

Job Getting Skills In Astronomy

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Discussion Outline

- General skills necessary for all jobs
- Preparation now for future job searches
- Skills needed for job hunting
- Most important skills



General Job-Getting Skills

- Interpersonal Skills
 - Group meetings, subject specific meetings, TA work, etc.
- Communication Skills
 - Presentations, poster sessions, conferences
- Critical Thinking Skills
 - Classwork, general research, public outreach

General Job-Getting Skills (cont)

- Personal Development
 - Your CV should show how you have developed as your career has progressed
- Presentation Skills
 - Ties in with communication skills, learn how to use powerpoint, practice through other means
- Leadership
 - Grant proposals, research projects, outreach events, community service, etc.

Preparation Now for Future Job Ops

- Networking
 - Go to meetings/conferences, get letter writers, know your collaborators
- Write proposals, write papers, work your CV
- Build technical skills
 - Programming, mathematical expertise, instrumentation, etc.
- Attend workshops
- Build Teaching skills
 - TA work, public outreach, summer professorships

Job Hunting Skills

- What are you looking for
 - Post-doc, faculty position, science management, science staff, etc.
- Where/when should you start looking
 - AAS Job Register:
 - <https://jobregister.aas.org>
 - Astrobetter Rumor Mill:
 - <http://www.astrobetter.com/wiki/Rumor+Mill>
 - 266 Current postings
 - Astro jobs Facebook page

AAS Job Register

Current Job Ad Listing			
ID	Title	Institution/Organization	Posted
Faculty Positions (visiting & non-tenure)			
New #53945	KASI-Job Opening: Junior Research Leader Positions in the KASI	Korea Astronomy and Space Science Institute	Apr 2016
Faculty Positions (tenure & tenure-track)			
New #53963	Faculty Position (Astronomy) at NCRA-TIFR	National Centre for Radio Astrophysics, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research	Apr 2016
New #53965	Faculty Position (Observatory Support) at NCRA-TIFR	National Centre for Radio Astrophysics, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research	Apr 2016
New #53967	Faculty Position (Technology Development) at NCRA-TIFR	National Centre for Radio Astrophysics, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research	Apr 2016
New #53988	Permanent Position in Cosmology at CEA Saclay, Service d'Astrophysique	CEA Saclay	Apr 2016
#53799	Tenure-Track Position in Astrophysics at the Institute for Radioastronomy and Astrophysics, UNAM, Mexico	Institute of Radioastronomy & Astrophysics, National University of Mexico	Mar 2016
#52912	Faculty Positions at School of Physics, HUST	School of Physics, Huazhong University of Science and Technology	Feb 2016

Astrobetter Rumor Mill

Postdoc or term positions

Place/Institution (alphabetical)	Matches (in boldface if accepted)
Academia Sinica Institute of Astronomy and Astrophysics (ASIAA, ad)	Due November 30, 2015. Some offers made (~10) and accepted . Rejections sent. There is a waitlist.
AIP Potsdam Schwarzschild Fellowship (ad)	Due December 1, 2015. Shortlist made, interviews in January; shortlist notified, including Arianna Di Cintio, Federico Lelli, Christoph Behrens, Denija Crnojevic.
Anton Pannekoek Institute for Astronomy, University of Amsterdam (Multi-wavelength astrophysics w/ Degenaar) (ad)	Due January 15, 2016; shortlist made, rejection e-mails sent, waiting list notified. (Skype) interviews in February; shortlist includes Aarran Shaw, Juan Venancio Hernández Santisteban . Offer made and accepted .

Job Hunting Skills (cont)

- Create a clear and coherent plan
 - Should have time to “personalize” every application you plan on sending in
 - Know when the prize fellowship deadlines occur (last year – 11/5/15)
 - Good prep for post-doc prep, CV refinement, etc.
 - Know well ahead of time when application deadline occurs. Remind letter writers. Remind letter writers again. Then for good measure, remind your letter writers

Job Hunting Skills (cont)

- Learn how to interview
 - Practice and prepare
 - Plenty of advice online, learn what to trust
 - Ask around with people you trust
 - Consider doing job-talks
- Create a website to easily demonstrate your skills to potential employers
- Give plenty of talks at multiple universities
- Build a good CV

My Top Job Getting Skills List

- Networking
- Building a good CV
- Knowing when and where to apply
- Give plenty of talks
- Build technical skills

References

- <http://faculty.virginia.edu/rwoclass/astr8500/getting-a-postdoc-SS-JDM.pdf>
- <http://www.astrobetter.com/wiki/Rumor+Mill>
- <https://jobregister.aas.org>
- <https://aas.org/learn/careers-astronomy>
- <http://www.skillsyouneed.com/general/employability-skills.html>
- <http://www.astrobetter.com/blog/2012/01/19/aas-219-twitter-review-the-postdoc-job-market/>
- <http://www.astrobetter.com/blog/2014/01/13/escape-of-the-clones-how-to-get-a-non-academic-job/>
- <http://faculty.virginia.edu/rwoclass/astr8500/JobGettingSkills.pdf>