



# Career Possibilities and the International Job Market



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# Outline

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- ▶ About me
- ▶ Career possibilities with a PhD in finance
- ▶ The international job market
- ▶ Main take-aways

# About Me

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- ▶ MSc equivalent (Diploma) in Business Mathematics from University of Karlsruhe (2006 – 2012)
- ▶ PhD in Finance at Copenhagen Business School (2012-2017)
  - ▶ Visiting PhD student at Columbia University (2014, 2016)
- ▶ Assistant Professor of Finance at BI Oslo (from Aug 2017)

# Career Possibilities With a PhD in Finance

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## Academia

- ▶ Research, teaching, and service work (more about those later)

## Financial industry

- ▶ Asset management
- ▶ Banking
- ▶ Central banks
- ▶ Consulting

# Career Possibility: Financial Industry

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- ▶ Having a PhD in finance opens the door to qualitatively challenging and well-paying jobs in the financial industry
- ▶ Finance PhDs in Denmark have leading positions at virtually all financial institutions:
  - ▶ Banking, insurance, pension funds, central banks
- ▶ Internationally, the possibilities are essentially endless:
  - ▶ Central banks, consulting firms, hedge funds, investment banks, rating agencies, ...

# Career Possibilities: Academia

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- ▶ A PhD in finance can also be used as the first step of an academic career within finance (or economics)
- ▶ Having a PhD is now a necessary condition for a “tenure-track” position at most universities and business schools
- ▶ As an academic, you do essentially three things:
  - ▶ **Research:** Writing articles, publishing them, applying the results
  - ▶ **Teaching:** Lecturing courses and supervising projects
  - ▶ **Service work:** Attending/organizing conferences, refereeing other academics’ work for journals, giving talks for practitioners

# Academia vs. Industry

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## **“Academic freedom”**

- ▶ Decide what to work on
- ▶ Work when (and where) you want
- ▶ Only well-published research advances your career

## **Long-term goal: Publishing**

- ▶ Broad range of projects
- ▶ Each project takes (way) more time than expected
- ▶ Publishing well is difficult

## **Less flexibility**

- ▶ Work on given projects
- ▶ Long in-office working hours

## **Clear short-term goals**

- ▶ Deal with practical problems
- ▶ Most of what you do directly advances your career
- ▶ Risk of becoming monotone

# The International Job Market

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## **Standardized process of finding an international post-graduate job:**

1. Send out job applications by the end of November
2. First-round interviews with potential employers at the AFA meeting in January
3. Second-round interviews with potential employers in the form of campus visits (flyouts) after the AFA
4. Accept a position and relocate by the end of summer

# What Determines the Outcome?

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## **Candidate's market value:\***

- ▶ Quality of job-market paper
- ▶ Expected value of research pipeline
- ▶ Strength of references
- ▶ Quality of CV

*The sooner you commit to going on the market, the better you can work on maximizing your market value*

*\*Other determinants, such as luck, competition, and job supply play a role as well*

# Main Take-Aways

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- ▶ A PhD in finance opens the door to many interesting career opportunities
- ▶ Academia vs financial industry: trade-off between “academic freedom” and clear(er) short-term goals
- ▶ The international job market is a standardized way of seeking jobs. To succeed, you need to commit early *and truly enjoy the “academic freedom”*