

# Job Search Resources

Searching for a job after graduate school can be a daunting task but there are a lot of resources available to help you. This page is full of resources that merely scratch the surface of job boards, we encourage you to use this page as a starting point.

## What Types of Jobs are Available?

As you begin your search, the most important question is what type of job you're interested in pursuing. The answer to this question can help you determine how early and where you begin searching for jobs. While there are many possibilities, as told by where graduate students from the department end up working (Figure 1), below are a few of the most common categories of jobs and sectors that entomology graduate students pursue after they finish their degrees, along with brief descriptions of each category.

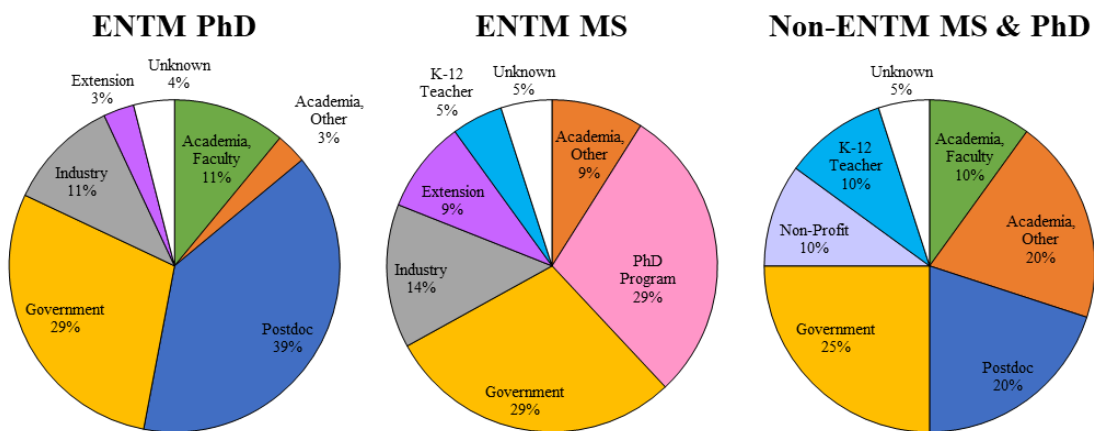


Figure 1. Pie charts showing what sector graduate students ended up working in after graduation in 2020.

### Academia (higher-education)

*Description:* Academic jobs include working at higher-education institutions as faculty members (tenure or non-tenure track; PhD required), instructors (master's typically required), post-doctoral researchers (PhD required), or laboratory technicians or managers (master's degree may or may not be required but is typically welcome). Commonly, in an academic position you will be expected to do some combination of research, teaching, and/or working directly with graduate and undergraduate students. Depending on the type of institution you

work at (R1, R2, or R3) and the position, the ratio of your time spent doing research and teaching will vary.

### **Extension**

*Description:* Extension positions typically encompass working as an expert in your field to disseminate scientific knowledge directly to land-managers, shareholders, and/or other citizens. In these positions, you may be responsible for conducting research, creating educational programs, developing or maintaining volunteer networks and much more. Typically, you're employed by a state or county agency and you may or may not work at a land-grant university (like UMD). There are extension positions available for all levels of education completion.

### **Industry**

*Description:* Industry is a wide and broad term to describe working in the for-profit sector. Some common options are working as an entomologist for an agricultural company that produces biotechnologies and/or agrochemicals like Corteva, FMC, *etc.*, working as an environmental consultant, or working in companies that produce and/or use insect products such as insectaries that rear insects for food, biological control, *etc.* The options here are truly limitless and can take on whatever form you choose.

### **Government**

*Description:* Government work as an entomologist within the United States typically involves working for the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), National Parks Service, or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, but can span other departments as well. Working in government can resemble an academic job in that you may be the lead researcher for a lab or you may be working within a lab. As a government entomologist, you may be a research entomologist or ecologist (PhD required; similar to a Principal Investigator), a postdoctoral researcher (PhD required), or a lab manager or lab technician (Master's often encouraged or required but not always). However there are many other positions as well including working as an insect identifier, forester, wildlife biologist, to name a few. If you're interested in pursuing government work, the best place to browse for the types of positions available is [usajobs.gov](https://usajobs.gov). Note that in the United States, many of these positions are restricted to US citizens and the stability of federal positions may fluctuate based on administration changes.

Though we've highlighted four of the most common positions above, there are many other areas in which entomologists work, such as **museum-based research or education, K-12 education, policy, positions within a zoo or botanical garden, etc.**

## **Where Do I Find Job Openings?**

Below is a list of job boards in entomology and related fields and companies or institutions that many people are interested in working for after graduation. This list is not exhaustive by any means. *We highly suggest also letting your colleagues, mentors, etc. know that you're job searching so they can pass along any opportunities they come across.* It is also beneficial to look at specific companies or institutions that you might be interested in (hint: listen to where our seminar speakers are coming from for company or institution ideas!).

