
TO: All 2020/21 Job Market Students
FROM: Placement Committee
RE: Frequently Asked Questions about the Job Market (#2)



1. What should I be doing now?

- First and foremost, continue refining your Job Market paper.
- Confirm your committee and discuss your Job Market goals. In particular, clarify with your committee whether or not you are potentially interested in academic jobs outside the US, private sector jobs, or public-sector jobs and whether you have any geographical preferences that will constrain your search. You should be aware that geographical preferences can be extremely costly with respect to other objectives, but if you do have strong preferences it is important to articulate them early to yourself and others.
- Present in at least one Job Market seminar.

2. CV and Webpage pointers:

- Read your CV over (again and again) for typos and glitches (better yet, give it to a new set of eyes). The same holds for your job market paper (and all other papers you ever produce). Most people do not see the errors in their own work, even the most obvious (e.g., typos in their own name or the paper title).
- Your Job Market Paper abstract is extremely important. Make certain that the JMP abstract is accessible to any intelligent economist. The same goes for all your other abstracts.
- Make absolutely certain that the PDF files you have created for your CV and paper(s) are readable by others.
- A good photo is useful. Make it professional – no cats perched on your head or silly hats.

3. How many places should I apply to? What should I include?

- Apply to a wide and diverse range of positions. But do not apply to a job you would never take.
- Before you apply on-line, compile a list of places and make certain your advisors and/or references know the list—certainly the top places on it. If one of your advisors does not feel comfortable writing a letter for you to the 2nd (etc.) top department in the nation, then do not apply there. Your letters to the other places will probably be stronger.
- You should plan to apply to places by Thanksgiving. Be aware that some places have early deadlines. Since everything (other than letters) is online, committee members will often read CVs and papers and then read letters when they arrive.
- Your application includes whatever is asked for. Generally (1) CV, (2) paper(s), (3) possible teaching, research and/or diversity statement, (4) a cover letter if needed, (5) your webpage URL.
 - a. In addition to your job market paper you may include paper(s) related to it, or that demonstrate ability in a related field, or show other strength. If your second strongest paper is considerably weaker than your job market paper, you might not want to include it even though it will be available on your website.
 - b. The cover letter, if needed, should be brief. Exceptions to the simple cover letter concern liberal arts colleges, some business schools, places that rarely hire Harvard students and unique positions. Liberal arts colleges expect you to demonstrate an interest in their school and in teaching.

- In early December you may be contacted by departments, organizations, and agencies for your application. In some cases, you may already have applied. If so, you will want to contact the staff assistant in charge and explain the circumstances. Some places might contact you very early—before you are ready to apply. Tell them that you will apply soon (you can give a date) and ask if there is any deadline.

4. What resources should I use to compile my list of places if I am applying to Academic jobs?

- JOE (now known as the JOE Network) of the American Economic Association is the main resource. Make sure you check often since listings get added and some are last minute. The JOE Network is both a listing of jobs and a site for applying to jobs. Your letter writers will be able to post a letter to the site that will go to all listing to which you apply.
- Economic Job Market (EJM) has similar abilities to the JOE Network.
- Other job listings exist but JOE and EJM are the largest. Others include AcademicJobsOnline and Interfolio. Our website has other job listings, such as the Chronicle of Higher Education. Some business schools do not advertise in JOE but do advertise in the Chronicle. You can also check the websites of various institutions, agencies, and departments. General solicitations sent to us directly will be emailed to the Job Market List Serv.

5. What resources are available when applying to Non-Academic positions?

- Some non-academic jobs will be posted in the Academic job postings. For a wider search, refer to company websites.
- The department accommodates campus recruiters including the IMF, Economics Consulting Firms, Tech Firms, the Board, and some of the Federal Reserve Banks. In addition to presentations, many of these places will also conduct campus interviews.
- The Placement webpage provides a comprehensive list of alumni placements; refer to this list to broaden your search.
- The Office of Career Services at GSAS provides resume editing and interview training.

6. Who sees the CVs and webpages?

- The CVs will be on the Department's website with links to your home page. Most places that hire economists know that.

7. How many interviews should I aim for?

- Although it varies by field, you should aim for at least 10 to 12 interviews at the meetings. If by mid-December you have fewer, you should see your advisor(s) and the Placement Directors.

8. When can I pull off the market?

- In a typical year, we would advise students to decide about the market before the Placement Meeting but certainly no later than the end of October when the Department website goes live. Given the uncertainty of this year, the department will allow students to "go on the market" twice. That is, if you do not receive a job or decide to end your search, you will be able to take advantage of the market resources next year.