Introduction
This resource guide is meant as a general introduction to the academic job search for students in various disciplines and fields. It provides basic information about the job search process, suggests additional job search resources in print and online, and identifies Yale personnel who can offer advice and assistance. We hope this guide will help you find your bearings in one of the most stressful periods of your graduate school career. It will not, however, provide the discipline-specific strategies you will need to make your job search a success. The guide should serve as a supplement to rather than a substitute for the help and information you gather from your department and the members of your dissertation committee. By all means, look to colleagues in your department for as much advice and guidance as they can provide.

Contents
- Graduate Career Services
- Job Search Timeline
- Application Materials
- Researching Institutions
- Recommended Reading
- Sources for Position Listings

Job-Search Assistance from Graduate Career Services
Graduate Career Services (GCS), at the McDougal Center, offers a number of programs focused on the academic job search. Each fall, faculty members from departments spread across the humanities, social sciences and sciences are invited to share personal search experiences and insights gleaned from serving on search committees. In addition, the director of GCS offers workshops on preparing a curriculum vitae and on preparing a cover letter. GCS and the Graduate Teaching Center also offer a joint workshop on preparing for academic interviews. In the spring, panels of graduate students who have been successful in the current job cycle discuss their experiences and offer advice to students who will be going on the market the following year. GCS also works with individual departments to offer programs specifically designed for students in those departments.

The director of GCS, Mary Johnson, can help you individually by offering advice about writing your c.v. and cover letter, interviewing, evaluating an offer, negotiating a contract and working through career-related personal issues such as dual-career partnerships or making a decision to pursue nonacademic options. The director is available for hour-long appointments and for weekly walk-in hours – Tuesday 11 to noon and Friday 2 to 3 in HGS 124. To schedule an appointment, call 432-BLUE.

The dossier coordinator, Yvette Barnard, can help you set up a dossier file and can answer your questions about the dossier service. Stop by and visit her in HGS 126.
**Timeline**

The timing of an academic job search will differ somewhat for different fields. The timeline that follows is intended as a rough guide; fellow students and recent graduates from your department will be able to help you tailor your search to the normal rhythm in your department.

**The spring before you plan to go on the market**

- Inform your advisor and other faculty mentors that you plan to begin a job search. Solicit honest feedback from them about your readiness to be on the market.
- Evaluate the progress of your dissertation research and writing, and make firm plans to finish in time to accept a May degree (at least). Most departments will expect new faculty to enter teaching positions with Ph.D. in hand. Keep in mind that you will be forced to sacrifice a considerable amount of writing time to job search activities in the coming year.

**July and August**

- Begin compiling your dossier: ask professors for letters of recommendation. Be sure you approach faculty early enough to leave them ample time to write thoughtful recommendations.
- Prepare drafts of your c.v., cover letter, and other application materials you expect to need (statement of teaching philosophy, description of future research, dissertation abstract, etc.). Share these drafts with your recommenders, both to assist them in writing letters of recommendation and to assist you in making revisions.
- Begin to develop one or two syllabi for courses you would like to teach (perhaps one introductory and one advanced course). Even though you may never have the chance to teach the courses you propose, these syllabi should be carefully crafted and reflect the breadth and depth of your teaching competencies.

**September**

- Check that your dossier file is complete.
- Begin your search for job openings in your field (see “Sources for Position Listings,” below). You may want to research the universities to which you send applications, in order to tailor your cover letter and c.v. to suit individual departments’ hiring needs. (You will want to do more research later, both on the institution and on specific faculty members, for departments that offer you a conference interview or on-campus visit.)
- Set up a system for organizing your job search process. Keep records of the materials each search committee has requested and what you have sent (and when you sent it). If you have prepared different versions of your c.v. or cover letter for different applications, be sure to note which version has been sent to which departments. You will need to know later how you have presented yourself.
- Consider what you might present in an on-campus job talk. Also, select the piece of written work you will use as a writing sample. Choose a writing sample different from the material you intend to present at your job talk.

