

Web alert

Searching for a job

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Working in scientific research, particularly in academia, means that looking for a job can be a frequent occurrence. This month, the Web alert aims to provide a shortlist of internet sites that can be used as a platform from which to start your job search. Perhaps the most important feature of the sites described briefly below is that they are updated regularly, so frequent visits are recommended.

Nature is a good place to start. Navigation to its international science jobs database can be achieved swiftly from the homepage, and once there you can simply browse through the job listings as you would in the print journal, or refine your search by position, subject, country and organisation.

The *Science* Professional Network offers a similar service to *Nature's* and also provides a useful career links page to access job opportunities at specific companies. Another feature of this site is that you can register for job alerts: you fill out a job profile summary and submit your e-mail address, and you will be

electronically notified when a position matching your criteria is advertised.

New Scientist Planet Science provides an excellent online facility for a job search, largely featuring jobs in the UK. New jobs are posted every week and the database is fully searchable by employment categories and discipline. It is also possible to enter specific keywords to narrow your search even further.

BioMedNet and ChemWeb both have a continuously updated 'job exchange' department, and once you have registered at these sites you can peruse the job listings by continent. An interesting advantage of these sites is that you can post your own 'position wanted' advert for free.

The *Chemistry and Industry* homepage is a useful site for chemists. In addition to a fully searchable database, the site gives excellent tips for job hunting on the internet and provides a number of useful links to international pages with career opportunities in both the industrial and academic sectors. Vacant positions can be registered on the site free of charge.

Chemsoc's web site also provides a career section that is accessed through the 'Chembytes' page and from here you can search the database of job listings that are printed every month in *Chemistry in Britain*. The positions advertised are international although they do have a UK bias. For the American audience

or those interested in a position in the US, *Chemical & Engineering News* is available online with all of the job listings that are printed in the publication. One limitation of this site, however, is that you have to be a member of the American Chemical Society to access the Job Bank.

The Chemistry Information Service, supported by the German Academic Network Organisation, is another useful address. The wide variety of international links in the job section are helpfully indexed. Some knowledge of German might be required to get the most out of this site, but the server does allow you to switch to English.

Job vacancies in many areas of the biological sciences are advertised in the *Cell* Recruitment Database — all the positions available from the past two issues of *Cell*, *Immunity* and *Neuron* are online and are fully searchable. Additionally, new vacancies can be submitted from the web site.

The Bio Online Career Center not only has a searchable job database covering the area of biotechnology but it also has a career discussion forum, and a range of career guides for those who need some advice.

The HUM-MOLGEN 'Positions in Bioscience and Medicine' is a useful site that lists many international biomedical and clinical positions available. It generally includes an extensive range of post-doc positions and can be searched by position, subject and continent. Most of the adverts provide an e-mail link to allow a quick and simple response.

This is by no means a comprehensive list of job databases available for chemists and biologists on the internet but by spending a little time visiting some of these sites, and using the links that they provide, you can easily build your own index of useful internet addresses to help in the search for your next position.

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Job seekers' URLs

<i>Nature</i>	http://www.nature.com/
Science Professional Network	http://recruit.sciencemag.org/
<i>New Scientist</i> Planet Science	http://www.sciencejobs.com/
BioMedNet	http://biomednet.com/
ChemWeb	http://chemweb.com/
<i>Chemistry and Industry</i>	http://ci.mond.org/
Chemsoc	http://www.chemsoc.org/
<i>Chemical & Engineering News</i>	http://pubs.acs.org/cen
Chemistry Information Service	http://www.chemie.de/
<i>Cell</i> Recruitment Database	http://server.cell.com/recruit/
Bio Online Career Center	http://bio.com/hr/
HUM-MOLGEN	http://www.informatik.uni-rostock.de/HUM-MOLGEN/