

The international job market

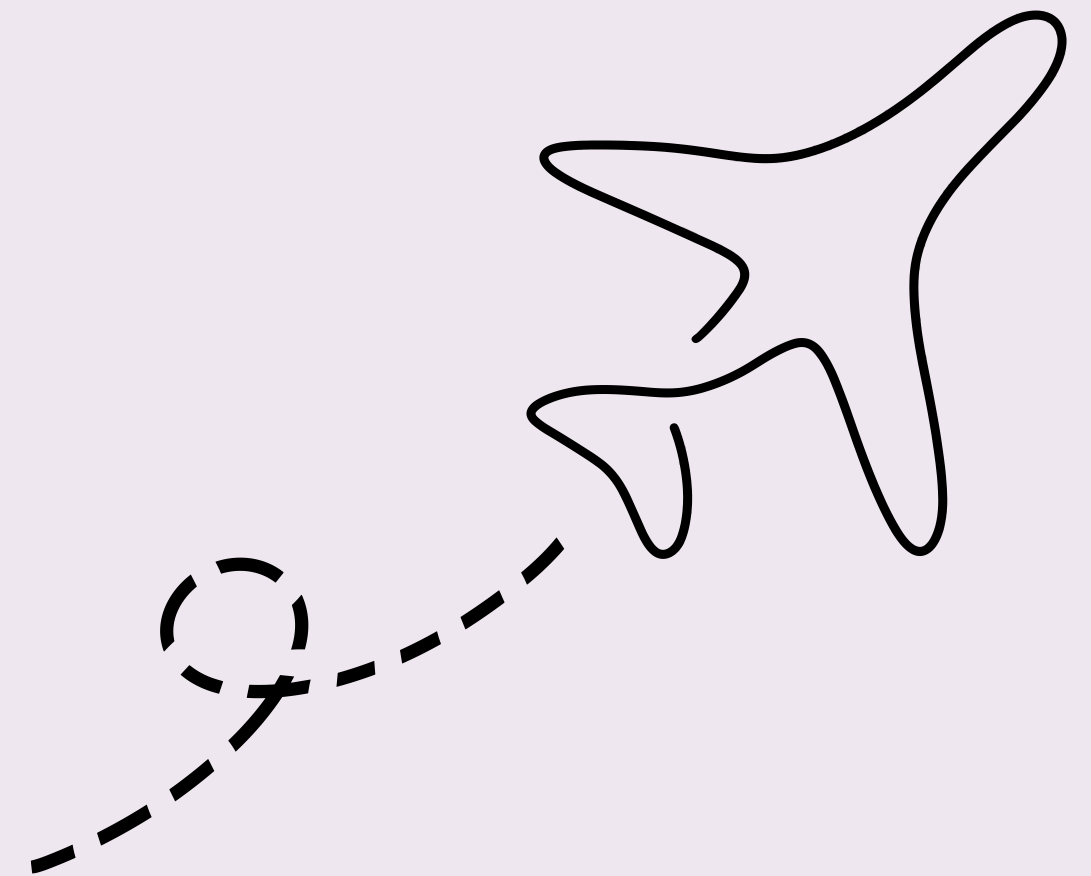
SOPHIE KEELING



UNED doctoral programme

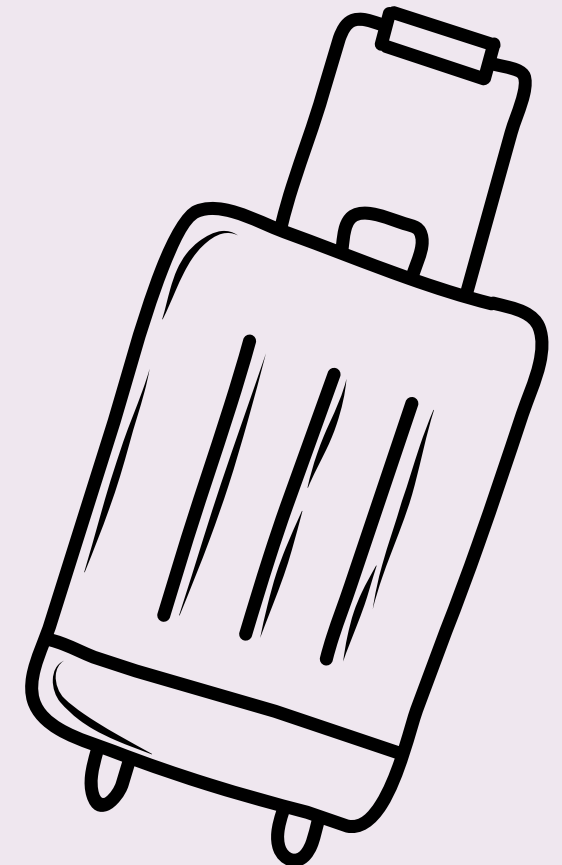
OUTLINE

- Introduction
- Permanent jobs
- Types of temporary jobs
- Materials: Research proposals
- Materials: Cover letter
- Materials: CV



WHY CONSIDER JOBS ABROAD?

- There's more of them!
- Experience and contacts
- Different countries value different things, so you might have more luck in one country than another
- Good for your CV (but getting it recognized can be hard!)
- Living abroad



PERMANENT JOBS

- It can be a lot harder to get a permanent job in many countries. E.g. in Germany, normally the only permanent position is as a catedrático. US has a ‘tenure track’ position, but in top institutions it can be very hard to get stabilised.
- A case study: the UK. Pros: can get hired on a permanent basis early on, easy to apply, no accreditations. (Profesor permanente laboral is a ‘lecturer’). Cons: very competitive, publishing requirements are very different.
- TAKE HOME: The Spanish market is actually a lot more accessible than many others!!
- TAKE HOME: If you do have another country in mind, speak to people there as soon as possible, try to do research visits there, get temporary jobs etc.

