

Tips for the Job Market

Tips:

- Think about the type of school you'd like to go to and plan accordingly with the time you have so that your CV is competitive for the type of academic position you desire. If you want to go to a research intensive school, think about your research agenda.
- Develop mentoring relationships and look to make early connections in the field at national conferences. Learn about different schools more informally when you can.
- Don't go on the market until you are ready. Make sure you'll have plenty of time to work on your materials, apply to multiple schools, and go on campus interviews, etc. during the upcoming year. Consider a post-doc if you're not quite ready.
- Prepare all of your application materials early so you have plenty of time to get feedback and edit them.
- Apply as early as possible to positions as they are posted.
- Practice your job talk several times before going on a campus visit. Invite people (students, faculty, etc) that will give you honest feedback.
- Invest in a few nice suits (Black and blue colors are common)
- Become very familiar with all of the schools you will interview with. Make sure that you look at their websites and develop unique questions for each school. Be prepared to tell them why you want to come to their school in a very specific way. Also be sure that you correctly refer to them as a school or a department.
- Be sure you are prepared to talk about your dissertation research, your future research agenda, and your teaching experiences and philosophy. It is helpful to practice these answers.
- Be sure to send thank you notes after each phase of the interview.
- Utilize good stress relief activities and take good care of yourself. The job market can be stressful.
- There are several factors (many of which you'll never know) that play a role in whether you are offered a position. Accept that these factors are out of your control.
- You can never know a school until you visit it. Keep an open mind and realize that your "top" choices can change after your campus visits.
- Schools look at the whole package. It is not just teaching or just publications. And it is not about the number of publications. You can have fewer publications, but have advanced statistical skills or an innovative and very fundable research agenda and get a top job at a research intensive university. Of course, the desired "package" varies by school and its focus (research or teaching).