WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

World Class. Face to Face.

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

- **SES Job Market Guide: http://ses.wsu.edu/graduatestudies/phdprograms/jobmarketguide/**

- **AEA JOE : http://www.aeaweb.org/joe/**

- **AAEA Job Board: 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