The PhD Job Market
Spring Meeting
Outline of talk

• Type of jobs

• Applying for jobs

• Job Market Preparation – goals for students at different levels of study
Important Webpages


• AEA JOE: [http://www.aeaweb.org/joe/](http://www.aeaweb.org/joe/)

• AAEA Job Board: [https://www.aaea.org/employmentopps](https://www.aaea.org/employmentopps)
Important Note

• You are responsible for building your CV to make yourself attractive to potential employers

• You are responsible for applying and getting a job when the time comes

• Role of your advisor: help guide in building your CV

• My role: Make you aware of the process and get you to start planning early
Type of Jobs

• Non-academic
  ▪ Consulting (think tanks)
  ▪ Government agencies – Federal and State
  ▪ Private Companies
  ▪ International Organizations

• Academic
  ▪ Post doctoral position
  ▪ Research position
  ▪ Teaching position
  ▪ Extension position
Applying for Jobs

• For some non-academic jobs: Send applications directly to different institutions throughout the year

• For academic jobs and some non-academic jobs: Go into the Job Market starting in Fall by sending your job market packet
Your Competition

The average student will have:

• Three papers, one of which is the job market paper.
• Three references
• Maybe a conference poster
• TA and RA experience
How to Separate Yourself from the Pack

• Make a conference presentation

• Instructor experience

• Publications (establishing a research pipeline)
First year students

• Work hard on your courses
• Pass the comprehensive exams
• Plan ahead for the second year
  – find out what interests you
  – contact faculty members (see if there is some potential for collaboration)
Second year students

- Start outlining your dissertation topics (field classes will help a lot – take econ classes)
- By the end of the academic year, devote the summer to getting at least one paper submitted to a journal
- Work with a fellow grad student or a faculty member on the paper
- Think about what you want your CV to look like so that you will be competitive when the time comes and work towards that goal
- Think about submitting to conferences
Third year students

• You should have picked your committee
• Focus on developing your job market paper
• Get other papers moving along
• Start submitting to conferences for presentations
• Be aware of the timing of events by May in preparation for the job market
Fourth/ Fifth year students

• Get your job packet together

• Enter the job market

• Finalize job market presentations

• Practice your seminars
General Timing for ASSA meetings

• Flyouts – Jan – March
• ASSA interview – Jan first week
• Sending out packets – September – December
• Finalize packet – early September
• Job market paper – finish over summer break
General Timing for AAEA meetings

• Flyouts – may coincide with ASSA or sometimes during the fall
• AAEA interview – summer
• Sending out packets – Spring
• Finalize packet – early September
• Job market paper – finish over summer break the year before AAEA meetings
General Timing for Industry / Government Jobs

• Flyouts, Interview, Sending out packets – may coincide with ASSA job interviews. May also occur year round
• Finalize packet – early September
• Job market paper – finish over summer break
Opportunities for Foreigners in the US

Note: there are a lot of opportunities outside as well

• Academic Universities – especially research universities
• Large international institutions – WB, IMF, IFPRI
• Large international companies – Amazon, Google, CapitalOne, Ernst&Young

Note: usually large organizations are able to sponsor H1 visas
Elements of a Packet

• Cover letter
• CV
• 3 Reference letters
• Transcripts
• Short summary of dissertation papers
• Job market paper
What is next?

• Start of fall meeting (for those who plan but are not necessarily 100% entering the job market):
  - talk to your advisor
  - go over elements of a packet in more detail
  - what to expect over the fall
  - prepare short summary for signaling