

Scientific Writing in Astro

Lecture #5

Dorottya Szécsi

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Jobs.

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 - *Learning to apply for jobs is key. → THIS LECTURE*

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 - Giving excellent talks certainly helps.
 - *Learning to apply for jobs is key. → THIS LECTURE*
 - Networking. Socializing. Being irreplaceable. Finding your own niche. Being useful for the community. Being a nice person to be around. Etc.

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PhD positions: *no*
Regular post-doc: *depends*
Fellowship: *impossible without*

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Extra tips

- must have on i skills
 - if available: ta presented, pri
- attach if releva
 - peer reviewed
 - if list of talks,
- photo (?)
- date, signature

- visually stand out of the other 300 applicants...
- elegance
- professionalism
- fonts: no more than 2 types
(sans for titles and serif for items)
- avoid common font types
Times New Roman Arial Verdana Courier New
Computer Modern and all other latex base fonts
Comic Sans and friends...
- no walls of text!
- colors: dark blue, grey (professionalism!)
- avoid: pink, yellow etc.
- use bullet points & lists

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1 or 2 full pages, no more!

page number

your name on all pages

Motivation letter / Cover letter



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- Know yourself! You ***do*** have special skills.



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- *Not easy to write.*
- Know yourself! You ***do*** have special skills.
- An example...



Your special skills...

The background features a large, faint, glowing circle in the center. Overlaid on this are several thin, intersecting lines in shades of blue, purple, and pink, creating a complex, web-like pattern. The overall aesthetic is futuristic and scientific.

Source: **11 Tips on How to Apply for a Fellowship**

D. Szécsi, Nature Astronomy Blogs

<https://astronomycommunity.nature.com/posts/11-tips-on-how-to-apply-for-a-fellowship>

Your special skills...

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Your special skills...

- In the name of “Know yourself”:

Some people may be good in *grasping theoretical details* more quickly, but may not be as good in *explaining them to students* as those who themselves needed more time to understand them in the first place. Or, some people may be very good at *working alone* or *with a supervisor*, but not able to *work in a team* – and especially not able to *manage a team*, becoming *a leader*, a *good PI*... which you might have the talent to be. Some projects are only possible in groups, after all – so we do need good managers. Indeed, some people may be great in *deriving stuff* or carrying out *complex tasks*, but do they possess the *broader view*, a *scientific “vision”* that is needed for a successful career nowadays? I could list yet a dozen things that you may or may not have. *Writing* up things quickly and clearly, being able to *think in systems*, being good in *statistical methods* and *big data*, giving *great presentations*, producing brilliantly under *time pressure*, *organizing* the most efficient meetings, having a special talent for *visualizing data*, being able to *“translate” between the jargon of different research fields* etc. etc. etc. It really comes down to finding what strengths and weaknesses you have, and building on the strengths while gradually eliminating (or at least carefully avoiding mentioning) the weaknesses.

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Exercise

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- give advice!

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Homework

- write a Motivation letter for your (ideal) next academic position!