Navigating the Job Market

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Women in Comparative & International Politics (WICIP)

Academic Job Market

Assembling Your Materials

1. Cover letter
2. CV
3. Teaching statement
4. Research statement
5. Research proposal
6. Letters of recommendation (LORs)

Cover Letter

- Should exemplify you as a scholar in your broader research agenda (not just your dissertation)
- Sell yourself as a pithy scholar: "I do X and Y"
- Have one general version. Only slightly tweak the subtext from application to application
- Resist the urge to over-cater. A general letter shows you know who you are as a scholar
- Heavily tailored letters can read as an uncertain identity

CV: Major Sections

- Employment
- Publications (incl. Under Review, Working Projects, Policy Engagement)
- Education
- Research Experience
- Teaching Experience
- Mentorship Experience
- Conference Presentations
- Invited Lectures and Presentations
- Grants and Awards
- Honors
- Professional Affiliations
- Professional and Community Service
- Professional Training
- Certifications
- Computer and Technical Skills
- Databases
- Languages and Nationalities

Research Statement

- Should be distinct from your cover letter (not a recycle)
- Four-part structure:
  - What you've done
  - What you're doing now
  - What you want to do in the future
  - How it all fits together as a coherent agenda

Research Proposal

- This is where you cater to the position (cover letter stays general, proposal flexes)
- Have a stable of research proposal ideas "on deck" as applications come up
- Different positions will reward different proposals (lab fit, regional focus, methodological angle)
- Pull from your future research agenda. Don't invent something disconnected from your trajectory

Teaching Statement & Portfolio

Teaching statement: what it sounds like. Your philosophy, approach, and evidence of effectiveness.

Teaching portfolio: a whole document with multiple components:

- Teaching philosophy
- Teaching experience
- Mentorship experience
- Student reviews (quotes, emails, evaluation scores)
- Service statement
- Diversity statement
- Syllabi (taught and proposed)

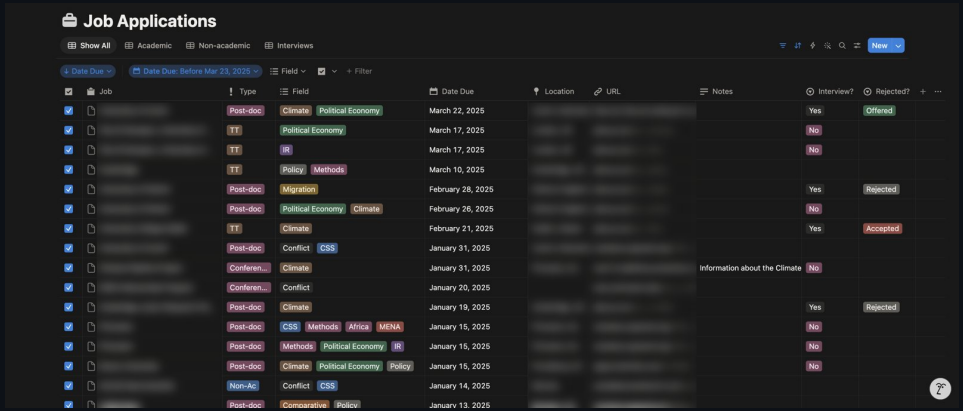
Letters of Recommendation (LORs)

- Interfolio is an excellent idea, especially when flooding the market with applications
- Ask your writers to prepare a couple of generic versions you can deploy widely
- For an exceptionally good fit, ask your writers for a tailored letter (use these sparingly so your writers don't burn out)
- Give writers plenty of lead time and a one-pager with your pitch, dossier highlights, and target list

Timing

- Summer before: Start putting materials together
- Create a running list of applications and deadlines
- Wait until a couple days before deadline to submit if you have things under review
- August/September: Check your main job boards weekly
- US: Job market starts in August
- UK: Rolling applications
- EU: Varies by country/institution

Organization



Job Talk

- Start practicing with friends early in the fall term
- Create both shorter and longer versions
- Include:
  - Current paper (Job Market Paper)
  - Research agenda

