

Job Market Information: 2010

Basic Questions

1. *Who is eligible?* Economics students (those who will receive a Ph.D. in Economics) who **have not** participated in the job market process before or who have participated but have not found (not by choice) permanent positions.
2. *Who should be on the market?* Eligible students who have (or will have) a finished, high quality, paper by October 1st and can honestly commit to completing their dissertation by August of next year. Each student needs to talk to his/her main advisor (at least) before they decide to participate in the job market process. The student's main advisor and at least two other faculty members will have to write letters of recommendation. If a student does not have at least three faculty members lined up to write letters, he/she should not participate.
3. *What happens if I withdraw?* If you withdraw **before** the ASSA meetings, you have the chance to reenter next year. However, pulling out is costly to you and to us. From your point of view, if some school identifies you as a potential good match and then you pull out they will (correctly) infer that either your research is not going as well as it should and/or that you are not serious. It is a **bad** idea to get on the list unless you are 100% sure that you will be on the market. Participating in the process just to "learn" can be very costly in the future. From the department's point of view, it generates a negative externality since other schools trust us to do a minimum of quality control before we allow students to be on the market. If you pull out **after** you received an offer you may not be on the summary list again.
4. *What jobs should I consider?* The main categories are:
 - Top-20 economics departments
 - Top-50 economics departments
 - PhD-granting economics departments
 - Non-PhD-granting economics departments
 - Liberal Arts colleges
 - Business schools
 - Public policy schools
 - Federal Reserve System
 - Governmental Agencies
 - IMF, World Bank
 - Consulting Firms
 - Private Banks, Trading FirmsAt this point, it is wise to be flexible and pursue a diversified strategy.
5. *Does the department rank students?* At the beginning of November the department faculty will meet and discuss the job market candidates. We will be discussing what job types are potentially good matches for each student. However, the department

does not officially produce a ranking, and individual advisors may have “target jobs” that differ from the department consensus.

6. *What is the role of the department recommendation?* Many employers will contact the department (typically the Placement Director) to recommend potential applicants. Often, the requests are field-specific. Our response is to give as much solid information as possible, to increase the chances that our students have the best chance possible to be considered for the position.
7. *I will not be ready to schedule a seminar in October. Can I schedule my seminar in November?* No. You MUST present your paper in a departmental seminar by Oct 31.
8. *What should I put on my webpage?* You need an informative web page, and this should be complete by the end of October, if not earlier. It should include your vitae, with information about the courses you have taken, your fields of specialization interest (maximum three), courses you have taught, educational background and your research. Post your research papers. At a minimum, your job market paper must be posted. Even better, your other thesis chapters. Other papers (which are not part of your thesis) can also be posted. There is an important signal conveyed by your decision regarding which papers to post. By posting a paper, you are signaling to the market that the paper is at least close to completion. If three papers are posted, you are signaling a high probability of completing your thesis by next summer, which is desirable. However, if a paper is posted, it may be read, and this will affect the hiring decision. We suggest that you only post work that is in good enough shape for a potential employer to read, and that you are prepared to answer questions on that paper. Often potential employers will read papers other than the official job market paper, and their opinions will affect their hiring decision. The webpage should be easy to navigate and have a professional yet individual look.
9. *Where should I send my applications?* Read JOE (Job Openings for Economists) and posted advertisements to find relevant job openings. Many departments have details posted on their webpages. Some postings are for any field, but others are for specific fields (e.g. Industrial Organization or Econometrics). It does not make sense to submit an application if there is no advertisement, or if the posting is not in your field. Discuss your application list with your advisor.