

# Applying for academic jobs

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# Outline

The numbers

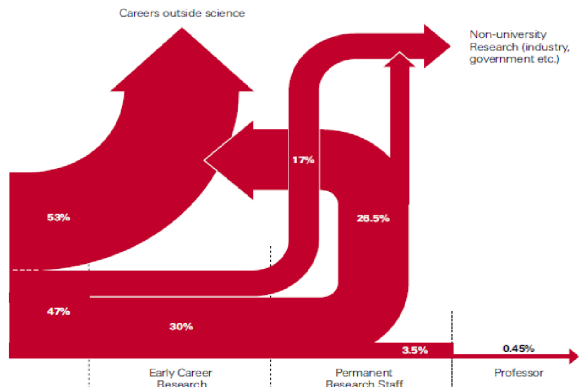
Overall advice for applications

Specifics of some countries

Prepare your application documents

# Scary Numbers...(or do you really want to do it?)

Figure 1.6 Careers in and outside science



From Royal Society Report: The scientific Century (2010) Illustrates the transition points in typical academic scientific careers following a PhD and shows the flow of scientifically-trained people into other sectors.

# Overall advice for applications

- ▶ Talk to your supervisor
- ▶ Don't rely (only) on your supervisor
- ▶ Start early
- ▶ Have an up to date webpage
- ▶ Present your work and yourself at conferences, seminars and workshops
- ▶ Think about possible references and contact them well in advance
- ▶ Sign up for newsletters (jobs.ac.uk, NaDigest, ....)

# The main documents you will need for your application

- ▶ Cover letter (1 page)
- ▶ CV
- ▶ Research statement (2-3 pages, depending on position and institution)
- ▶ Reference letters (3 people, sometimes 3 research letters + 1 teaching letter)
- ▶ Teaching statement (2 pages, asked only sometimes)
- ▶ Publication list (some places ask for this separately)
- ▶ Diversity statement (mostly in the USA)

# Types of positions

- ▶ Post-doc position: either associated with a project or a permanent member of staff, usually 1-3 years
- ▶ Fellowship: 1-3 year research positions, your own research proposal, usually associated to a host institution and sometimes an academic host
- ▶ Permanent positions - tenure vs. tenure track
- ▶ Named positions in the US - equivalent to UK fellowships
- ▶ Teaching fellows

# Teaching fellowships

- ▶ Typically full members of staff with more teaching, pastoral and administrative duties
- ▶ Higher teaching load: often 2-3 courses per term and more tutees  $\Rightarrow$  limited time for research
- ▶ Universities often require some professional practice in teaching and learning such as being a fellow of the Higher Education Academy - as postgraduate students who teach you can apply for HEA Fellowship, see [https://warwick.ac.uk/services/ldc/teaching\\_learning/app/pgr/](https://warwick.ac.uk/services/ldc/teaching_learning/app/pgr/)

**Webpage:** [jobs.ac.uk](http://jobs.ac.uk)

### **Fellowships:**

- ▶ EPSRC prize doctoral fellowship: 1 year
- ▶ Leverhulme early career fellowship: 3 years
- ▶ London Mathematical Society early career fellowship: 6 months
- ▶ Departmental and University Fellowships
- ▶ Royal commission for the Exhibition of 1851: 3 years
- ▶ Heilbronn fellowships: 3 years (pure and stats)
- ▶ College Fellowships in Oxford and Cambridge: 3 years
- ▶ Rosetree Young Enterprise Fellowships: biomedical research, 3 years



# USA & Canada (1/2)

**Job applications:** [www.mathjobs.org](http://www.mathjobs.org)

**Job interviews:** often at the Joint Mathematical Meeting

- ▶ Post-doc positions: 1-3 years, teaching load 3-4 courses per year
- ▶ Named positions: e.g. Courant Instructor (NYU), Von Karmann Instructor (Caltech), CAM assistant professor (UCLA), ...
- ▶ National Science Foundation (NSF): Postdoctoral fellowship for US citizens or permanent residents, 18-36 month of support
- ▶ Mathematical Science Research Institute (MSRI): postdoctoral fellowships for 5 month - similar positions in ICERM and IMA and others

## USA & Canada (2/2)

**Job applications:** [www.mathjobs.org](http://www.mathjobs.org)

**Job interviews:** often at the Joint Mathematical Meeting

- ▶ National Science and Engineering Research Canada (NSERC): Postdoctoral fellowship for Canadian citizens, 2 years
- ▶ Pacific Institute for the Mathematical Sciences (PIMS): by nomination of eligible Canadian departments only.
- ▶ CRM-ISM fellowships: 1 year fellowship (renewable for a second year) at one of 9 Quebec universities.
- ▶ Fields Postdoctoral Fellowships - linked to a program at the Fields Institute, 6 months.
- ▶ usual postdocs advertised in universities and professors' websites.

