



**LOCATION:**

### ***WILL I LIKE WHERE I LIVE?***

Relocation is probably even more common in taking an academic post than taking an industrial post. Happily, there are schools in every type of geographic location. You can choose college towns, rural locations, suburbs, even downtown in major cities. Not all of the schools in these areas will be of equal quality. If you are looking for a particular type of school, your choice of location may be more limited. Beginning a new academic career is stressful; do not underestimate the contribution your environment will make to your quality of life.

Teaching positions also exist outside the U. S. in foreign universities. Many of the rules are different than the U. S., so the earlier questions should be asked against this new standard. Language proficiency and visa status become quite important issues to consider.



### **ACS CAREER SERVICES**

Offers a unique collection of hands-on programs, services, and publications specially designed to assist the professional and economic future of chemists. Here's a sample:



#### **Publications**

- Tips on Resume Preparation
- Interview Handbook
- Targeting the Job Market
- Current Trends
- Professional & Workforce News
- Chem Census 2000 Series

To order ACS Career Services publications, please call 1-800-227-5558 or 202/872-4600

Additional information and assistance is available from ACS Career Services. See our World Wide Web site at:

<http://chemistry.org/careers>



#### **ACS Salary Comparator**

Using results from ACS employment surveys, the comparator helps members find answers

to

salary-related questions by providing current information applicable to specific employment situations.



#### **JobSpectrum.org**

JobSpectrum is your online career and employment connection from the American Chemical Society. JobSpectrum is dedicated to serving the entire chemical science community by connecting job seekers and employers in a way that makes everyone a winner.

***Please call or write for more information:***

Department of Career Services  
American Chemical Society  
1155 16th Street NW



***What a  
Ph.D. Chemist  
should consider***

**before accepting an  
ACADEMIC  
position . . .**



Committee on Economic  
and Professional Affairs

2/02

The potential variation in faculty positions in academia is at least as great as in industry. You may find a position in a large or small institution, in a public or a private institution, or in research or teaching. Your academic training has already prepared you for much of this decision, but there are many important aspects to consider in making the best decision.

## COMPENSATION:

### **IS MY OFFER COMPETITIVE?**

*Chemical and Engineering News* annually publishes academic salaries for assistant professors and others. The 2001 results for assistant professors on 9 or 10 month contracts are:

Public College or University	\$47,000
Private College or University	\$43,500
Ph.D. Granting University	\$50,400
Non-Ph.D. Granting College or University	\$42,000

For Latest, see the "Salary Survey" article printed in the August 20, 2001 issue of *Chemical and Engineering News*.

## TEACHING VS. RESEARCH:

### **IS THIS THE RIGHT BALANCE?**

Many people are initially attracted to academia by the desire to teach -- either in classes or to individual researchers. Your teaching assignments could vary enormously depending on your choice of school. Find the right mix for you. An

## CAREER GROWTH:

### **HOW CAN I PROGRESS?**

**Is the position tenure track?** If not, what are the chances for renewal? A non-tenure track position is less stressful in the short term, but the ultimate payoff will be less. According to the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) guidelines, a non-tenure track position is a temporary position.

**Do you know the requirements and procedures for obtaining tenure?** All schools have written policies. Make sure you understand them. Ask about recent tenure decision cases.

**Is there start-up money?** It may take some time to obtain grants for your research. A generous start-up budget can let your research "hit the ground running." Start-up funds can range from \$5,000 to \$500,000, depending on the school.

**What is the research infrastructure?** You will need departmental and institutional resources to support your work (e.g., research library, computer systems, instrumentation). Make sure that these will be sufficient.

**Can I consult?** Many academics act as consultants to industry. This is a useful method of gaining contacts and extra money. Investigate the

**Can I travel?** There may be a departmental travel budget to go to conferences, or you may need to raise this money yourself. Be aware that conferences are becoming more global in attendance and location. Are there professional development opportunities available to you, including sabbaticals, both national and international?

**Is there an opportunity for summer salary?**

**Will research grants need to cover tuition costs as well as stipends for graduate students?**

**How are graduate students assigned to research directors?**



## BENEFITS:

### **MUST I PAY FOR EVERYTHING?**

Benefits are qualitatively similar to those offered in industry with some deletions (e.g., stock options) and perhaps some additions (e.g. subsidized housing, university member-ships). As in industry, benefits packages will differ from school to school. The university's personnel department should be able to help with