

So you want to be a postdoc Here are some tips to help you:

1. Getting your first paycheck
 - a. Keep in mind that due to the time required for administrative processing of your new position, there will be a delay in getting paid (2-6 weeks). If you are arriving from another country, you will need to obtain a social security number (SSN) before any paperwork can be processed so ensure that you have the appropriate Visa etc to apply for this SSN. See web sites below.
 - i. <http://www.ssa.gov/sitemap.htm>
 - ii. http://www.acct.ipfw.edu/ap/pers_scv/itinssn.htm
 - b. Put some money aside ahead of time so that you can survive until you receive your first paycheck (rent, food, transportation etc...).
2. Living accommodations
 - a. The best way to find a place to live is in fact to visit Baltimore and its surrounding area (<http://maps.google.com>). Because this is not always possible, there are people who can help. For example, it is a good idea to meet the people (correspond by e-mail, meet with them at conferences, etc.) who are currently in the lab that you will be joining. They can be very helpful in helping you find living accommodations. For example, if they do not have any specific suggestions, they may be able to guide you as to the advantages and disadvantages of living in different parts of the city and surrounding areas.
 - b. Here are a few web sites to help you find an apartment (there are many more)
 - i. <http://baltimore.apartments.com/>
 - ii. <http://www.rent.com/rentals/maryland/baltimore-and-vicinity/baltimore/>
 - iii. <http://www.apartmentguide.com/>
3. Life at the University
 - a. Campus map: <http://www.umaryland.edu/map>
 - b. You will necessarily be required to fill out some administrative forms upon your arrival so get to know your departmental administrative staff.
 - c. You will need a University ID card (UMB1one card). This card allows you to enter your building (and other hospital affiliated buildings), enter the animal facility (a particular form must be filled out by your supervisor), take out books at the library, access the online library catalogue from off campus, allow you to enter your parking garage (see below for parking access). The web site for this card is www.UMB1One.umaryland.edu
 - d. You will need a University e-mail account. For more information: <http://www.umaryland.edu/helpdesk/apps/>
 - e. For information about campus parking see your departmental administration. This site can also be helpful: <http://www.parking.umaryland.edu/>
 - f. There are many ways to commute to the University. Visit the following site for more information: <http://www.mtamaryland.com/>
 - g. Academic life: It is very important to gain the most from your postdoc experience and lab work is only a small part of it. Find out about and attend departmental scientific seminars, journal clubs, job talk seminars, student Ph.D. defenses etc. This will help you become more comfortable with new material and will allow you meet and discuss with people who share your interests.
4. Department of Motor Vehicle
 - a. To obtain a drivers license, new plates etc you must go to the Maryland MVA <http://mva.state.md.us/>
 - b. A state inspection is typically required for out of state vehicles
 - c. A vehicle emissions test may also be required: <http://mva.state.md.us/MVAProg/VEIP/veipinfo.html>

** Remember, you are no longer a student. While you should be able to become increasingly independent in your work, it also means that you need to be independent in the rest of your life. Be sure to seek out any assistance that you may need.