

# Preparing for the Academic Job Market



Q&A with Abby MacBain, Chloe Estep, Josh Rogers  
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# Introductions

1. Name, Discipline, Graduation Year
2. What is your new job, and what is the path that led you there?
  - a. Previous positions, timeline from application to offer, negotiation & acceptance
  - b. Any notable experiences or events that happened during the process
3. How many years were you on the job market?
4. Roughly how many jobs did you apply for each year?
  - a. Tenure Track/Permanent
  - b. Visiting Assistant Professor/Temporary
  - c. Postdoc
5. What criteria did you use for picking jobs to apply to?
6. Did you make any mistakes or do you have any regrets from your application or interview experience?

# Questions

1. Do you think international applicants face a disadvantage because they need to be sponsored for a working visa?
2. How often did you find you needed to submit the teaching, research, and/or DEI statements?
3. Did you need to send in syllabi fairly often? Did you have to create any specific to the position?
4. Did you have issues with letters of recommendation? What if a recommender isn't reliable for meeting deadlines?

# Questions

1. How did you find jobs to apply to?
2. Did you restrict your job search to the US, or did you look overseas as well?
3. How did COVID change your experience (and what do you think might stay the same going forward)?
4. Did you present at a national conference during the year you applied?
5. Did you have publications before going on the market?

# Questions

1. Were there any restrictions you had in mind when selecting which positions to apply to (location, job type, department, etc...)?
2. What is Interfolio and how does it work?
3. Is it worth applying for R1 positions if I know I want to work at a SLAC? Is it worth applying to visiting positions, or could they hurt me in future years?
4. Do you think it's necessary to have an online presence (website, Twitter, blog, etc...)?
5. Did you negotiate your contract?

# Questions (posed during the Q&A, added later)

1. At any point during your interviews, did the hiring committees test your language proficiency (whether modern or classical)?
2. Could you specify what you mean by tailoring application materials (either mentioning connections with affiliated faculty or tailoring to the job description)?
3. Is it a good idea (or a bad idea) to have a personal website and what should we or should we not put in there?
4. If the first year of job app isn't fruitful, can we extend our PhD program at Columbia so we don't graduate and end up in limbo with no affiliation?
5. What are the risks/challenges of de-affiliation in terms of remaining on the job market without complications? Also, what are some ways to overcome those challenges?
6. Could you talk more about the sending "mixed signals" part for teaching positions (regarding publications)?
7. If you have publications in a field outside of what you're applying for, does it look bad to list/include those? (in the sense that it looks like you're more well-published in something other than your actual field)

# Getting to the CTL's Teaching Statement Asynch Workshop:

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## Teaching Development Program (TDP)

The Teaching Development Program document, and reflect on teaching development

- Overview
- Offerings for Graduate Students
- Teaching Development Pathways
- Fellowships and Opportunities
- Student Spotlights
- Contacts for Graduate Instructors

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## On-demand Resources

CTL publishes several detailed guides that are available whenever you need them, in order to help you plan and start standard components of an academic job application. Engage with them on your own time, then come to analysis sessions (see below) for live conversation.

### Intro to the Teaching Statement

A teaching statement takes time to brainstorm, draft, and revise. This is why the CTL has designed this self-paced resource to introduce you to the teaching statement—one of the most frequently requested teaching materials on the academic job market—and help kickstart the writing of your first draft. [Access module.](#)

### Intro to the Diversity Statement

The diversity statement is a recent addition to the suite of materials hiring committees may ask for you to submit for academic job applications. These statements are often deeply personal and, as a result, can take a lot of time and effort to craft, elaborate, and revise. The CTL has designed this self-paced resource to introduce you to the diversity statement as a genre and help you begin the process of ideating and crafting the first draft of your statement. [Access module.](#)

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## Approaching the Job Market

Are you getting ready to go on the academic job market?

support for graduate students in both their current and future teaching responsibilities.

[Overview](#)

*Three easy steps!*