**October-December**

- Keep your advisor and other faculty members informed of your progress. Tell them your top choice schools, and tell them where you have been offered interviews or given some show of interest.
- Submit additional documentation (transcript, writing sample, sample syllabi, teaching evaluations, statement of teaching philosophy) as search committees request it. Continue to record which committees have seen which materials.
- Finalize syllabi for proposed courses. Select and prepare material for job talk.
- If conference interviews are the norm in your field, consider making arrangements to attend your professional organization’s annual meeting. Although you may not hear about interviews until shortly before the conference, it may reduce the aggravation and expense to arrange travel in advance.
Application Materials

The essential items in an academic job application are your curriculum vitae, cover letter, and dossier (letters of recommendation). Depending on your field of study and the type of position for which you are applying, search committees may ask for additional materials during the job search. These items could include:

- Graduate and undergraduate transcripts  (On your request, Yale’s dossier service will include your Yale graduate transcript in your dossier.)
- Writing sample
- Teaching portfolio
- Statement of teaching philosophy
- Research agenda or statement of future research plans
- Sample syllabi
- Teaching evaluations

Your departmental placement coordinator, DGS, or junior faculty in your department should be able to advise you about standard application materials in your field.

The Curriculum Vitae

A curriculum vitae, or c.v., details your academic history and educational background in reverse chronological order and in the third person. Unlike a resume for a nonacademic job search, a c.v. can be longer than one page; at the start of your career, it will most likely be two to three pages in length. A c.v. is headed by the applicant’s name and contact information. The information that follows is grouped into categories, each with a simple heading. Traditional categories for a c.v. are:

- Education
- Dissertation
- Honors/Fellowships/Awards
- Publications
- Conference Presentations
- Experience (Teaching and/or Research)
- Languages
- Professional Memberships
- References

Depending on your background and the positions for which you are applying, you may also use categories such as the following: research interests, teaching interests, university service, professional service, archival experience, or related professional experience. The order in which categories are listed on your c.v. suggests an order of priority, and you may wish to tailor the order and perhaps content of your c.v. to suit different audiences. For example, you might emphasize teaching experience and interests and de-emphasize conference presentations in applying for a position at a liberal arts college.

Sample c.v.’s from various disciplines are available in the McDougal Center Resource Library in HGS 120. For additional tips and samples, refer to the published guides to the academic job search in the Resource Library.

The Cover Letter

In the cover letter that accompanies your curriculum vitae, you introduce yourself to the search committee and discuss your dissertation, ongoing research interests, and teaching. You want to convey that you are an active scholar and teacher at the start of a productive career. Although the cover letter is formulaic, in the sense that there are a number of topics that need to be covered in a standard order, it is nonetheless a good deal more personal than the c.v. It is your voice, not just an outline of your academic activities. Revise your cover letter many times, soliciting advice from your advisor and others in your department as you do so. As with the c.v., you may tailor your cover letter to accompany different sorts of applications. The typical length of a cover letter is one and a half pages.
Tips on cover letter content:

- Address your letter to the chair of the search committee.
- State who you are, how you heard of the job, and when you will receive your degree.
- Describe your dissertation. This is the most important part of your letter, particularly in applications to research institutions. Highlight the significance of your project.
- Describe your other ongoing or anticipated research project(s), explaining perhaps how they build on your dissertation research.
- Discuss your teaching experience and philosophy. This is especially important if you are applying for a teaching position.
- Note any special connection you have to the school – this could be done either in closing or in the introductory paragraph.
- Indicate your willingness to send more materials (writing sample, teaching evaluations, etc.). If conference interviews are the norm in your field, you may also indicate that you will be attending the upcoming annual meeting and would be happy to meet with the search committee at that time.

Sample cover letters are available in the McDougal Center Resource Library in HGS 120. For additional tips and samples, refer to the published guides to the academic job search in the Resource Library.