KINDS OF TEMPORARY JOB

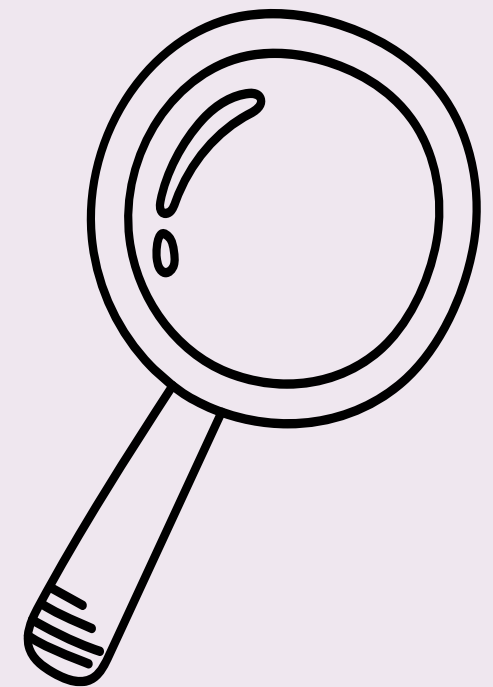
- Teaching (e.g. 'teaching fellow'. These are especially common in the UK).
- Fixed term lecturer - a mix of teaching, administration, and research.
- Postdoctoral researcher.

TYPES OF POSTDOC

- International postdocs where you pick the country.
- National postdocs where you pick the institution.
- Institutional postdocs.
- Specific projects.

...AND WHERE TO FIND THEM

- Philos L
- Phil Jobs
- The appendix
- Word of mouth. Think of where you'd like to work and ask people there.
- Social media



GETTING STARTED...

- Start preparing as soon as possible before your desired start date. Some deadlines will be a year in advance, and you need time to show your proposal to a lot of people. But don't worry if you miss some deadlines – there will be more jobs!
- Materials can include: a cover letter (letter of motivation), research proposal, teaching posts will generally ask for sample syllabi, CV. You can sometimes send an updated CV if it changes substantially during the process.
- Ask people for advice and get examples.
- Keep a copy of the job advert.

