

PhD, Job Market, and Academic Life:
A short guide

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Research Seminar

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PhD

① Getting started: Choosing your research question

- ▶ Big picture, relevant, changes the way we think about a phenomenon
- ▶ Puzzling evidence, new facts, new mechanism (surprise!), pre-hot topics
- ▶ Know the literature, but get your hands dirty, try and fail
- ▶ Everything else is details...

② Research phase

- ▶ Alone or with co-authors: field dependent, but JMP (single), others (joint)
 - Work with other PhDs (learn a lot, more fun, move faster)
 - Work with professors as RAs (often offered to be coauthor)
- ▶ How many projects? Focus on 1 or 2 at a time
- ▶ Constant feedback: advisor, other professors, colleagues, visitors

PhD life (cont...)

③ Presenting your work

- ▶ Internal, student conferences (GSE Jamboree, Vigo), big conferences
- ▶ Very important: Attend seminars with external speakers!
 - Keep updated with new research, get ideas
 - Learn presentation skills
- ▶ Talk about your research to people outside your field (and outside economics)

④ Balance your life

- ▶ PhD (specially 3rd year), can be tough and lonely
- ▶ Stay healthy, exercise, have a social life (easy in BCN, but not everywhere)
- ▶ Do not compare yourself to others, classmates are colleagues and supporters, not your competition!

Job Market

⑤ The Job Market

- ▶ **Matching institution between PhDs and jobs:**
 - Universities and research centers (Tenure-track assistant professor)
 - Policy institutions (Central Banks, IMF, other...)
 - A few private sector jobs (consulting, financial institutions)
- ▶ **Key objects:**
 - JMP: your best paper so far
 - Letters of recommendation (important that professors know you)
 - Other: teaching evaluations, CV
- ▶ **4 very organized stages: 1/3 rule**
 - (i) Centralized application system: easy but tedious, signals
 - (ii) Interviews (US and European markets): Very polished short spiel
 - (iii) Fly-outs: clear slides + excellent presentation skills
 - (iv) Offers: negotiation

* My guide to the job market here with Dan Greenwald (MIT)

Academic Life

⑥ **Business as usual: Do research and publish well**

- ▶ More resources (grants and RAs' human capital), less time
- ▶ Stronger co-author network, students, people in the field know you

⑦ **New job: New responsibilities**

- ▶ Tenured-track assistant professor: teaching, advising, mentoring
- ▶ Policy institution (Central Bank): Policy work
- ▶ Service component (run seminars, JM interviews)
- ▶ Lots of travel and nice dinners (conferences, seminars...)

⑧ **(Long) Publication process**

- ▶ Choosing journal: editor, trends, response time, top 5 vs. top fields
- ▶ Timing: early (risk of desk rejection), late (not enough time)
- ▶ Referee reports: reject, revise and resubmit (R&R), acceptance (2-3 rounds)
- ▶ Refereeing: a repeated game

Seminar Series

Department Seminars Series I

- **Macroeconomics**

<http://www.crei.cat/seminars/crei-upf-seminar/>

- **Microeconomics**

<https://www.upf.edu/web/econ/microeconomics-seminar-series>

- **Econometrics**

<https://www.upf.edu/web/econ/econometrics-seminar-series>

- **Applied**

<https://www.upf.edu/web/econ/upf-labor/political-economy/development-faculty-and-student-breakfast-workshop>

- **Development**

<https://vdevecon.wixsite.com/website>

Department Seminars Series II

- **Finance**

<https://www.upf.edu/web/econ/finance-seminar-series>

- **Management**

<https://www.upf.edu/web/econ/management-seminar-series>

- **Operations Research**

<https://www.upf.edu/web/econ/marketing-operations-research>

- **Statistics**

<https://www.upf.edu/web/econ/statistics-seminar-series>

Student seminars and other activities

Internal Student Seminars

- **Macroeconomics** Lunch Workshop (Students)
<http://www.crei.cat/seminars/macroeconomics-breakfast/>
- International **Macroeconomics** Lunch Workshop (Students)
<http://www.crei.cat/seminars/international-lunch/>
- Internal **Applied** Lunch Seminar Series (Students)
<https://www.upf.edu/web/econ/internal-applied-lunch-seminar-series>
- **UPF Students** Seminar Series
<https://sites.google.com/view/upfstudentseminar/home>

Other

- PhD Jamboree (with UAB)
- GSE Trobada
- Departmental Seminars