How to Get a Job
January 14, 2010
Job Hunters Web Site

http://cse-gsa.ucsd.edu/csewiki/Job Hunters2010
Upcoming Deadlines

- **Jan. 15**: CMU, EPFL, Rice, UCLA, Wisconsin
- **Others**
  - Toronto (**Jan. 17**)
  - Santa Clara (**Jan. 20**)
  - WUSTL (**Jan. 31**)
  - Washington (**Feb. 1**)
Audience

- Graduating PhDs, Postdocs
- Students not graduating but thinking about jobs
Our Focus

- Academia
  - Research
  - Teaching
- Industrial Research Labs
- Focus on getting the job
  (less focus on pros/cons of the above)
Providing a Forum

- Learn practical tips
- Meet other applicants
- Get informed
Hot Topics Session

• For each area in computer science...
  • What's hot?
  • What institutions are well-known?
  • What is UCSD known for?
Hot Topics planning

• When: January 27 at 3 – 6 pm (reschedule for Feb. 9?)

• Speakers: need volunteers
  • Embedded
  • OS
  • PL
  • Software Engineering/HCI
  • VLSI
Faculty Panel

- Stefan Savage
- Sanjoy Dasgupta
Phases of Job Hunting

- Pre-application
- Application (Geoff, Sorin)
- Interview ← today's focus
- Post-interview
Interview Phase

• Scheduling
  • Be excited. Desirable interviews come later. Might not have too much flexibility. (Schedule talk on first day!)

• The Job Talk
  • Put in “insane” amount of effort (video tape, practice Q&A). Be mindful of your audience (how broad is it?). Project enthusiasm. Good motivation. You should choose the “summary sentence.” Consult your advisers.

• One-on-one interviews
  • Extremes: “dead fish” and “yappers.” Small talk outside your area, express interest in their field (bonus: connect to your field). Time: 2/3 your work, 1/3 their work. Or more meta questions. Avoid dead air.

• Meeting with students (if applicable)
  • Opportunity to learn more about the culture
Typical Academic Schedule

• Correspond w/ your host (ideally, advocate)
• Meetings w/ chairs, deans, administrators: plan for the dept./school? Timely questions – how is weathering the current crisis?
• Individual meetings 30—45 min. each (watch the time... politely)
• Lunch, dinner: YOU'RE STILL UNDER THE GUN. Minimize alcohol. Don't say negative things about people. Tactfully broach hobbies and interests.
• Student meeting
• Research your one-on-one meetings
Typical Lab Schedule

- Differs from academic in following ways...
- Meeting with specific groups (they care about your capacity to **collaborate**)
- May have coding questions
Key questions to ask (or not to ask)

- (In Labs) How do projects get put together, etc?
- (In Academia) Asking students how much collaboration, etc.
- Sometimes need to phrase your direct questions indirectly.
- Avoid questions about family.
Misc

- **Attire**: Dress nicely + comfortably. Be aware of regional/cultural differences. Try not to come across “disrespectful.”

- **Energy**: push yourself really hard. (rest between interview trips is important.) simultaneous research + interviewing is tough, not expected.

- **Following-up**: not expected. *natural* follow-up of particular conversations could be good. Boiler-plate follow-up not helpful.
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