Annotated Postdoctoral CV | Fictional Example

An original instructional example — not a real candidate or publication record

EVERY PERSON, PROJECT, INSTITUTION AND SCHOLARLY OUTPUT BELOW IS FICTIONAL AND ILLUSTRATIVE. DO NOT COPY THESE AS PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENTS.

Dr. Maya Sen (FICTIONAL) Sample City | maya.example@example.org | ORCID: [add only a real identifier]

Research profile | Example wording

Doctoral researcher in heterogeneous catalysis with hands-on experience in synthesising supported catalysts, analysing reaction products and comparing stability across repeated cycles. Seeking a postdoctoral role focused on electrocatalysis and materials characterisation.

ANNOTATION: Specific domain and skills are clearer than unverified adjectives. Replace all claims with the applicant's documented work.

Education

PhD in Chemistry — Example University 2022–2026

Dissertation: "Stability of Model Oxide Catalysts for Selective Conversion" (fictional title).

ANNOTATION: Match institution and degree records; use "expected" for degrees not yet awarded.

Research experience

Doctoral Researcher — Example Materials Laboratory 2022–2026

- Designed comparative catalyst-preparation trials under a documented experimental protocol.
- Used X-ray diffraction and gas chromatography to characterise materials and reaction products.
- Maintained a version-controlled analysis notebook and prepared a reproducibility report for the research group.

ANNOTATION: Each bullet names an activity the person could evidence. Avoid statements such as "led world-class research" or claiming novel outcomes without a verifiable record.

Publications — fictional formatting examples

Published: Sen, M. and Example, P. "Model Catalysts under Repeated Cycles." Journal of Fictional Research (illustrative), 2025. [DO NOT USE AS A REAL CITATION].

Preprint (not peer-reviewed): Sen, M. "Illustrative Materials Dataset." Fictional server, 2026. [NO REAL DOI].

Manuscript under review: Sen, M. "Illustrative Surface Analysis." Under review, 2026. [NOT ACCEPTED].

ANNOTATION: The status label tells committees what was peer-reviewed versus submitted or posted as a preprint. Never invent a journal, DOI or acceptance status in an actual CV.

Techniques and outputs

X-ray diffraction (sample preparation and interpretation); gas chromatography (calibration and analysis); data cleaning in Python; experimental documentation.

ANNOTATION: Specify familiarity and extent of use honestly. Do not convert brief exposure into "expertise."

Awards and presentations

Poster presentation — Annual Example Research Symposium, 2025. [FICTIONAL EVENT].

ANNOTATION: Distinguish invited talks, contributed talks and posters; identify the applicant's participation accurately.

This example deliberately excludes age, marital status, photograph, salary history and unrelated identifiers; employer requirements may differ by country.

How to tailor the fictional CV to an actual job

The entries above illustrate the form of a scholarly record, not a recipe for matching keywords. Compare each requirement in the actual vacancy with a documented piece of experience. Where no evidence exists, acknowledge that limitation instead of inventing an instrument, method, publication or leadership role.

Example A — research position asks for X-ray diffraction: If the candidate actually prepared samples and interpreted diffractograms, show those tasks early. Do not state that the candidate operated the diffractometer independently unless this is accurate.

Example B — research position asks for electrochemical testing: The fictional candidate has documented catalyst preparation and product analysis, but no demonstrated cyclic-voltammetry or impedance work. Highlight transferable surface-characterisation methods; do not insert electrochemical measurements into the CV.

Example C — research position asks for reproducible analysis: A version-controlled analysis notebook may support a claim about research documentation. Describe who wrote the code, whether validation was performed, and which part of the project used it. Avoid unsupported claims such as “developed a pioneering data platform.”

Publication statuses: label precisely

Published: Provide complete factual citation and identifier where available, with accurate author order. The invented citation in this example is purely fictional.

Preprint: State the actual repository and a resolvable identifier when available. Do not represent a preprint as peer-reviewed.

Submitted or under review: Keep these items separate from accepted and published papers. Do not imply acceptance.

Final candidate-controlled checks

- Remove all fictional names, projects, journals and example emails before any real application.
- Confirm degree award dates, official thesis title, author sequence, publication status and funding roles.
- Use the country, institution and fellowship requirements to decide whether a standard academic CV is acceptable.
- For NIH or UKRI-specific funding applications, use the required biosketch or narrative CV where prescribed; this template is not a substitute.
- Export the final document to the required format, inspect every page and review referee permissions.

CareerAidHub editorial example | Original fictional teaching material | Not a real CV