Postdoc Defined
“...Is an individual who has received a doctoral degree (or equivalent) and is engaged in a temporary and defined period of mentored advanced training to enhance the professional skills and research independence needed to pursue his or her chosen career path.” NPA Fact Sheet, February 1, 2016

The International Postdoc
According to the 2016 NPA Fact Sheet, approximately 52% of postdocs are “international postdocs” here on temporary visas.

I view this as a necessity, and I just did it. I didn't ask for anyone’s permission or approval. At orientation, I tell all postdocs that they can be the greatest scientist in the world, but if no one knows about it, what good is that? So, I emphasize all forms of communication; writing for various constituencies, speaking in different environments, creating good PowerPoint presentations including easy to understand figures........the list goes on and on. All postdocs face challenges when confronted with building their communication skills, but for those whose first language is not English, the challenges are especially daunting. I want them to succeed.

Mary Anne Timmons, Director of Administration
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Needs Driven Programming: Current ESL Professional Development
Two Six-Week Courses (24 Instructional Hours)

• Strategically Speaking: Building Fluency for Confident Communication

• Effective Communication: Building Language Skills and Strategies for Successful Communication in the 21st Century

Sample Learner Feedback
60 of 68 learners that have taken the course(s) completed an anonymous course evaluation. 100% of those that completed the survey said they would recommend these courses to colleagues.

Some learner comments include:
“I really feel I learned a lot from this class. Many things you mentioned in the class were my first, such as data description, number reading. I have never thought how to describe them in that way. I have been in different English classes but this one is the best. The knowledge I learned from this class can be well applied in my real work.”

“To my surprise, I felt confident in my second. I have never felt that way before. I still need to improve many points though...I hope we have another course in the future.”