

Campus Visits: A Discussion of Do's & Don'ts

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GENERAL SUGGESTIONS

1. Go download the tripit app. Seriously. Don't read another word until you do so. It's **invaluable** (and not only because it is free ☺). It lets you forward all travel confirmations to a common email address (from both work and other email accounts) and populates the app with your trips. Confirmation numbers for hotels, rental cars, etc. Even those pesky six digit codes from the airlines. Its home page also shows you a nice at-a-glance overview of all of your upcoming (and past) trips. (On a side note, I use it to make sure I have flight #s and times for any friends, guest speakers, and relatives coming to Fayetteville).
2. Bring adjustable pants. Well, I am kidding, but your weight may fluctuate during the market. Stress and crazy travel schedules made it go down, but 3 meals a day on visits made it go up. Indeed, given that schools want to show you a good time, these meals often are at FANTASTIC restaurants and you will likely be encouraged to order an appetizer or salad, an entrée, AND a dessert (the faculty want to too usually!). So maybe have an extra skirt or pair of pants that can (ahem) accommodate any fluctuations if you have issues with this.
3. BE NICE. Our field is small. Be nice to everyone. You never know who will be your colleague or co-author one day (either at the school you are visiting or in a move you want to make in the future). Besides.... There are tons of smart people in the field; it will never ever hurt you for people to also think that you are a genuinely nice/kind/warm person.

DO BE YOU. This is the only bit of advice that has no alternative. It's intentional. Be you. If you are only being who you think the University wants you to be, you are only doing you and the hiring school a disservice. Guess what? When you get the job and come to campus, they will figure out very quickly that you weren't being yourself. You will find out very quickly that the position is highly suitable for the fake you. So much emphasis is placed on those intangible aspects of "fit," and for good reason! Don't be someone else or the school (and you) will indubitably realize that the "other" you was best fit. Not the actual you.

DON'T BE YOU. Okay. I lied. Be you, but be the very best you that you can be. If you have terrible table manners or are a horrible dresser or do not typically fret over your personal hygiene, correct these things. Please. (You may have to ask a good friend to give you an honest assessment on this if your advisor has not already clued you into this.)