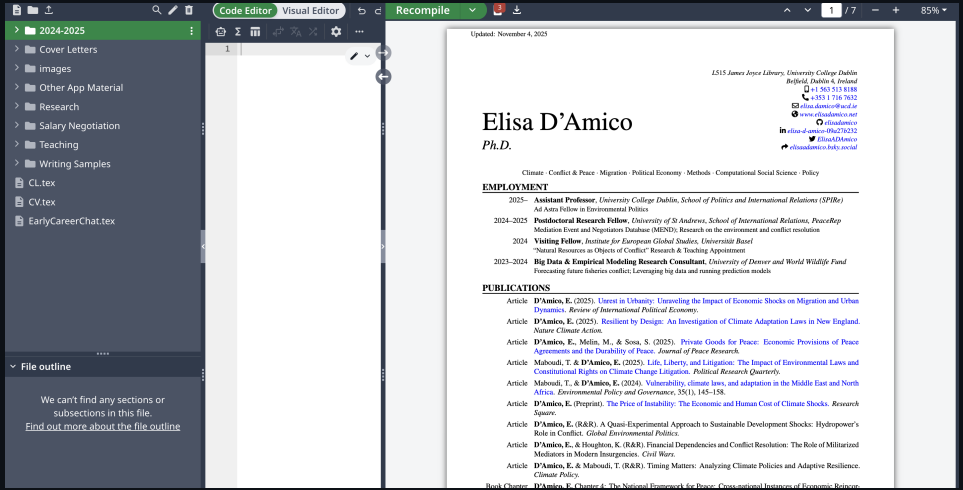
Interviews

- You're the expert. Be confident.
- If you don't know something: "Oh let me have a think about that..."
- Brand yourself: "I'm a researcher studying XYZ" (make it pithy)

Other Tips

- Have a general cover letter template (just tweak specifics)
- Happy to share my Overleaf template
- Network at conferences the year prior
- Conferences like APSA have literal interview slots built in for job market candidates. It is very normal to reach out to someone from the Uni to chat about the post.
- Go to all receptions and pre-conference workshops if possible

Overleaf


Code Editor
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85%
2024-2025
Cover Letters
images
Other App Material
Research
Salary Negotiation
Teaching
Writing Samples
CL.tex
CV.tex
EarlyCareerChat.tex
File outline
We can't find any sections or subsections in this file.
Find out more about the file outline
Updated: November 4, 2025
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Ph.D.
Climate · Conflict & Peace · Migration · Political Economy · Methods · Computational Social Science · Policy
EMPLOYMENT
PUBLICATIONS

Non-Academic Job Market

Data Science & Stats Track

Fit for causal inference, ML, geospatial, text analysis, survey work.

- **Tech & industry research:** Google, Meta, Microsoft, Amazon *(Dublin, London, Bay Area, Seattle)*
- **Policy research firms:** RAND, Mathematica, NORC, Abt *(DC, Boston, Chicago)*
- **Strategy consulting:** McKinsey (QuantumBlack), BCG GAMMA, Deloitte *(global)*
- **Data organizations:** ACLED, V-Dem, UCDP, Climate TRACE *(Madison, Gothenburg, Uppsala, remote)*
- **Government statistics:** ONS, CSO Ireland, US Census, Eurostat *(London, Dublin, DC, Luxembourg)*
- **Climate / ESG analytics:** WRI, RMI, Sustainalytics, MSCI *(DC, Amsterdam, NYC)*

Policy & Other Track

Fit for substantive expertise in climate, conflict, migration, peace.

- **IGOs / multilaterals:** UN family (UNDP, UNHCR, IOM, UNEP, FAO), World Bank, IMF, OECD, EU *(NYC, Geneva, Vienna, Nairobi, DC, Paris, Brussels)*
- **Think tanks (US):** Brookings, Carnegie, CSIS, USIP *(DC)*
- **Think tanks (Europe):** Chatham House, ECFR, IISS, ODI, Bruegel, SIPRI, PRIO, Clingendael *(London, Brussels, Oslo, Stockholm, The Hague)*
- **NGOs:** International Crisis Group, Mercy Corps, IRC, Oxfam, HRW, WWF *(Brussels, NYC, London, Geneva)*
- **Peace & conflict:** PeaceRep, Conciliation Resources, ICRC, International Alert, Berghof *(Edinburgh, London, Geneva, Berlin)*
- **Government & bilateral:** FCDO, USAID, GIZ, Irish DFA, State Dept