

TO: All Students (who think they are) on the 2022/23 Job Market  
FROM: Your Placement Directors for 2022/23  
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RE: The Economics Job Market and Placement: Frequently Asked Questions  
**July/August FAQ #1**



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### **1. What is “Placement” and what do you do as the “Placement Directors”?**

That’s a great question to begin with. There are many types of jobs for PhD economists and students have preferences over them. “Placement” means that the department provides support to help you get the best position given your preferences and the state of the market. Placement activities for students take many forms including group meetings, practice interviews, and FAQ sheets. There are also activities that we undertake to get you interviews and offers, and we try to make certain that your advisors are aware of your needs. As Placement Directors we will hold several meetings at important junctures: September (general information), October (CV, resume), November (applications), December (interviewing, “flyouts,” and negotiation).

### **2. What should I know about the job market in economics in general, what is new, and what will demand be like this year?**

The job market in economics has been highly organized for some time and that is very good for you. There is much that is institutionalized such as job listings on EJM and JOE. But there have also been many important changes in just the past two years. Some of these changes have come about because remote interviews (just like remote work) have advantages. Other changes have come about because sectors, such as tech and data science, have grown. The good news is that these changes will benefit you as job marketeers. Because these are recent changes that are still in some flux, we interviewed the past year’s placements about their experiences. In our various FAQs, we will tell you what we have learned. We don’t know what the demand for PhD economists will be next year. It was fairly good this past year especially in tech and data science.

### **3. How do I know if I should be on the job market this year?**

Most of our students stay for six years, but there is no reason that you must do that if you have a strong paper that will make for a good presentation this fall that will be in good shape for wide distribution before Thanksgiving and if you also have other papers that can be completed to form an acceptable dissertation by late spring 2023. When in doubt ask your advisors.

### **4. What is the time table? (See the last page for the time table, which works backward from January 2023 to now.)**

You should be working on your papers, especially the one that you feel would make the best presentation. You will eventually have at least three references. References are

generally your dissertation advisors but could include others. For example, if you were applying to a liberal arts college, having a reference who could write about your teaching would be important. You will ask each to write a letter before you include them on your CV, but we will talk more about your CV and crafting that in the next FAQ.

We would generally not discuss interviews with you until November. But some interviews in the private sector are earlier now and even some academic ones are in December. That means preparation for some of you will have to be earlier, and that means that our timeline is less exact than in past years. Here's a summary of what we know.

The American Economic Association has asked that all interviews begin no earlier than January 2, 2023 and strongly recommends that all take place virtually. The AEA has also asked that no interviews take place January 6-8, during the AEA annual meetings. We have learned from this year's students that most academic places, but not all, followed the AEA's recommendation. But many in the tech sector do not and some European interviews were in December.

Some students noted that there were two separate "clusters" of interviews. The first was in December prior to the holidays (the week of Dec. 13, 2022). The second was when the AEA requested, which will be the week of January 2, 2023 this year.

Remote interviews are more spread out than interviews at the meetings had been and that will be good for you. Most students this year were relieved that they had many breaks between interviews and did not have to run between hotels (and in the snow). But they did note that there were more days. Tech interviews were highly spread out with one student having an Amazon interview in early November and an Uber interview in late January.

#### **5. Preparing your mindset for the job market: the best advice we have heard (from one our recent students).**

You will get a job and you will be pleased with it. But the best way to do that is to prepare your mindset and figure out what type of job you could get with probability 0.973 and be reasonably happy. Once you do that, (almost) nothing can go wrong. We want every one of you to follow the sage advice of a prior job marketeer (who did very well and was less stressed because she figured out her best outside option). Before the end of the summer, figure out at what non-academic job would make you reasonably content. Learn a bit about it and know that this is your outside option. Chances are you will not need to exercise that option. But it is there. Breathe more easily.

## DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS ~HARVARD UNIVERSITY ~PLACEMENT SCHEDULE

Date	Events, deadlines, or “to dos” (dates may be approximate)
Jan. 6 to 8, 2023 (Fr-Sun)	AEA/ASSA Meetings (New Orleans). Recruiters have been asked not to schedule interviews on these days.
Jan. 2 to 5, 2023	Most academic interviews will be held <i>remotely</i> on these days, but some may be held in December. Non-academic ones may also be held on these days.
Dec. to early Jan.	Work on slides, polish presentation, do additional mock interviews with friends and others.
Mid-Dec., prior to holidays	Some academic interviews, especially European, will be held remotely.
Early to late Dec.	Recruitment chairs, their admins, and others will set up remote interviews with you.
~Dec. 5-7	Mock interviews with Harvard faculty (some will be scheduled earlier for those applying mainly to tech positions).
~Nov. 14 (wk of)	Placement Meeting (with us), Littauer third floor lounge.
Early Nov.	A few tech-sector, private firm, and international organization interviews may be held this early.
Early to mid Nov. (before last wk)	Upload packets to listings in JOE and places advertising elsewhere. Coordinate with faculty assistants about letters of reference.
~Nov. 1	Job market CV’s posted on the Economics Department website.
Sept. through Nov.	Consult JOE ( <i>Job Openings for Economists</i> ) AEA website, EJM, and other job board sites (we will create a list of them). Finalize your job market paper to post.
Oct. 25	Departmental job market meeting (for faculty only). This is the absolute last point at which you can decide to drop out of the market.
Oct. 21	Final call for CV for circulation to faculty job market meeting. Submit to Graduate office. Work with OCS on resume, if you have not done so.
Mid-Oct.	Individual meetings with Placement Directors (15 minutes each).
By Oct. 10	Meet with advisor(s) about paper(s) and placement. <i>At least a week before meeting</i> , give advisor(s) an almost-finished paper and CV.
~Sept. 19 (wk of)	Professional photos (at Littauer) for your website.
~Sept. 12 (wk of)	First Placement Meeting (with us), Littauer third floor lounge.
Early to Mid Sept.	Schedule group committee meeting with advisors as needed; register for AEA meeting if attending.
Mid to late Aug.	Talk with advisor(s) to confirm whether you should be on the market. If “yes,” confirm with those to be added to your CV as references.
Now to mid-Oct.	Work on and perfect job market paper. Send to advisors. Sign up to give a Fall presentation, before mid- to late-Oct. Create webpage. Work on CV. Make an appointment with OCS to work on a resume.
Starting Now	WRITE A DRAFT of your main paper – <i>the whole thing</i> .