Compiling a Dossier

The Yale University Graduate School’s dossier service maintains confidential files for students and alumni/ae of the graduate school. Your dossier file consists of letters of recommendation and an official Yale University Graduate School transcript. When a transcript is not specifically requested, your dossier consists only of letters of recommendation. In order to establish a dossier, you will need to complete a Personal Reference Form (for the dossier service) and a Recommendation Form (for the faculty who write these letters). All dossier service forms are available in the dossier service office in the McDougal Center. It is your responsibility to check that your recommenders have written and delivered their letters. Once all letters are received, your dossier is complete, and you can fill out request forms authorizing your dossier (with or without transcript) to be copied and forwarded to prospective employers. The fee for each request is $5.

In some departments, it is customary for professors to send letters of recommendation directly to the schools where a student is applying. It does make a strong impression for a letter to be tailored to a particular school and position by the recommender and to come directly from the recommender. Since this is not practical on a large scale, you may want to request it only for your one or two top-choice schools. For the rest of your applications, take advantage of the convenience of the dossier service. Once established, your file can be revised and updated during the course of your professional career. For more information and to pick up forms, stop by the office in HGS 120 or visit http://www.yale.edu/graduateschool/mcdougal/dossier.html.

Researching Institutions

At different points in the job search process, you will want to do research on institutions to which you have applied or are considering applying. Preliminary research will help you identify universities at which you would enjoy working (size, selectiveness, location, diversity, presence or absence of a graduate program) and departments that might be a good fit for your talents and interests. Once you have received interview offers, further research will give you valuable background information on each department’s course offerings, faculty profiles, new undertakings, etc.

A great deal of information about colleges and universities is available online, and institutional and departmental web sites may be the quickest way to find information of interest to you. Published sources of background information on colleges and universities include U.S. News & World Report, American Universities and Colleges (available in several Yale libraries), and Barron’s Profiles of American Colleges. For information on graduate programs, you might consult The Gourman Report: A Rating of Graduate and Professional Programs in American and International Universities, which is available in the library.
Recommended Reading

The McDougal Center Resource Library houses a collection of books dealing with the academic job search and with more general concerns of young academics. Here we provide a list and capsule descriptions of works that may be of interest to new Ph.D.s on the job market. These books may be used in the Resource Library or checked out to the McDougal Common Room for a short time. The Resource Library, located in HGS 120, is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

On the academic job search:


Forno and Reed, 1999. *Job Search in Academe: Strategic Rhetorics for Faculty Job Candidates*. A look at the job search process from the perspective of two assistant professors; includes narratives, advice, and samples.


Reis, 1997. *Tomorrow’s Professor: Preparing for Academic Careers in Science and Engineering*. A guide for would-be science professors. Covers professional preparation while in graduate school, the academic job search, and surviving your first years on the job.


On academic life:

Aguirre, Jr., 2000. *Women and Minority Faculty in the Academic Workplace: Recruitment, Retention, and Academic Culture*. Argues that the recruitment of women and members of racial/ethnic minorities into faculty positions has proceeded without an understanding of how white-male-dominated academic culture affects their professional socialization and workplace satisfaction.


Caplan, 1994. *Lifting a Ton of Feathers: A Woman’s Guide to Surviving in the Academic World*. A book of “strategic information and survival skills” for women in academia, prepared by a Canadian professor. Includes a chapter of suggestions for specific situations (graduate school, the job search, the tenure process) and an extensive bibliography.


Gregory, 1995. *Black Women in the Academy: The Secrets to Success and Achievement*. A study of the reasons black women choose “to remain in, return to, or voluntarily leave the academy,” and of the factors promoting their success and achievement.


Toth, 1997. *Ms. Mentor’s Impeccable Advice for Women in Academia.* Ms. Mentor, the creation of English professor Emily Toth, offers her sage and sometimes hilarious advice to young woman scholars, from graduate school through tenure. (More recent columns from Ms. Mentor are available in the Career Talk section of the *Chronicle* website.)

Wenninger and Conroy, 2001. *Gender Equity or Bust! On the Road to Campus Leadership with Women in Higher Education.* The best of the monthly newsletter *Women in Higher Education.* Includes advice and first-person accounts relating to all areas of academic life – especially women’s experiences as leaders.

