

Questions for postdocs and guest scientists at follow-up meetings

Introduction

The purpose of this informal talk is to gain insight into what it is like being a postdoc or a guest scientist at the foundation's Centers of Excellence (CoE) as well as at Danish universities and research institutions in general. We are especially interested in your experience with the terms and conditions of your research. The questions below are examples of what we find interesting, but we will probably not touch on all of them. You are welcome to discuss the questions with other postdocs or guest scientists before the meeting. If there is anything else you would like to talk with the foundation about, please feel free to bring it up at the meeting.

Teaching

Teaching obligation?

- **If any, are the courses you teach relevant to your own research?**

What is the extent of the teaching load?

Is the teaching experience beneficial for your CV?

Are you a (co)supervisor for Ph.D. or master students?

Supervision

Are there good supervision and good professional discussion at the center?

Is there any formal career guidance at the center/institution?

Does the center/institution assist foreigners in finding accommodations, etc.?

Do you have the freedom to participate in courses, conferences and research projects?

Do you have a mentor at the center?

Is there any informal career guidance at the center/institution?

Do you think there is a clear career path (ladder)?

Are postdocs involved in writing grant applications/peer reviews?

Do postdocs participate in the debate about or in the planning of the research at the center?

Regarding the center

Is there a feeling of being part of a center – a center identity?

Do you have a good physical environment for carrying out your own research?

What is it like to be a postdoc here, compared to other places you have been?

What areas of responsibility do you have at the center?

Are there social events?

Is there good integration of foreigners at the center?

Is the center nationally and internationally recognized?

Is the center leader a good and strong leader?

Are you satisfied with the center?

Does significant interdisciplinary activity exist at the center?

Do you feel that the CoE instrument makes a difference?

Internationalization

How many of you are from abroad?

Do foreign scientists create a dynamic atmosphere at the center?

The individual person

Why did you choose to work at this specific center?

What are your future career plans?

At which university did you obtain your Ph.D. degree?

Did you know the center in advance, e.g., through your Ph.D. research?

Is there any uncertainty surrounding your future career?

How is your position financed?

Are the different postdoc positions exactly the same, regardless of how you are financed?

How long is your period of employment?