### Job Boards:

- [Conservation Job Board](#): Conservation focused jobs that span disciplines
- [EcoJobs](#): “Green Environmental Jobs” examples include: natural resources & conservation, environmental science & engineering, environmental advocacy & communication, environmental law & policy, renewable energy & sustainability, outdoor & environmental education, environmental internships
- [Ecological Society of America Job Board](#): Ecology focused positions that span all education levels and sectors.
- [Ecolog-L](#): Ecology focused email list-serve where people post job openings that skew mainly towards academic positions but also include other positions.
- [EcoEvoJobs.net 2024-2025](#): Ecology and evolution focused jobs in academia & all typically require a PhD, however there is a tab that includes non-academic PhD-level positions
- [Ecophys Jobs](#): Broadly biology & environmental biology focused with a page for faculty, postdoctoral and professional, graduate opportunities, staff/tech, seasonal tech/intern, and undergraduate opportunities
- [Entomological Society of America Job Board](#): Entomology focused positions that span all education levels and sectors.
- [EvoIdir](#): Job and other opportunities in any field related to Evolution. Although not restricted to Entomology, many evolution-opportunities are in fields directly linked or associated with the study of insects.
- [HigherEdJobs](#): Any type of position in higher education
- [Indeed](#): A job board where you can set up alerts for any type of job you’re interested in. Typically this is more industry focused jobs.
- [Career Center SACNAS](#): Science-related jobs in STEM geared towards hispanic & native americans
- [Society for Conservation Biology](#): Conservation leaning positions that span all education levels and sectors.
- [University of Maryland Career Central](#): Access to Handshake Job Board where you can set up alerts for any type of job you’re interested in
- [USAJobs](#): All government jobs found here

### Common Government, NGO, Policy, and Industry Career Pages:

- [Bayer](#)
  - [Corteva Agriscience](#)
  - [National Science Policy Network](#)
  - [The Nature Conservancy](#)
  - [The Smithsonian Institution](#)
  - [Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation](#)
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# Job Application Resources

Application requirements look different depending on the job level, type, description etc. there are lots of resources out there for more specific job types. *The best resource is an advisor, mentor, or someone in your field of interest because they can provide specific advice and resources relevant to your field.* Additionally, there may be field-specific societies that offer workshops and online resources for more curated guidance.

Below are a few general resources that could be applicable to any job position or those specifically related to academia/industry.

## Resumés and CVs

- First understand that resumés and CVs serve different purposes. A resume is generally limited to 2 pages and highlights key professional accomplishments and transferable skills. A CV (Curriculum Vitae) on the other hand, is usually a fully comprehensive record of your education and career history and is used primarily in academic, medical, and scientific jobs.
- [Resumé how-to guide](#)
- [Sample resumés](#)
- Send your resumé or CV to the Department of Entomology DEI Working Group for someone to review and provide personalized feedback (ento-deiwmembers@umd.edu)

## Cover letters

- Cover letters are your first impression to a potential employer so you want to make sure you do your research and show you're the best candidate for the position. The most important thing is to personalize your cover letter, you should never reuse a cover letter for multiple job applications.
- [Cover letter resources from UMD career center](#)
- [How to write a cover letter \(Harvard business review\)](#)

## Interviews

- Preparing for an interview can feel a little daunting because you're preparing for potential questions but it's really important to have practiced answering questions on the fly and preparing an "elevator pitch" for yourself. You can also prepare how you might answer unexpected questions. For example, the acronym PREP can help provide a framework for answering any question; Point, Reason, Example, Point. Provide your point, "You should hire me for this job", a reason "because I have a really strong work ethic", an example "as you can see from my resume, I completed a lot of large projects in a short amount of time", and restate your point, "which is why you should hire me".
- [Common job interview questions and how to answer them \(Harvard Business review\)](#)
- [Schedule a mock interview with a career advisor at UMD](#), your lab group, your advisor, or just your peers.

## Workshops for Resources

- Workshops are a great way to invest in yourself, especially when you take the time to go in person (if it's an option). Usually workshops are hosted by experts in a certain field who know what specifics to look for or highlight in your job search/application process. They're also a great place to try networking!

- [Workshops - Columbia Workforce Center \(Maryland.gov\)](#)
- [How to... Workshops at UMD Career Center](#)
- USAjobs
  - USAjobs have specific requirements that are different from other job applications. Here are some tips for applying to federal positions through USAjobs: [Tips for Applying for Federal Jobs](#)