So You Think You Wanna Apply for a Postdoc....

Sarah M. Hansen
Wopat #?
April 16, 2008
Overview

What This Talk Will Cover

- Timeline
- Job Talks
- Typical Application Requirements
- Resources

Related Important Stuff that Will NOT Be in This Talk

- Finishing Your Thesis
- Other jobs
Aug

Sep

Oct

Nov

Dec

Jan

Feb

Mar

Apr

May

Jun

Jul

Aug

Aug

Finish Some Science; Start Job Planning

Sept 1

Jobs Start Being Posted

Oct–Jan

Applications Due; Give Talks

Jan

Offers Begin

Feb 15

Initial Response Deadline

Spring Paperwork (eg cMore)

Summer

Defend

Early August Thesis Office Deadline

Late August Commencement
Comments About Job Talks

- Useful for getting more people aware of you
- Not necessarily correlated with getting a job
- It is ok to email people asking if you can give a talk
- Don’t schedule the most important one first!
- Many places do not have travel support, so ask
- Your advisor’s contacts are invaluable here
- Consider going to winter AAS
Finding Fellowships

AAS Job Register

Hubble
Chandra
Spitzer
Jansky
NSF

Institution-specific: CfA + Clay, Princeton, Caltech, Pappalardo (MIT), Miller (Berkeley)...

Center-specific: KIPAC, BCCP, CCAPP, (KICP)...

and of course, loads of grant-specific jobs, too!
Application Materials

Typical:

- 3 letters
- CV
- Publications
- 2pg previous research
- 3pg (+ 2 pg for figs) research statement

Some notable exceptions: Miller, NSF
Tips

- Knowing people is really valuable - start early
- Being able to be “categorized” helps people remember you
- LaTeX formatting will take way longer than you think it will
- You won’t get any other work done in the fall!
- Having a paper out in the summer would be nice
- Sending around your CV (regardless of postings) can help
- Be knowledgeable about the places you apply
- The rumor mill is a valuable source of knowledge
Resources

Former Students/Current Postdocs!

AAS Job Register: [http://members.aas.org/JobReg/JobRegister.cfm](http://members.aas.org/JobReg/JobRegister.cfm)


Thesis Office (draft & final deadlines): Regenstein, 100-B

GOOD LUCK!