**Sources for Position Listings**

This section indexes sources of position listings in a wide variety of disciplines. (A number of these sources, especially in science disciplines, list postdoctoral research positions in addition to faculty openings.) The emphasis is on online sources, not because these are the only alternative but because they tend to be easily accessible and frequently updated. Of course, this list is far from exhaustive. There are many sources of employment listings that could not be included here; fellow students, faculty members (especially new junior faculty), reference books, and strategic Internet searching will help you gather information on other sources of job postings in your field.

**Multidisciplinary**

The *Chronicle of Higher Education* ([www.chronicle.com](http://www.chronicle.com)) publishes job listings in many disciplines. These listings are also available on the Chronicle’s Web site (immediately for subscribers; following publication of the next issue for non-subscribers). Although the Chronicle’s online articles can only be read by subscribers, the advice columns and other materials in the “Career Network” section are available to the general public.

[Academic360.com](http://www.academic360.com) (formerly Jobs in Higher Education) provides access to job listings for a wide variety of disciplines ([http://www.academic360.com](http://www.academic360.com)). Users can identify sources of position listings either by discipline or by accessing specific universities’ help-wanted pages. Academic360 lists administrative and staff positions in addition to faculty openings.

[**H-Net**](http://www.h-net.msu.edu/) (Humanities and Social Sciences Online) has an online Job Guide at [oldwww.matrix.msu.edu/jobs](http://oldwww.matrix.msu.edu/jobs). Position listings are grouped in three main categories (History and the Humanities, Social Science, Rhetoric and Communications), each of which is further sorted by discipline. Some of H-Net’s e-mail listservs also provide periodic job postings; consider signing up for list(s) related to your specialty.

*Science* magazine’s [*Next Wave*](http://nextwave.sciencemag.org) offers career advice and job listings for young scientists. To access position listings from *Science* and other sources, choose the “JobsNet” link on the Next Wave homepage. Many of the sites indexed on JobsNet – including *Science* Careers and *The Scientist* – also list postdoctoral openings. Computers in the Yale network can access Next Wave for free.

**African American Studies**

See American Studies, English Language and Literature, Political Science, and other related fields.

**American Studies**

The [*American Studies Association*](http://www.georgetown.edu/crossroads/association.html) offers online job listings for positions in American Studies and related fields (from the ASA home page, [http://www.georgetown.edu/crossroads/assao.html](http://www.georgetown.edu/crossroads/assao.html), click on “ASA Resources” and scroll down to “Employment” in the menu headed “Opportunities and Resources Online”). Positions are also advertised in the quarterly *ASA Newsletter*, sent to all ASA members.

**Anthropology**

The Web site of the [*American Anthropological Association*](http://www.americananthropology.org) has a page “Careers in Anthropology”
(http://www.aaanet.org/careers.htm) with online job listings. The AAA also operates a placement service that provides the publication Placement Service Notes (10 issues/year) and other information to job seekers. The placement service can be reached at placement@aaanet.org. Job opportunities are also advertised in the AAA’s Anthropology Newsletter (monthly, Sept–May).

A joint Archaeological Institute of America/American Philological Association placement service provides a monthly listing of job openings (Positions for Classicists and Archaeologists) and compiles applicants’ vitae into an annual Placement Book (submission deadline for the 2001-02 academic year is October 5, 2001). For more information and to download application forms, see http://www.archaeological.org/webinfo.php?page=10094. Job listings from Positions for Classicists and Anthropologists are also available on the APAs web site, www.apaclassics.org.

Applied Mathematics
The Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics maintains an online directory of employment opportunities (http://www.siam.org/profops/profops.htm) and publishes job listings in its newsletter SIAM News (ten times annually). Positions in both academe and industry are included.

Astronomy
The American Astronomical Society publishes a monthly, online Job Register listing positions at universities and observatories (use the “Job Register” link on the AAS home page, www.aas.org/career/index.htm). The AAS will notify interested members via e-mail when a new Job Register is available; contact address@aas.org to subscribe to this service. The AAS also organizes a Job Center at its biannual conventions.

