship, an institute, a research project or your own personal profile as a researcher - if you want to communicate science in social media, this course is the ideal introduction.

You will learn about typical functions of social media such as LinkedIn, Instagram, X, or Mastodon, their special features and target groups. You will also receive guidance on media selection and objectives in order to develop individual social media strategies. Central principles of science communication are also included.

The e-learning is designed to be varied, interactive and multimedia-based and can be flexibly integrated into everyday working life. Those who complete the modules and test receive a certificate from the [National Institute for Science Communication \(NaWiK\)](#).

Registration: E-Mail to [pcmo@admin.uni-giessen.de](mailto:pcmo@admin.uni-giessen.de)

# FUTURE NETWORK TALKS

**online, monthly on Fridays from 12:00 to 13:00**

The postdoc phase at a university is often just the first springboard that can lead to previously unknown but interesting opportunities. In this online career series, we invite former postdocs who will share their personal career stories, giving valuable insights into job profiles you might not encounter otherwise.

What decisions and qualifications brought them into their current positions? What does their everyday work life look like? What are the differences between academia and industry?

'Future Network Talks' are specifically designed for early-career researchers in the life sciences. Your own questions are always welcome!

Future Network Talks are co-organised by the PCMO@GGL and the Max Planck Institutes in Marburg and Bad Nauheim, as well as Synmicro Marburg.

More details and registration: [www.uni-giessen.de/ggl/postdocs](http://www.uni-giessen.de/ggl/postdocs)

# INTRODUCTION TO THE DIGITAL LAB NOTEBOOK ELABFTW FOR POSTDOCS IN THE LIFE SCIENCES

**on-site, April 23, 10:00 – 13:00, room 024, ground floor, Leihgesterner Weg 52**

Are you a scientist looking to streamline your lab work and enhance your productivity? Consider transitioning from traditional analog lab notebooks to the digital age with ELabFTW, a free and powerful digital lab notebook system. Our 'Introduction to Scientific Digital Lab Notebook Management' course is designed specifically for life scientists who aim to optimise the documentation of their research process and are considering a switch to digital lab notebooks.

The workshop will be given by Dr. Michael Streuber.

More details and registration: [www.uni-giessen.de/ggl/postdocs](http://www.uni-giessen.de/ggl/postdocs)

# POSTDOC MEETING II: FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

**online, April 24, 12:00 – 13:00**

Acquisition of third-party funding can be decisive for a career in academia. Verena Graulich will give an overview of the funding landscape in Germany and present you with different opportunities, ranging from short research stays abroad to career development opportunities for early career researchers as well as standard programmes for project funding. After the short presentation, you are invited to a discussion about strategic career planning with a focus on third-party funding. You

will get information about JLU's internal submission processes, funding opportunities as well as support available for you during the grant writing process.

The workshop will be given by Dr. Diana Hitzke and Dr. Verena Graulich.

Please register via [Stud.IP](#).

## INTRODUCTION TO EU RESEARCH FUNDING: ERC STARTING GRANT AND MSCA-PF

**online, May 26, 10:00 – 13:00**

This course introduces early career researchers to key EU research funding opportunities, focusing on the ERC Starting Grant and the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Postdoctoral Fellowship (MSCA-PF). Participants will gain a clear understanding of eligibility criteria, proposal requirements, and evaluation procedures for both schemes. Through a lecture and a discussion, the course will shed light on the application process and provide practical tips for first-time applicants. A hands-on exercise involving the analysis of real evaluation forms from ERC and MSCA-PF proposals will help participants understand how proposals are assessed and what makes a strong application. Ideal for postdocs and junior researchers planning to apply within the next 1–2 years.

The workshop will be given by Dr. Christian Maarten Veldman.

Please register via [Stud.IP](#)

## CAREER PLANNING FOR POSTDOCS I: YOUR STATUS QUO

**online, June 8, 11:00 – 13:00**

In order to be able to plan one's own career, it is first necessary to determine one's own position. The workshop will provide insights into central qualifications for researchers. Which areas do you already cover well, and where is it possible for you to develop further? You will get an overview of the competences you already have as a postdoc. How can you specifically name your skills and, if necessary, describe them attractively for other career paths? In addition, we are going to discuss what you actually want for your professional and private future and what you really enjoy doing.

The workshop will be given by Dr. Diana Hitzke.

