

William Bracamonte-Baran

Country of Origin: Venezuela

Degree: PhD, Immunology

Graduation Date: 2014

Employer: Johns Hopkins University

Position: Postdoc Fellow



What do you do in your current position?

Basic immunology research.

How did you find your position?

I sent emails with my CV to several institutions months before my graduation.

Which career services did you find helpful at UW-Madison?

ISS was extremely helpful because they provided me detailed information and technical support in order to get my OPT.

Other than your degree, what skills or experience made you competitive in the US job market?

My other degree obtained previously in Venezuela (MD), extensive teaching and research experience, and several awards obtained during my career helped.

What advice do you have for current international students?

At least in the biology field (I don't know in others) it is worth sending emails (cover letters) and your CV to principal investigators, even if they are not explicitly looking for postdocs. In the body of the email, synthesize in 1 paragraph the essence of your cover letter (keep the body of the email itself short and do not copy and paste the entire cover letter). Tailor your cover letter to the lab you are applying for, putting in front the skills and experience that best match this particular lab. Start your OPT process as soon as possible, even more if you already have a job offer.

“Start your OPT process as soon as possible.”