

Find a job in Academia (US market)

focus on the goal = getting a job, what do you need to know / do?

The US market now

- university system in slow decline
- massive disinvestment in public services
- ethos of universities changing to "cutting costs"
- less job openings for PhDs
- 76% of US university instructors are adjuncts / part timers

bottom line: search committee members are overworked, often in a state of stress & anger – they want to reject your application as quick as possible

how to not get rejected:

- have a very competitive record
- have good application materials
 - writing and presentation skills

what is competitive?

1. publish in major refereed journals, one first author paper in major journal, quality > quantity, what's appropriate / successful in your field?
2. get grants, any peer reviewed award
3. be active in high prestige conferences – learn networking
4. cultivate well-known recommender
5. teaching experience if possible, not very important

the qualities of successful candidates

- intense productivity: a solid past and more importantly a forward looking plan
- professionalization
- autonomy
- effective self-promotion
- affable collegiality

each higher education institutions expects and offers different things – ranks / types in the US:

ivy league and "public ivies"
R1 (PhD granting institutions)
R2 (MSc granting institutions)
public comprehensive
teaching college
SLACs
community colleges

- which institutions, departments, and/or offers are the best for your goals? huge disparity in salary, support, teaching load, recruitment channels, application materials... also in the expected outputs to get tenure, to stay in the job for the long term
- Adapt job hunting strategy to your profile and plans



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Talk in Research Staff Conference 2017,
University of Glasgow, Kelvin Hall, May 12th 2017

post-talk research

conflicting analysis on the state
of the job market for PhDs

**INSIDE
HIGHER ED**

The Shrinking
Ph.D. Job Market

Science

'Employment crisis'
for new Ph.D.s is
an illusion

agreement

decrease in the average quality of academic jobs, and decrease in the ratio of job openings per new PhDs in some fields (life sciences, social sciences) while better prospects in others (engineering, computing)

cover letters, CVs, teaching statements, research statements, dissertation abstracts, fellowship applications, grant applications, tenure and promotion materials, interview and negotiation strategy ...