

Job Market Tips

Frequently Asked Interview Questions

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- Practice the top 20 FAQ of your jmp
- The rest of the questions are fairly standardized
- Practice techniques to answer questions well (see presentation)
- Some questions may be asked to test how you handle the pressure, so keep calm

1. Questions on your current or future research agenda

- Give us an overview of your research agenda
- Tell us about paper X
- Tell us about the next 3 papers you will write
- Sell a vision, have 2 min spiel prepared for all of your papers

2. Big picture questions

- Why should we care?
- What are the policy / real world implications of your work?
- Who would pay to know the answer to your research question?
- Do the work before, have a good framing that motivates very well

3. Questions to make sure it is your idea

- How did you get the idea for this paper?
- Why didn't you estimate X instead?
- Why didn't you use data Y instead?
- Be confident and have good explanations

4. Questions to make sure you can think on your feet

- Philosophical questions outside of your specific field
- Issues unrelated to your JMP
- Show general knowledge but steer back to the JMP

5. Questions to make sure you communicate well

- Please interpret and explain this estimate so that anyone can understand it
- Be clear and concise

6. Questions to make sure you are productive

- When will you finish your dissertation?
 - What are the next 3 papers you will write?
 - What is your research agenda for the next five years?
 - Do you plan to continue collaborating with your co-authors/advisors?
- Have plans (e.g. research question, framework, data, methods)

7. Questions to understand where you fit in the field

- What methods will you use for your research?
 - What journals do you consider the most appropriate outlets?
 - What will be your major conferences?
- Know your crowd, aim high for journals

8. Questions to make sure you know your field well

- To what journal will you send your jmp?
 - Who would be the ideal referees for your jmp and why?
 - If you were to teach a PhD course in your field, what would be the key papers on the syllabus?
 - Which senior (or junior) academic would you like to emulate and why?
 - Tell us the best paper you have seen presented recently and explain why
 - Based on your reading of the literature and participation in seminars and conferences, where do you see your field going?
- Prepare answers

9. Questions to make sure you are a good fit for the school and willing to accept an offer

- Why are you interested in our school?
 - What led you to apply?
 - Is the location of the school a problem?
 - Do you think you would be happy at a department like ours?
 - Is there anything you would like us to know that is not on your CV?
 - Who could you work with in our department/school?
- Do your research on the school before

10. Questions to make sure you are a good teacher

- What is your teaching experience?
- What would you like to teach?
- What textbooks/articles would you use to teach?
- What is your teaching philosophy?
- How would you teach our students in particular?
- Did you prepare a syllabus?

→ Refer to your teaching syllabus

11. **Inappropriate questions**

- Anything related to sexuality, children, family status, ...
- Don't answer the question if it makes you feel uncomfortable. Instead, say "I am assuming that you are wondering if I am free to accept the position and give it the dedication it requires. I can assure you that the answer is yes."