ECONOMICS, PH.D.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

GRADUATE SCHOOL RESOURCES
Take advantage of the Graduate School’s professional development resources (https://grad.wisc.edu/pd/) to build skills, thrive academically, and launch your career.

PROGRAM RESOURCES

PLACEMENT
The department has a well-organized placement service. Each year a faculty member functions as the placement officer. He or she is assisted by the placement assistant who coordinates the sending of CVs and letters of recommendation, makes available job vacancy information, provides resources and general guidance to ensure students are prepared for the job market. Each job market candidate gives a regular faculty research seminar on his or her primary research paper; these seminars are typically widely attended by faculty and students and provide a rigorous “test run” for the job market paper. To prepare for the job market interviews, all students participate in mock “job market interviews” with faculty members. Students also receive extensive help from their primary advisor, who in addition to providing general counsel during the process of job search, typically is instrumental in contacting colleagues at other universities, or in bringing the student to the attention of the extensive network of former Wisconsin Ph.D.’s employed in universities, colleges, government, and the private sector. Students also benefit from the fact that several organizations actively recruit on campus. Finally, Wisconsin students typically self-organize additional presentations of job market papers, providing one another with additional opportunities for practice.

Many graduates accept research positions in academia, while others gain employment with international organizations, government, private consulting, or tech firms. Between 2010 and 2020, placements at U.S. universities have included positions as assistant professors at University of California–San Diego, Washington University in St. Louis, University of Oregon, Carnegie Mellon University, University of Rochester, Ohio State University, University of Florida, and University of California–Santa Cruz. Placements at non–U.S. universities have included University College London, London School of Economics, McMaster University, National Taiwan University, University of Mannheim, University of Warwick, National University of Singapore, Peking University, and Tsinghua University. Students pursuing nonacademic employment have accepted positions at institutions including the Federal Reserve Board of Governors, the International Monetary Fund, US Treasury Department, RAND Corporation, the Korea Development Institute, NERA Economics Consulting, Amazon, and Mathematica Policy Research Institute.