1. What is your discipline?

The breakdown of survey respondents by discipline did not match the percentage in the Yale postdoc population. All disciplines except the Life Sciences were overrepresented. The Yale postdoctoral population is as shown:

- 74% Life Sciences
- 18% Physical Sciences & Engineering
- 6% Social Sciences
- 2% Humanities
2. What is your visa status?

U.S. citizens comprise 65% of the postdoctoral population, and thus the survey is representative of the breakdown of U.S. to non-U.S. citizens. We do not have data on the percentage of postdocs who were on a given visa between 2015 and 2018. Those who noted that they left the US completed the exit survey after their visas expired and they had left the country.
3. What are your plans after leaving Yale?

These data show that although the overwhelming majority of postdocs had definitive plans upon leaving Yale, roughly 1 in every 6 postdocs was still on the job market when the postdoctoral position ended. When data were examined by discipline, 81% of social scientists were employed; 79% of physical science and engineering postdocs were employed; 74% of bioscientists were employed, and 74% of humanists were employed.
4. Where is your new job located?

The great majority (61%) of postdocs found jobs in the U.S. The top 3 non-U.S. destinations were China, Germany, and the U.K. Approximately 13% who were employed did not state the location of their employer (“Unknown” in the image).
Contrary to the perception that the majority of Ph.D. holders are not winding up in academia, almost 2/3 of Yale postdocs secured academic positions. As shown in the next figure, however, only a small number entered tenure track positions immediately upon exiting their postdoc positions.
6. What is your job position?

Postdocs entered a very wide array of positions, with 14% in tenure track positions and another 11% in non-tenure and teacher/lecturer positions. Of note is that almost 12% entered another postdoctoral position.
7. What is your starting salary?

The median salary range for those who reported salary data was $60,001 - $70,000. Approximately 90% of the positions that paid $40,000 or less were in non-U.S. locations.
8. When did your job search start?

The above graph shows that 45% of postdocs began their job search 1 or more year in advance of exiting their postdoc positions.

9. How long did it take to find a job?

Data on when a job offer was accepted was compared to when the same individual’s job search began. On average it took postdocs 6 months to find a position.
10. What is the main job search method you used?

The above graph represents the primary method used by postdocs during their job search. Results are for both those who found positions and those still seeking jobs upon leaving Yale. Most of those who selected “Other” indicated that they relied on personal and professional contacts to seek job openings, which is the same as “Referrals.”

When data for only those who found positions were examined, the percentages were virtually the same as shown above. When data for those who were still on the job market were examined, 41% relied on internet advertisements, and only 4% listed “Other.”

Because most job searches rely on multiple methods to find job openings, it is difficult to conclude whether one method is better than another. Of the top three job search methods...

- 77% of postdocs who relied primarily on internet advertisements found jobs.
- 85% who contacted employers directly found jobs.
- 87% who relied on referrals (Referral + Other) found jobs.
11. How many applications did you submit to advertised positions?

![Bar chart showing the distribution of applications submitted.

14% submitted 0 applications.
22% submitted 1-3 applications.
13% submitted 4-6 applications.
11% submitted 7-10 applications.
40% submitted 10+ applications.]

Those who were employed and those still seeking jobs showed similar patterns in how many advertised positions they applied for during their search. The median in both cases was 7-10 jobs.
The Yale Postdoctoral Exit Survey is a voluntary online Qualtrics survey. All postdoctoral appointees who are promoted to another rank or who leave Yale are invited to participate. In the 4 year period covered by this report (2015 - 2018), 679 (34%) of 2,023 eligible postdocs completed the survey.

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