



National Society for Histotechnology
3545 Ellicott Mills Drive
Ellicott City, MD 20143
P: 443-535-4060 ♦ F: 443-535-4055
E: histo@nsh.org
www.nsh.org

Finding Your First Job

By: Kimberly Feaster

January 2018 Career Newsletter

Searching for your first job can be stressful. We've all been there! I would like to offer some helpful tips that will hopefully make the process a little less stressful. This information will also be helpful to someone looking to make a career change into the histology profession and gain histopathology laboratory experience for certification eligibility. Please visit ASCP's website for eligibility details. <https://www.ascp.org/content/board-of-certification/getcertified>.

Perfect your resume and cover letter. You want to make sure that your resume highlights your relevant certifications, qualifications and experience in a concise and thorough manner. You should consider tailoring your resume to the type of position in which you are applying, and including the instrumentation and laboratory information management systems (LIMS) that you have used.

Create a professional email account. The last thing you want to do is provide a potential employer with a personal email address such as cutieOoO@gmail.com. Also be aware that in a digital world, employers will likely search your name on the internet and social media.

Utilize recruitment agencies. There are many laboratory focused agencies that will work to help you find a permanent position for free! Some even offer resume, cover letter and interview coaching.

Post your resume on professional organization's websites and sign up for job alerts. Both nsh.org and ASCP.org allow you to post your resume, which is directly accessible to interested employers.

Take advantage of networking opportunities. Even if you don't have the chance to network at conferences or workshop events, social media is a great way to create connections with new people whether it's Twitter, Facebook, or LinkedIn. You can connect with other histology professionals on [NSH's Facebook Group](#). NSH also offers a feature called [The Block](#) which provides access to additional career resources and allows you the opportunity to connect with other histology professionals through the Open Forum discussion section. Many jobs are found by knowing or meeting the right person.

Try cold calling. If there aren't any job opportunities in a specific area of the United States that you are interested in, you don't have to be completely discouraged. Try calling the laboratories of hospitals in the area and ask to speak to the supervisor or manager. Sometimes the process of posting a position can be lengthy. There may be an opening, but it has not been posted yet. Don't forget about reference laboratories, research facilities, medical examiner offices, pharmaceutical companies and veterinary schools.



National Society for Histotechnology
3545 Ellicott Mills Drive
Ellicott City, MD 20143
P: 443-535-4060 ♦ F: 443-535-4055
E: histo@nsh.org
www.nsh.org

Check on your application status. If you've applied for a position, don't be afraid to call Human Resources (HR) to inquire about your application status. Just because you haven't heard anything in a couple weeks, may not necessarily mean that you aren't being considered.

Give every opportunity a chance. Even though it may not look enticing in print, it could turn out to be your dream job or a stepping stone to your dream position! If nothing else, it will provide you with valuable interview experience and build up your confidence.

Research the company before your first interview. Employers like to know that you care enough to learn about their company and it could set you apart from the other applicants. Go to the interview prepared with questions.

Don't give up. Often times persistence pays off!