

Academic Job Application - Part Two

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Application III - Research Statement

- ▶ 2-4 pages
- ▶ Begin with a statement for a general mathematical audience (the hiring committee).
- ▶ Give a succinct and accessible account of what you are really doing actively.
- ▶ Try hard to tailor it for the Department to which you are applying.
- ▶ Remember that people are seeking collaborators!

Referees and Letters

- ▶ 3 are usually requested, can expand to 4 or 5.
- ▶ Make sure both teaching and research are covered.
- ▶ Research referees should know your work: include your PhD supervisor if at all possible.
- ▶ One sentence from a Fields medallist who has heard you speak means little.
- ▶ Teaching reference should be more than a summary of your evaluation scores.
- ▶ Provide referees with something to say about your fit with the institution you are applying to.
- ▶ Use dossier services with care.

Things to Avoid in your Application Package

Committees are composed of individuals: hard to tell what will rub them the wrong way ... but:

- ▶ Don't send your collected preprints, offprints.
- ▶ Don't just send sample testimonials from a few students.
- ▶ Don't use phrases that reveal the application was written for another school!
- ▶ Don't talk down to the committee, but try not to talk over their heads either.
- ▶ Don't include errors in English. (This really bothers some people.)
- ▶ Don't erase all trace that you are a human being.

Think of more of these before you send the application - get advice.

Teaching Universities/Colleges versus Research Universities

- ▶ Increasingly, both kinds of schools want people that are good all round.
- ▶ For all schools the aim is to demonstrate promise, fit, and versatility.
- ▶ Your aim is to get an interview. \therefore don't eliminate yourself *a priori* by submitting a wrongly-oriented application.
- ▶ For teaching schools, very important to understand and convey how you will handle a larger teaching load.
- ▶ Avoid conveying to a teaching institution that you are seeking a job there because you doubt you can hack the pace at a research school.