

Reflections on the Job Market

Sugat Chaturvedi

(Research Fellow, University of Sussex)

Indian Job Market for Economists

Timeline of the Market

- Starts from mid-August with policy jobs posted first:
 - **Industry jobs**
 - **Policy jobs**
 - **Academic jobs:** postdocs/AP positions; postdocs useful in building networks, polish your skills, and strengthen your research pipeline
- Finalize and polish your job market paper till the beginning of July and try to present it as often as you can to get feedback
- Work on your application packet for a couple of months; think carefully about your primary fields and research agenda
- Most interviews during December-January followed by offers

Standard Application Packet

- **Cover Letter:** personalize especially for foreign postdocs/AP positions (e.g. briefly mention how the position is suited to your research interests or why you like the city etc.)
- **Research Statement:** A concise summary of your research
- **Teaching Statement + evaluations** (if available): Your philosophy towards teaching, courses you have taught
- **Job Market Paper / writing sample:** Often single authored but there's a changing trend
- **Letters of Recommendation:** typically 3, but sometimes 2
- **Curriculum Vitae**
- **Diversity Statement** (especially for the American job market) – some places in India ask for a statement of impact
- **Additional paper(s)**

Note: Having a personal website is helpful too.

How Many Jobs to Apply for?

- Apply to as many jobs as you can – many U.S. candidates apply for well over 100 jobs; but don't apply for jobs you wouldn't take
- If unsure about how good a job is – apply (apriori it might be hard to see how the department is or how good the fit)
- Talk to your letter writers well in advance (ideally a couple of months) and ask them to upload references on the EJM portal:
 - The letters can then get added automatically to your applications
 - Especially for foreign postdocs/AP positions useful to tell how good/selective your PhD program is (they might not know about Indian institutions)
- Listen to your advisor and be clear about your goals – they understand the market well and have a wealth of knowledge

Common Interview Questions

- Tell us about your research/job market paper:
 - prepare a written 15 minutes spiel: 2 minutes to give the big picture and main results; 5 minutes to add more details, and rest of the time to elaborate on the details and conclude
 - Think of it like peeling the layers of an onion, in case the interviewer stops you in between this structure gives you enough opportunity to tell about your research
 - Answer questions well, but briefly and get back to your spiel
- Tell us about your teaching interests/dream course:
 - Be prepared to talk about course structure, reference material for a couple of courses or how you'll deal with non-economics students
- Tell us about your other papers/future research agenda
- Do you have any questions?; ~ 30 minutes long interview

Job Talk and Other Advice

- Practice your job talk with advisor and peers
 - around 60-90 minutes talk
 - focus on the breadth and depth of your JMP
- Dress appropriately during interviews and job talk
- Learn about the department/location well
- **Overall:** automate the application process as much as possible and also focus on self-care and eating/sleeping well
- On getting offer(s): Congrats!
 - Decide whether to accept the offer; be honest at all stages and never renege on an acceptance, ask for more time if needed
 - For some positions there is some room to negotiate; knowing about the department might help in figuring out what you can negotiate on

Thanks!

Contact: sugat.chaturvedi@gmail.com
sc2057@sussex.ac.uk