GETTING STARTED (CONTINUED)

- Start writing a ‘master’ research proposal which you can then adapt to different requirements.
- The proposal should ideally be related to the thesis, but also obviously be a progression.
- Write the proposal on work you are already doing or want to do, e.g., a paper. Use your time wisely!!
- Some jobs require an interview and references. Give your referees plenty of notice and tell them what the job is, where it is, and what they should emphasise. Choose good people who know you well and are reliable, not just big names!
- Keep all your applications to reuse them.

RESEARCH PROPOSALS: THE BASICS

- Tailor your proposal to the audience. You will probably need a version that is accessible to philosophers from different areas and also non-philosophers. Use lots of examples if your topic is abstract!
- Be bold, but not implausibly ambitious.
- Sometimes you have to fill out a lot of boxes, and fit your proposal into specific requirements. Some of these categories are very generic and obviously targeted at the sciences. They will ask for methodology, your hypotheses, your ‘findings’, your ‘results’, and your ‘scientific impact’. Look at examples for how you can find things to say.

KEY TERMS

Objectives

Specific statements that say what you want to achieve. You will have objectives associated with each of your **work packages** (a unit of research that takes a specific amount of time. Generally, choose 3 or 4).

Output

These are concrete **deliverables**, such as articles, books, conference presentations, and conferences you will organise. Be concrete (e.g. specify how many articles you will write and what the titles may be). You don't actually have to stick to this!

Impact

The broader results of your project and the changes it will make to the world. These can be in terms of theoretical knowledge or change beyond academia, depending on the funder. Say how you will achieve it. It could be as simple as 'other philosophers will finally understand phenomenon xxx. And I will achieve this through disseminating my work in journals).

Research questions

These are the questions that guide the research. You will have research questions associated with each objective.

RESEARCH PROPOSALS: THE BASICS

- If you can, start with practical problems, challenges, and examples, and communicate why your area is important.
- Thesis statement
- The state of art, and how your work is necessary and moves beyond it
- Objectives
- Work packages (3 or 4). You might need to do a Gantt chart
- Outputs
- Impact

CVS

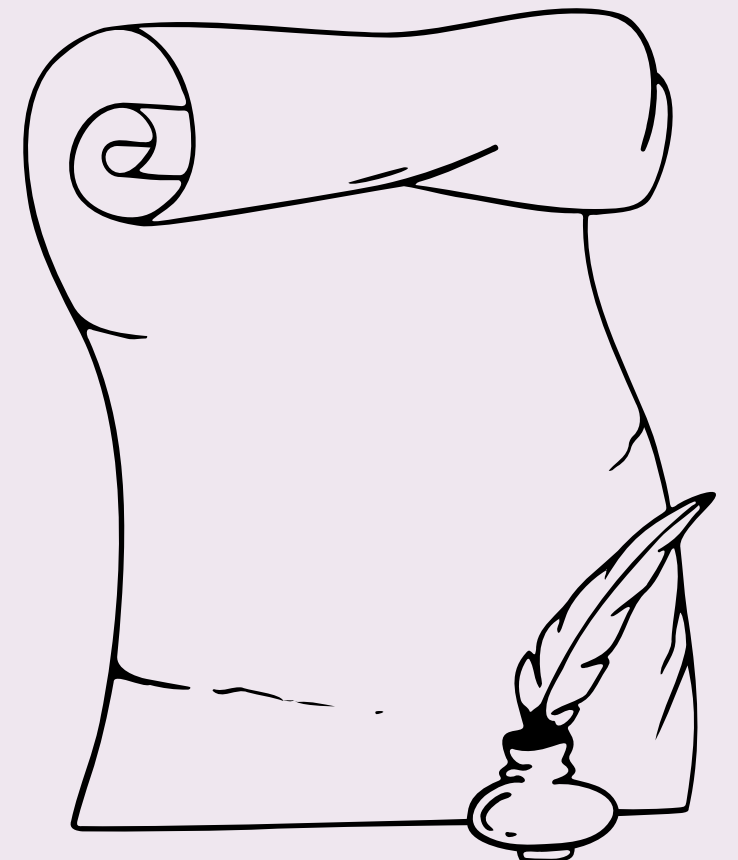
- Different countries value different things, and things change all the time. Not all countries value Q1 like Spain. Mexico doesn't distinguish between the Qs! And the UK and America care more about 'top' journals according to rankings like Leiter. This will also depend on your sub-discipline.
- If you're interested in a range of markets, I advise trying to find a middle ground - don't just try to get as many Q1 articles as you can. Always speak to your supervisor about publishing strategy.
- Don't use your Spanish CVA, you can find examples on people's websites.