Biological and Biomedical Sciences
The Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology maintains a Career Resources Web site (https://career.faseb.org/careerweb) featuring an online index of employment opportunities (faculty positions, postdoctoral fellowships, and non-academic jobs) as well as other services for job-seekers. Listings are updated every Wednesday. The FASEB Web site also has an online index of its member societies (http://www.faseb.org/societies.html), several of which provide their own job listing services.

Chemistry
The American Chemical Society Web site offers a variety of online career resources; from the ACS home page (http://www.acs.org/), Job listings are published in the weekly Chemical & Engineering News classifieds, available via the online service ChemJobs (http://cen-chemjobs.org). Access to postings is restricted to ACS members for the first two weeks; older listings (including faculty, postdoctoral, and industry positions) are available to the public. At ChemJobs, job seekers can also post their resumes in a free database.

Classics
The American Philological Association (www.apaclassics.org) maintains a placement service jointly with the Archaeological Institute of America. See under “Anthropology.”

Comparative Literature
The American Comparative Literature Association (http://www.acla.org) provides online job listings on its Web site; from the ACLA home page, click on “ Recent Announcements.”
See also English Language and Literature.

Computer Science
The Association for Computing Machinery maintains a Career Opportunities Web site at http://campus.acm.org/crc. Job listings are also published in the monthly newsletter Communications of the ACM. Another possible source is the American Society for Information Science and Technology site at http://www.asis.org/Jobline/.

English Language and Literature
The Modern Language Association’s (http://www.mla.org) Job Information List is available in both online and print form. The print version is published four times a year; the online version is updated weekly (beginning
September 20 for the 2001-02 academic year). Subscribers can choose either the English edition (for positions in English or American language and literature) or the foreign language edition (for positions in other languages and literatures) of the JIL. A subscription form is available online; from the MLA home page, choose the “Job Information List” link.

The Associated Writing Programs (http://awpwriter.org) publishes the AWP Job List, listing academic and nonacademic positions open to writers, seven times each year. AWP members may also subscribe to Job List Online to receive access to online job postings and periodic e-mail updates. AWP also offers a Career Placement Service to members; see http://awpwriter.org/careers/placement.htm for more information.

French
See English Language and Literature.

Geology and Geophysics
The Geological Society of America publishes job listings in its monthly newsletter GSA Today and on its Web site (http://www.geosociety.org/classads/classads.htm; also check out the link for the GSA Employment Matching Service). A list of other online resources for job-seeking geologists is on the GSA site at http://www.geosociety.org/science/.

The American Geophysical Union provides job listings online (http://www.agu.org); only AGU members can view this material. Employment opportunities are also published in Eos, the AGU’s weekly newsletter.

Germanic Languages and Literatures
See English Language and Literature.

History
The American Historical Association publishes job listings in its membership newsletter Perspectives (monthly during the academic year). AHA members can also view current job ads online; listings are updated weekly.

History of Art
The College Art Association of America (www.collegeart.org) publishes the bimonthly newsletter Careers, with job listings for art historians and other fine arts professionals. CAA also provides placement services at its annual meeting in February. For more information on placement services, contact Lehadima Land, the CAA Placement Coordinator, at land@collegeart.org. There is also a career development website at http://www.collegeart.org/caa/career/index.html

The Association for Art History (http://www.indiana.edu/~aah) provides job and fellowship listings online (click “Job Listings” at the bottom of the AAH home page).

History of Medicine and Science
The History of Science Society maintains an online list of employment opportunities at , Job listings are also published in the Society’s quarterly Newsletter.

The Society for the History of Technology publishes job listings in its quarterly Newsletter and on its Web site (see http://shot.jhu.edu/news/employ.htm).

Italian Language and Literature
See English Language and Literature.