Please register via [Stud.IP](#)

# GOOD SCIENTIFIC PRACTICE FOR POSTDOCS IN THE LIFE SCIENCES

**on-site, June 10 & 11, 09:00 – 13:30, room 024, ground floor, Leihgesterner Weg 52**

As a postdoc, your responsibility for safeguarding Good Scientific Practice (GSP) grows substantially as you begin supervising younger scientists. We will discuss the most important rules and regulations for GSP and their implications for your role as a postdoc in the scientific community. We will focus on how to implement norms and values of GSP, learn about documentation, data management and the role of leadership. Another focus will be the concerns and legal duties associated with the use of AI in science. The workshop is tailored for postdocs in the life sciences, but researchers from other fields are welcome to join.

The workshop is given by Dr. Lorna Lück and Dr. Michael Streuber

More details and registration: [www.uni-giessen.de/ggl/postdocs](http://www.uni-giessen.de/ggl/postdocs)

# CAREER PLANNING FOR POSTDOCS II: HOW TO PREPARE FOR A PROFESSORSHIP

**online, June 15, 11:00 – 13:00**

This workshop will give you insights into different career paths to a professorship in Germany. Which qualifications do you need, and how can you develop them strategically? It is also important to identify risks and challenges. Should you concentrate completely on the professorship, or should you also be searching for other career paths? How do different career paths affect other life decisions? Finally, how to apply for a professorship? Which documents are necessary and where can I get support?

The workshop will be given by Dr. Diana Hitzke.

Please register via [Stud.IP](#)

# CAREER PLANNING FOR POSTDOCS III: LEAVING ACADEMIA

**online, June 22, 11:00 – 13:00**

Are you just finishing your doctorate, or have you already been working as a postdoc for a while and would like to apply to the non-university job market? Postdocs are often in doubt about if, when and

how to leave academia. What is the best way to get through the transition process? Doctoral graduates are highly qualified and have very good chances on the job market. However, they face the difficulty of formulating their competences attractively for very specific professions. What are your needs and wishes? Where is your own expertise in demand outside the university? The workshop identifies the competences you already bring with you and gives impulses on how to shape the process towards new career paths proactively.

The workshop will be given by Dr. Diana Hitzke.

Please register via [Stud.IP](#)

## AGILE PROJECT MANAGEMENT FOR POSTDOCS IN THE LIFE SCIENCES

**online, start: October 12, 7-week workshop series**

The course is optimized to guide you through your science project and support you on the way with different tools to achieve your goals. The program runs for 7 consecutive weeks, during which new content is sent to you every week. You will get additional support during weekly online Q&A Coaching Sessions. The course focuses on both learning and doing: each implementation module teaches you the principles and allows you to digest the information at your own pace. The workbooks and templates guide you through the implementation of the principles in your own projects. If you are interested, please be aware: You have to be willing to invest an appropriate amount of time (at least 2-3 hours per week) during the 7 weeks of the course.

The workshop will be given by Dr. Nadine Sinclair.

More details and registration: [www.uni-giessen.de/ggl/postdocs](http://www.uni-giessen.de/ggl/postdocs)

## INTRODUCTION TO THIRD-PARTY FUNDING FOR FIRST-TIME APPLICANTS

**on-site, November 20, 09:30-16:00, Room 105 (Gustav-Krüger Saal), 1st floor, University Main Building, Ludwigstr. 23**

The ability to acquire research grants is one of the main competencies required of researchers. Combining informative input and practical elements, this workshop will provide you with an overview of prominent funders and funding programmes in Germany for early career researchers. We will discuss the structure and elements of proposals along the example of the DFG research grant and explore what to consider when putting them into writing. We will also present you helpful resources on grant writing and discuss the DFG review process with Prof. Meinhardt (DFG Liaison Officer), who will share practical advice for grant writing in a Q&A session. Afterwards, you will be able to

understand the structure and requirements of grant writing and the meaning of third-party funding for the development of your career and for appointment processes.

The workshop will be given by Dr. Karolina Golicz, Verena Graulich and Prof. Dr. Meinhardt.

Please register until 06.11.2026 via [Stud.IP](#).

## POSTDOC MEETING V: THE RESEARCH INFORMATION SYSTEM JLU-FIS

**online, December 3, 12:00 – 13:00**

In this session Dr. Rebecca Hahn will introduce you to the Research Portal of Justus Liebig University. There you can find details on researchers, research projects, and publications at Giessen University. The portal lists all projects and publications recorded in the Research Information System (FIS) and offers JLU scientists the opportunity to present their research-related content on a personal page. You have full control: individual content or entire page areas can be shown or hidden via the internal area of the FIS. If you would like to discuss the opportunity of having your personal profile on the portal, join us at the Postdoc Meeting.

The workshop will be given by Dr. Rebecca Hahn and Dr. Diana Hitzke.

Please register via [Stud.IP](#).