COVER LETTERS

- You might need to write a cover letter if you're trying to take a grant to a specific university, applying for specific projects, and for teaching posts. You generally don't need coverletter for grant bodies.
- Tailor the letter to the job and the department. Check the job specifications and highlight the ways in which you meet those requirements. Say how you might collaborate with certain people in the department and how your work would fit in with the group.
- Section headings, e.g., 'research', 'teaching', 'service and leadership'.

COVER LETTERS (CONTINUED)

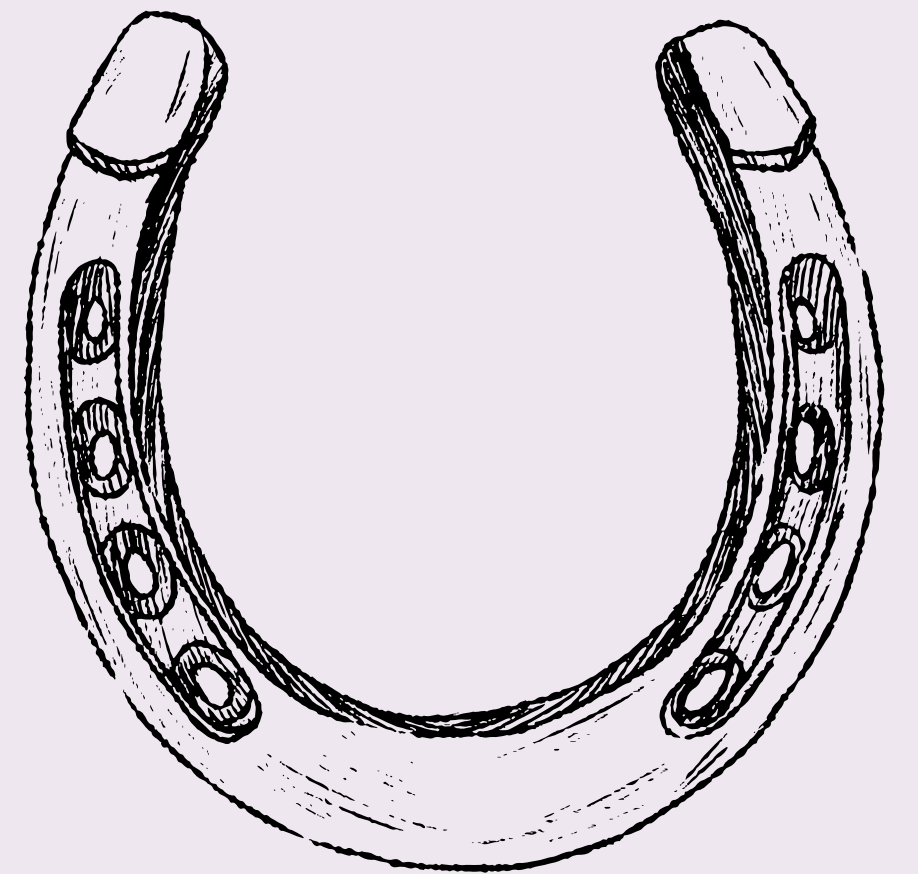
- This is an exercise in marketing. Emphasise your strengths and put them first!
- Don't be arrogant, but don't be too modest - show your letter to people first.
- Show, don't tell: don't waste words simply telling the reader that you're a great teacher etc.
Give examples.