Linguistics
The Linguistic Society of America’s Web site has an index of job opportunities. From the homepage, click “Jobs.” Job listings are also published in the quarterly LSA Bulletin. Although all listings from the Bulletin are also posted online, some Web site listings may not appear in the Bulletin.
Mathematics
The American Mathematical Society provides searchable online employment listings, covering both academic and non-academic positions, at https://www.ams.org/eims/. The same information in newsletter form (Employment Information in the Mathematical Sciences) is published five times a year. AMS members can register to receive e-mail notification of the newest postings. The AMS Web site also provides access to the AMS Coversheet Service – a paper coversheet to go with each job application is available for downloading, and information for an electronic coversheet can be submitted online.

Medieval Studies
The American Medieval Academy (http://www.medievalacademy.org) publishes job listings in its thrice-yearly bulletin Medieval Academy News. Job listings are also available online (from the AMA home page, click “Announcements”).

Music
The College Music Society publishes Music Vacancy List, a directory of current employment opportunities in music and higher education. Members of CMS can receive the MVL in a paper edition (mailed monthly), as weekly e-mail updates, or as a searchable online database. For subscription information, select the “Music Vacancy List” link from the CMS home page, http://www.music.org.

Philosophy
The American Philosophical Association (http://www.udel.edu/apa/) publishes academic and non-academic job openings in a quarterly newsletter, Jobs for Philosophers (free to APA members; must be requested with dues payment). Members can also access Jobs for Philosophers online. In addition, the APA has an online JobSeeker Database (JobS, http://www.apa.udel.edu/JobS) where individuals on the job market can post information about themselves and their specialties. Departments that advertise in Jobs for Philosophers can then search the database for applicants who may be especially suitable for the position they are seeking to fill.

Physics
The American Institute of Physics posts job listings on its Career Services Web site, http://www.aip.org/careersvc. These include faculty, postdoctoral, and nonacademic positions and can be browsed or searched by keyword. Job listings are also published in the AIP's monthly newsletter Physics Today. (To search the listings via the Physics Today web site, go to http://aip.jobcenter.com/search.cfm).

The American Physical Society Web site also has a careers page (http://www.aps.org/jobs) with a list of online sources of employment information for physicists (click on “Additional Listings”).

Political Science
The American Political Science Association maintains an employment Web page at http://www.apsanet.org/jobple/index.cfm. The APSA publishes a monthly Personnel Service Newsletter listing jobs in political science. Subscribers can choose between an online-only version, PSN Online, or a print version (print subscribers are also allowed online access). The APSA also provides an online job-search service, eJobs, and organizes a Professional Placement Service at its annual meetings.

Psychology
The American Psychological Association operates a free, online Career Resource Center (http://www.psycareers.com/index.cfm) where job-seekers can search online job postings and enter their resumes into a database available to employers.

Religious Studies
The American Academy of Religion (http://www.aarweb.org/profession/default.asp) publishes Openings: Employment Opportunities for Scholars of Religion six times annually. Members of AAR can also view Openings online. In addition, the AAR's Employment Information Services program coordinates an Interview Center at the society's Annual Meeting in November.
Slavic Languages and Literatures
The American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies (http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~aaass) prints job listings in its bimonthly publication NewsNet.

The American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages provides online job listings and a list of other Web sources for employment opportunities relating to Russia and Eastern Europe at http://aat-seel.org/jobs/job-index.html. Job information is also available in the AATSEEL Newsletter, published quarterly. See also English Language and Literature.

Sociology
The American Sociological Association’s monthly Employment Bulletin can be accessed online at http://www.asanet.org/pubs/eb. Both academic and nonacademic positions are listed. To order a hard-copy subscription to the Employment Bulletin, fill out the form at http://www.asanet.org/forms/subs.html and return to the address provided.

Spanish and Portuguese
The Latin American Studies Association maintains an Electronic Employment Bulletin Board at http://lasa.international.pitt.edu/employment.htm. Job listings are also published in the quarterly LASA Forum. See also English Language and Literature.

Statistics
The American Statistical Association maintains online job listings at http://www.amstat.org/careers. The listings, which include both academic and nonacademic positions, can be searched by keyword and geographic location. The ASA’s monthly publication, Amstat News, also prints job openings.

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