Research Careers within Academia

You have decided to pursue an academic career so how can you progress? What can you be doing to increase your chances of success within the academic job market? Read on to find out more.

Building your employability:

What action can you take that is going to add value to your CV and put you in a better position for moving up the career ladder? Spending some time thinking about how your achievements compare to your colleagues and the wider academic market can be useful. How can you make yourself more competitive? Watch the short workshop about building your employability.

Thinking about the areas that employers will assess you on is really important. It can be useful to look at academic vacancies on a regular basis so that you can see what skills and experience is regularly asked for. This then gives you an idea what skills and experience you need to develop. Once you know the skills and experience that you need to demonstrate you need to set an action plan that maps out how you will achieve these goals within the next 12 months.

What areas might you need to focus on?

If you are interested to know more about the "common metrics" of success that academic employers are on the lookout for then listen to the recording on "Getting your first Lecturing Job".

This recording highlights some of the main areas that are used to measure academic success such as number of publications, grants and funding awarded and teaching experience as just a few examples. Once you have listened and looked at the slides that go along with it you may want further information on some of the topics raised.

Gaining teaching experience – Research Staff Hub

IAD Producing Research Outputs

Writing Research grants – Research Staff Hub

Once you've taken steps to build up your employability you need to think about developing an awareness of the academic sector and how colleagues and other academics have progressed their careers. The main university Careers Service has some great information. The IAD also provides some further information in the form of a case study bank.

Applying for Research Jobs:

The final stage to think about is making applications for your next role. Do you know where to look for academic vacancies? The following gives a good idea but is not intended as an exhaustive list:

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UK focussed vacancy websites:

https://www.jobs.ac.uk/

https://www.timeshighereducation.com/unijobs/

Europe:

https://www.academicjobseu.com/

https://academicpositions.co.uk/

https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/jobs

https://www.findapostdoc.com/

US focussed:

https://www.academickeys.com/

https://jobs.chronicle.com/

https://www.higheredjobs.com/

Global:

https://www.nature.com/naturecareers

https://jobs.newscientist.com/en-gb/

Once you have started looking at academic vacancies you may feel that you could benefit from advice regarding your CV, covering letter and personal statements. The following are useful resources:

Quick Guide to Academic CVs

Academic CV Checklist

Further guidance on what to include within an academic CV from the Careers Service

The Royal Society Resume for Researchers is an example of a CV that highlights individuals more varied contributions to their career progression

Covering letter key points

Article on writing covering letters IAD Researchers Blog

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Guidance on Interviews:

University of Edinburgh Careers Service advice on preparing for [Academic Interviews](#)

IAD blog post on preparing for [Academic Interviews](#)

Interview Resources from [Abintegro](#) (requires EASE Login)

Interview advice from [Jobs.ac.uk](#)

Guidance on Interviews: