

Applying for academic jobs

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Outline

The numbers

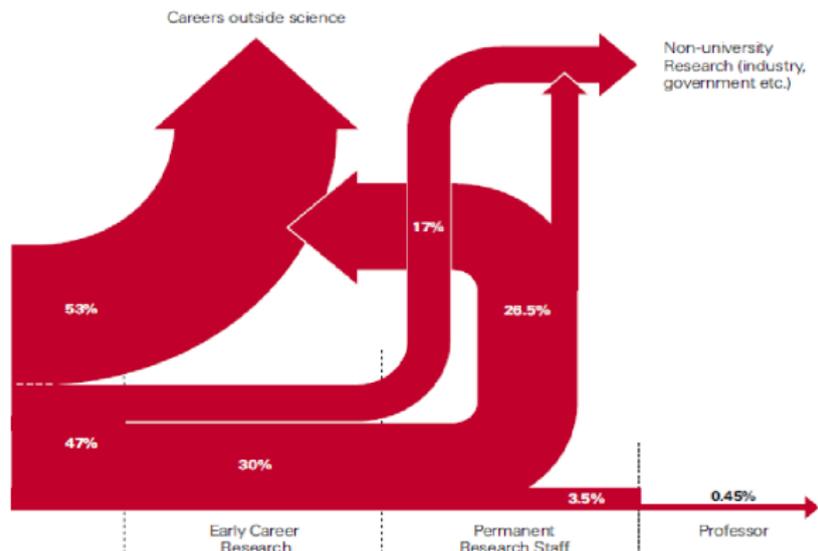
Overall advice for applications

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/

Webpage: 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

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

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
- ▶ 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/
- ▶ 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>