

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.