CLOSING ADVICE

- It's a numbers game! Grants can be rejected on ridiculous grounds. This can be frustrating. Don't take rejection personally. But also, do speak to trusted advisors about how you can improve your chances.
- Grant writing is a skill that takes practice.
- Apply as widely as possible, but also within reason – don't waste your time.
- In general, think about your career plans as soon as possible, and talk to your supervisor.

Good luck!



APPENDIX: (SOME) GRANTS AND FUNDING BODIES

International

Marie Curie fellowship (normally 2 years, European Fellowship and Global Fellowship)

<https://marie-sklodowska-curie-actions.ec.europa.eu/actions/postdoctoral-fellowships>

Austria

FWF ESPRIT fellowship (3 years) <https://www.fwf.ac.at/en/funding/portfolio/careers/esprit>

Belgium

FWO junior postdoctoral researcher (3 years) <https://www.fwo.be/en/support-programmes/all-calls/postdoctoral-researchers/junior-postdoctoral-fellowship/>

F.R.S.-FNRS postdoctoral researcher (3 years) <https://www.frs-fnrs.be/en/financements/chercheur-postdoc#cr>

Ireland

Irish Research Council (2 year fellowship) <http://research.ie/funding/goipd/>

APPENDIX: (SOME) GRANTS AND FUNDING BODIES

Germany

Humboldt Research Fellowship (2 years) <https://www.humboldt-foundation.de/en/apply/sponsorship-programmes/humboldt-research-fellowship>

Projects from the Fritz Thyssen Foundation (2 -3 years) <https://www.fritz-thyssen-stiftung.de/en/funding/types-of-support/support-of-projects/>

DFG Walter Benjamin programme (2 years) <https://www.dfg.de/en/research-funding/funding-opportunities/programmes/individual/walter-benjamin>

Mexico

Research fellowship at UNAM, Mexico City (up to 2 years, announced each year on Philos-L) <https://www.filosoficas.unam.mx/>

The Netherlands

NWO talent programme, veni fellowship for recent postgraduates (3 years) <https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/nwo-talent-programme-veni-social-sciences-and-humanities-ssh-2024>

APPENDIX: (SOME) GRANTS AND FUNDING BODIES

Portugal

FCT junior researcher (6 years) <https://www.fct.pt/en/financiamento/programas-de-financiamento/emprego-cientifico/emprego-cientifico-individual/>

Switzerland

SNSF Swiss Postdoctoral Fellowships (SPF) (Swiss equivalent to the Marie Curie, 2 years)

<https://www.snf.ch/en/m1NtWp4nTELQixlu/funding/horizon-europe-swiss-postdoctoral-fellowships>

Ambizione grant (more advanced, but up to 4 years after the PhD. 4 years)

<https://www.snf.ch/en/N18L3oGWomTSSGkF/funding/careers/ambizione>

UK

Analysis studentship (1 year) <https://academic.oup.com/analysis/pages/the-analysis-trust>

British Academy fellowship (3 years) <https://www.thebritishacademy.ac.uk/funding/postdoctoral-fellowships/>

APPENDIX: EXAMPLE OBJECTIVES

O₁ To defend and develop the position that we can exercise agency and control over believing and acting for a particular reason, and not just our beliefs and actions themselves. This is to claim that the scope of our agency extends more widely than standardly thought.

(Subsidiary objectives)

O₂ To apply the framework as developed as part of objective 1 to better understand failures of control in individual wellbeing, primarily in the case of Obsessive Compulsive Disorder.

O₃ To apply the framework as developed as part of objective 1 to better understand failures of control from the social perspective, primarily in the case of ideological distortion.