# France

- ▶ Most post-doc positions are funded via projects
- ▶ Fondation Sciences Mathématiques Paris: math and computer sciences, 2-year positions
- ▶ Fondation Mathématique Jaques Hadamard: certain number of 2-year fellowships with open or specific profiles (for example "Mathematics and Life Sciences", ....). Closing date this year was December 2018.
- ▶ INRIA: French national research institution with locations all over France (Lille, Bordeaux, Paris, ....)
- ▶ CIMI Toulouse: post-doctoral fellowships for international students, 2 years
- ▶ Web page for post-docs:  
<http://postes.smai.emath.fr/postdoc/>

# Germany, Austria and Switzerland

- ▶ Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst DAAD: Postdoctoral Researchers International Mobility Experience (PRIME), 12 month fellowship
- ▶ Humboldt Research Fellowship: 6-24 month, own research program at German university
- ▶ Max Planck Institute: several post-doctoral fellowships, 1-3 years, deadline December
- ▶ Hausdorff Center of Mathematics Bonn: several post-doctoral positions per year, 2 years, deadline usually October
- ▶ Switzerland: Swiss government excellence scholarships for foreign scholars, 1 year at Swiss research institution

## Rest of Europe and the world

- ▶ Ireland: Irish Research Council Postdoctoral Fellowships, one or two years at an Irish institution
- ▶ Australia: Australian Research Council Discovery Early Career Research Award, 3 years
- ▶ Annual calls for fellowships of the Academy of Finland
- ▶ Sweden: Hans Werthen Foundation awards 15 1-year scholarships annually
- ▶ SISSA Trieste: 3 year fellowship
- ▶ Japan Society of the Promotion of Science: application through the hosting Japanese institution, 12-24 month

# Webpages

- ▶ Positions advertised and taken in the world  
[http://notable.math.ucdavis.edu/wiki/Mathematics\\_Jobs\\_Wiki](http://notable.math.ucdavis.edu/wiki/Mathematics_Jobs_Wiki)
- ▶ All the jobs advertised in the UK (sign up for it now!!)  
<https://www.jobs.ac.uk/>
- ▶ THE jobs website in the USA <https://www.mathjobs.org/jobs>
- ▶ Jobs advertised at the European Mathematical Society:  
<https://euro-math-soc.eu/jobs>
- ▶ Scandinavia: <http://www.maths.lth.se/nordic/>
- ▶ HEA fellowship for PGR students  
[https://warwick.ac.uk/services/ldc/teaching\\_learning/app/pgr/](https://warwick.ac.uk/services/ldc/teaching_learning/app/pgr/)
- ▶ Career advice from the Warwick Graduate School:  
<https://warwick.ac.uk/services/careers/applications/>
- ▶ Career advice (Manchester):  
<http://www.academiccareer.manchester.ac.uk/foryou/phd/nextposition/>
- ▶ UK academic life news <https://www.timeshighereducation.com/>
- ▶ Same as before, but for the USA <https://chroniclevitae.com/>

# Cover Letter

- ▶ Introduce yourself
- ▶ Do not just rewrite your CV
- ▶ Explain why you want the job and why you are the right person for the job
- ▶ Emphasize the positive and use action words
- ▶ Advice from Warwick Graduate School:  
<https://warwick.ac.uk/services/careers/applications/coveringletters>
- ▶ Alternative advice: <http://www.academiccareer.manchester.ac.uk/applications/cl/>

## Structure

- ▶ Education
- ▶ Employment history
- ▶ Fellowships/grants
- ▶ Honors/awards
- ▶ Conferences/talks
- ▶ Academic services
- ▶ Additional skills
- ▶ Publications
- ▶ References

## General advice

- ▶ Warwick Graduate School: <https://warwick.ac.uk/services/careers/applications/CVs>
- ▶ Manchester: <http://www.academiccareer.manchester.ac.uk/applications/cvs/>



# Research statement

- ▶ Usually 2 or 3 pages.
- ▶ Start with summary of current and future research plans - Should be understandable to non-experts.
- ▶ Detailed discussion of the research plan for the duration of the position - Should show how your research experience makes you the right person for this project or the job.
- ▶ General advice:  
<https://www.vpul.upenn.edu/careerservices/writtenmaterials/researchstatements.php>