



Postdoc Experience During COVID-19 Discussion

May 1, 2020

mpace.engin.umich.edu



Welcome

Everyone is encouraged to share their experiences, resources or tips they found useful, thoughts about planning for the future, or anything else they would like to share with the group.

Let us know what MPACE programming MPACE would be useful for you going forward!

General Topics:

- Planning for the Future
- Job Market
- Continuing Research Remotely
- Health Resources

Planning for the Future

- Updates from the University:
 - Elimination of non-essential expenditures (exceptions for projects that are fully funded by federal sponsors)
 - Hiring freeze (exceptions for positions fully funded by federal grants). The university will honor its outstanding offers extended to staff or faculty.
 - Salary freeze
 - “Activities like experimental lab research and studio-based research may be the first to resume some in-person work because unlike some other research work it is not possible to do remotely.” (April 28 email from President Schlissel)
 - Full statement:
<https://president.umich.edu/news-communications/letters-to-the-community/a-covid-19-update-from-president-mark-s-schlissel/>
 - <https://news.umich.edu/>
 - <https://research.umich.edu/covid-19/covid-19-research-operations>

Planning for the Future

- Tips for working from home:
 - [NPR Tips for working from home](#)
 - [Business Insider: How to work from home with kids according to a homeschooler](#)
- Virtual conferences and online teaching
 - Getting Started with Teaching Remotely in an Emergency
<http://crlt.umich.edu/getting-started-teaching-remotely-emergency>
 - Tips on how to plan a virtual academic conference
<https://www.timeshighereducation.com/blog/tips-how-plan-virtual-academic-conference>
- <https://www.aip.org/fyi/2020/third-coronavirus-response-bill-includes-research-boost>
- <https://www.aip.org/fyi/2020/research-organizations-seek-relief-coronavirus-impacts>
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Job Market

Upcoming Rackham events:

- Webinar: Nailing the Job Search in Uncertain Times—Part 2 (Outer Work/Tactics)
 - Thursday, May 7, 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm EDT
- Online: Job Search Beyond the Professoriate Workshop
 - Friday, May 8, 1:00 pm to 3:30 pm EDT
- Online: Are You LinkedIn?
 - Tuesday, May 12, 11:00 am to 12:00 pm EDT
- To stay on top of these and more: <https://rackham.umich.edu/events/>

Job Market

Resources:

- [The Professor Is In: Stranded on the Academic Job Market This Year?](#)
 - Karen Kelsky's Blog: <https://theprofessorisin.com/pearlsofwisdom/>
 - [Scores of colleges announce faculty hiring freezes in response to coronavirus](#)
 - [Crowdsourced list of institutions that are freezing hiring](#)
- [For Would-Be Academics, Now Is the Time to Get Serious About Plan B](#)

Job Market

General Advice:

- Do what you can now
 - BUT don't hold it against yourself if this is less than normal
 - Keep making connections
 - Search for career options
 - Work on application materials
- Be flexible
 - Finding a job right now will be tough, BUT you do have desirable skills for many types of work
 - Explore different options

Continuing Research Remotely

- <https://research.umich.edu/covid-19/covid-19-research-operations>
 - Writing
 - Papers
 - Proposals
 - Online trainings
 - Coursera
(<https://www.coursera.org/courses?query=university%20of%20michigan>)
 - Safety (MyLinc)
 - Remote access
 - Remote monitoring (webcam setup)
 - VPN
 - Remote desktop
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- Computer work
 - Modeling
 - Coding
 - Engineering drawings
 - Data analysis
- Masks required on campus
- Restrictions on spending
- Development of plan to ramp research back up
- Avoid working on dangerous projects, inform someone when arriving, what you will be doing, and when leaving

Physical and Mental Health Resources

- Paid leave bank
<https://hr.umich.edu/working-u-m/my-employment/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19/paid-time-information-during-covid-19-pandemic>
- Faculty and Staff Counseling and Consultation Office (FASCCO) is open and available to provide support to U-M faculty and staff with phone sessions and limited video sessions as appropriate. Call 734-936-8660 or email fascco@umich.edu to schedule
- The College of Engineering is in the process of acquiring access to SilverCloud, an online, self-guided, interactive resource that will provide all learners and employees with no-cost, confidential help for mental health issues and stress management program 24 hours a day.

Staying in touch

- **UM Postdocs on slack - <https://join.slack.com/t/um-postdocs/signup>**
- **Upcoming MPACE events:**
 - **May Seminar - May 14, 2pm**
 - **Grant Writing Workshop, details coming soon!**
 - **Virtual coffee hours coming soon!**
- **Have any ideas for programming?**