Hunting for Faculty Jobs

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- My Background.
- Where Do I Look?
- What Do I Send?
- Your Visit.
- Random Thoughts.

The Periodic Chart
Get a job!!
Where Do I Look?

• Decide what you want to do early. That may drive your career choices.
  – Research university - build the technical part of your resume; *e.g.* a national lab position.
  – Teaching institution - get some teaching experience along with a significant research record.

• Search constantly.
  – For some disciplines this is easy, *e.g.* physics faculty jobs can almost all be found on the American Institute of Physics website.
  – For others, you have to rely on your ‘network’. The listserv for former Fellows has many job opportunities.
What Do I Send?

• Cover letter
  – How will you make them famous?
  – Reveals your strengths and your preparation.

• The CV
  – Follow the standard form. It’s easier on the readers.
  – Highlight special items (undergraduate co-authors, papers with many citations, ...).

• Research Plan
  – Detailed equipment and project plan with cost estimates. Don’t be shy.
  – Who will be your collaborators?

• Teaching Philosophy.
  – Know the literature at least a little bit.
  – Draw on your experience (assuming you have some).

• References
  – Pick ones that are close to the job you are after.
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Three Laws.
1. Preparation!
2. Preparation!
3. Preparation!
The Visit

- Be ready to interview them.
  - Write down a set of questions early (surprise phone interview).
  - Inquire about teaching loads, class size, research support/expectations, travel money, living there, ....
  - Call and ask them questions before you go.

- Be rested and ready - enjoy yourself.

- The talk
  - Research institutions: Focus on your technical prowess.
  - Teaching institutions: Aim for the students.
  - Cite external experts to show how your work is cutting edge.

- Follow-up - answer open questions, ....
Random thoughts

• Faculty job searches can be very idiosyncratic.
  – Your success or failure may appear to be random (which may actually be true).
  – You will be one of very many candidates.

• Continue to do things you are passionate about.

• Be persistent.

• For more questions or comments.
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