

JOB SEARCH ADVICE

from Plant Pathology Alumni

Ken Frost

- Received his Ph.D. in 2012
- Employed in the Department of Botany & Plant Pathology, Oregon State University



- 1. Where did you look for jobs?* I looked for jobs in academia (and the USDA – but those opportunities were pretty limited). I essentially gave myself 2 years to focus on getting a faculty position – after 2 years I had plans to broaden my search to industry. I primarily looked at what would be considered R1 institutions.
- 2. When did you start looking?* Throughout graduate school I kept my eye on positions that were opening up. Started to look seriously and apply to faculty positions as soon as I finished.
- 3. What experiences did you have in graduate school that helped you succeed in getting a job and while on the job?* All of them. I can't really pinpoint an experience or particular skill learned in graduate school that allowed me to succeed in getting a job. I think being well-rounded and having a diverse set of experiences and skills is important. That said, on the job some “core” skills are very helpful (i.e. communication skills (written, oral, etc.), organizational skills, time management, etc.) together with having a sound academic background.
- 4. Why did you pick the sector you work in?* I like learning, teaching, and working closely with others to solve problems. I wanted to have the ability to work on things that I found interesting. And it is fun.
- 5. What resources, if any, did you use on campus while you were looking and applying for jobs?* I worked closely with my academic advisors to prepare and format my application materials (CV, letters of application, extension, research philosophy, etc.). I also visited with them to prepare for interviews and job presentations.