Campus Visits

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Key parts to the visit

• Pre-visit preparation

• On campus meetings/dinners

• ‘The Talk’

• Post-visit retooling
Pre-visit prep

• Know who is on the search committee (its within your “rights” to know)

• Collect some basic information on them. What is their 1) big contribution and 2) one of their latest working papers.

• Find out who you will meet with ahead of time (probably will get this 2 or so days beforehand)

• IF you don’t have time to do this, hire someone (its just pulling stuff off the web).
• Make sure you are on a healthy lifestyle trajectory—don’t let the stress get to you.

• Is there a gym in your hotel? Bring your workout clothes

• Slides are done before you leave Boston.

• You arrive to the locale relaxed and confident.
On campus meetings

• Be personable to everyone—including administrative staff. It doesn’t cost you anything.

• Try to strike a balance between talking about research, teaching, and general pleasantries.

• Complement people (subtly), ask about where their projects are.

• Don’t sound monotonic when you give your elevator speech 8 times that day. Can you subtly tailor it?
Dinner

• **IF** you drink alcohol, its ok to have 1, maybe two glasses of wine. Even if others drink more you probably should not.

• Use the opportunity to find out about the area, ask some “living” questions.

• Have fun—people want to know you are a good date.
Job Talk

• ~15 practice talks.
• Slides that are “hecka good”

• Give people a hook early (a puzzle, your answer, a theme...)
• You should know the questions you will get, have slides prepared.
• Answer questions, but VERY concisely. Most people don’t care about the question you were just asked. If need be, say you’ll elaborate further later on.

• Work the room.

• Think about how your movement/speaking style works in different room configurations. Arrive early and case the joint.
Good Luck

• Do the best you can

• Don’t sit by the phone after, get back to work! Tweak your talk if future talks, keep doing research.

• As soon as you get offers go talk to your advisors. Or if the department has an offer guru. Don’t accept anything too quickly.