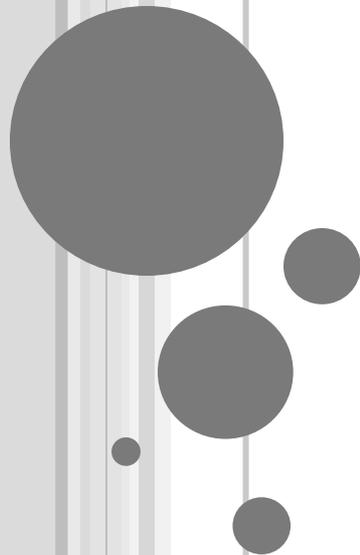


# **AFTER PHD: RESEARCH CAREER**

**Post-doc Researcher**

**Ingénieur de recherche**

**Nibal Nayef**



# OUTLINE

- Why do more research
- Where will you work
- What will you do
- When to apply
- How to apply
- Conclusions



# WHY DO MORE RESEARCH

- Studies [citations ☺] have shown that workers who have more challenges (among other factors) in their jobs are more satisfied
- Challenging job → Happiness ?!!



# WHERE WILL YOU WORK

- R&D in a company
  - this means a good company
- Research lab in a university
- Become a senior researcher 😊
  - lab or company
- Eventually + teaching: become a research group (lab) leader
  - become “Jean-Marc”
- Note: to become a leader in a company, you need other skills and qualifications



# WHAT WILL YOU DO

- Projects
  - minimal or no supervision
  - papers, reports, software output
- Co-supervising students
  - master, phd
- Writing grant proposals
  - help get more funding for you and for the lab



# WHEN TO APPLY

- Start *as early as possible*
- For a job
  - 3 – 6 months before finishing your current job
  - before graduation (may be during writing your thesis or right after)
- For a scholarship
  - 1 year before expected start date
  - keep track of the **hard** deadlines



# HOW TO APPLY: RESEARCH LAB – UNIVERSITY

- First: Search!
  - Conferences websites
    - example: <http://www.pamitc.org/cvpr14/jobs.php>
  - Labs websites of people you know
    - profs, postdocs, students etc.
    - people in your domain whose papers you read, whom you met at conferences
  - Specific country ? Specific company ? Specific lab
    - USA: Google, Apple, Parc, IBM research Almaden, HP
    - Germany: Siemens (Konstanz), Insiders (Kaiserslautern), Fraunhofer IAIS (near Bonn), Google (Munich)
    - NEC labs (Japan, US)
    - ...



# HOW TO APPLY: RESEARCH LAB - UNIVERSITY

- Usual requirements
  - CV
    - tabular with photo, chronological order, divide into sections
    - contains publications
  - Cover letter
    - aka motivation letter, research statement
    - **Important: customized to place / topic of work**
    - **General letters are usually rejected**
    - not a repetition of the CV
  - References
    - Recent, minimum 2
  - **Note: spelling mistakes can kill you**



# JOB TALK

- Either send by email as one organized pdf file
- Or go personally (with your file) if feasible
  - people mostly hire people whom they know, unless you are an extraordinary researcher
- Prepare a job talk(s) and make a tour
  - a  $\leq$  30 min presentation
  - should be great, and well prepared
  - contains: self introduction, different topics you worked on, emphasize the best one, interests of the future research (linked to previous, and linked to the future place of work)



# HOW TO APPLY: RESEARCH LAB - COMPANY

- Same requirements as in a university, **but**
  - show that you have industry-like mentality and capabilities
- Practical skills are very important
  - software, hardware, management, solution-oriented approach
- Interviews / tests
  - study ! all about the company and its activities
  - make sure you can talk and answer questions about everything mentioned in your application
  - scientific questions
    - about previous / future topics (at least know the basics)
  - motivational questions
    - why do you want to work in this company
    - ..... on this topic / project
    - where do you see yourself in 5 years
  - **be professional, calm and careful of provocative questions**



# HOW TO APPLY - SCHOLARSHIP

- Check eligibility requirements
- Check deadlines
- Check application procedure + review and acceptance cycle
  - you need to start preparing at least 1 to 3 months before the deadline
- Make a check list of requirements
  - most important: **proposal** (details need a separate presentation)
    - topic should fit the scholarship & host
  - finding a host professor / institute
  - recommendations / references
  - ....



# RESOURCES

- DAAD (Germany)
- Marie-Curie (Europe, except where you are now)
- Labs: (I will provide some links later)
  - document analysis
  - natural language processing
  - robotics
  - computer vision
  - machine learning
  - pattern recognition
  - networks (I only know 1 lab in Germany)
- Companies
  - see above slides



# CONCLUSIONS

- Remember: it takes time and effort
- Networking -- as usual -- is important
- For more money, work in a company
  
- Good luck in finding a job !

