



A Graduate Student's Guide to the APSA Annual Meeting & Exhibition

Prepared by the Committee on the Status of Graduate Students in the Profession

CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE

Who should attend the Annual Meeting?

Anyone who has paid the conference registration fee may attend. Graduate students, in particular, might find that the Annual Meeting presents valuable opportunities to meet potential employers and to network with political scientists who have similar research interests.

What lodging options are available?

Hotel arrangements can be made through the Annual Meeting website. Alternatively, graduate students can use Airbnb or their favorite travel website to book rooms. To save money, some graduate students choose to share rooms with fellow graduate students whom they know.

What local transportation options are available?

The 2019 Annual Meeting will be held in Washington, D.C. Therefore, one will likely find that the cheapest and quickest option is the "Metro"—a public transportation system of subway routes and bus routes that covers the metropolitan area, including Maryland and Virginia suburbs. Other options for local transportation include ride-share services, such as Uber and Lyft. Taxicab services are also available, but they can be difficult to understand. Local regulations might prevent you from using taxicabs to travel across state lines.

What resources are available to graduate students with children?

APSA will offer subsidized childcare for attendees' children aged six months to 12 years. For more information, see <https://connect.apsanet.org/apsa2019/2019-apsa-child-care/>. In addition, there will be changing rooms, nursing rooms, and quiet rooms at the Annual Meeting. For more information, see <https://connect.apsanet.org/apsa2019/accessibility/>.

How can graduate students afford travel expenses?

There are many ways for a graduate student to fund travel, including a grant from one's own department or university, a grant from an APSA section in which one holds membership, or a grant from APSA itself. For more information, see <https://www.apsanet.org/travelgrants>.

What is the dress code?

Expectations on dress vary depending on the context. For the conference itself, especially if a graduate student is presenting a paper, business formal is appropriate—dress shirts, dress pants or pencil skirts, blazers or nice cardigans, and closed-toe shoes. The dress code for social events, such as happy hours, is generally business casual.

What is the purpose of the Exhibit Hall?

The Exhibit Hall features publishers, research centers, think tanks, government agencies, and other organizations related to the profession. The Exhibit Hall is a great place to preview recent releases of textbooks, monographs, and other publications. It is also a great place to meet recruiters and to learn about opportunities for employment and publication. Finally, exhibitors are always giving out free stuff, such as flash drives, tote bags, and water bottles.

SECTION MEMBERSHIP

Why should graduate students join sections? What are some of the benefits?

Many graduate students are drawn to certain subjects, but they lack exposure to develop their interests. Section membership can give graduate students insight into current research, notices about upcoming conferences, and access to potential mentors in their fields. Graduate students are also excellent candidates for junior leadership roles. Whether it is copyediting the section newsletter, representing the graduate experience, or finalizing the business meeting agenda, graduate members can offer invaluable service to their sections, all while developing important professional skills that can prepare them to assume more senior leadership roles in the future.

Who may attend business meetings?

Regardless of section membership status, anyone who has paid the conference registration fee may attend a business meeting, provided it is listed in the program. This might be a good way to introduce oneself to others or to figure out if a section is a good fit for one's interests.

THE JOB SEARCH AND INTERVIEWS

How can I use the Annual Meeting to help me find a job?

The Annual Meeting is a good time to network with academic departments, colleges and universities of all sizes, and private-sector employers. Graduate students should do their homework on potential employers whom they plan to meet. Consider who has receptions, booths, or interviews. Also, don't forget business cards! Check and see if your university prints business cards for graduate students. If not, consider other options, such as Vistaprint or MOO.

Will there be a career fair at the Annual Meeting?

Not only a career fair but a dedicated career center! Events will occur throughout the Annual Meeting. For more information, see <https://connect.apsanet.org/apsa2019/career-center/>.

How do interviews at the Annual Meeting work?

The interview scheduling process usually works in one of three ways. First, some colleges and universities directly reach out to candidates whom they find through APSA's eJobs site, where candidates can upload their CVs. Second, other institutions, through their eJobs postings, invite interested job-seekers to contact them in advance of the Annual Meeting to schedule interviews. Third, some institutions follow their own processes. In these cases, it is recommended that you email the search committee chair to request an interview. Usually, it is unnecessary to submit a full application before an interview. A cover letter and a CV often suffice. Interviews at the Annual Meeting help search committees narrow down their lists of potential fly-out candidates.

Where is the job interview room?

The job interview room is usually a large ballroom in one of the main conference hotel buildings. If you have an interview, the search committee may give you directions to the room, but you can also ask the staff at the registration desk for help finding it. For more information, see <https://www.apsanet.org/eJobs/InterviewServiceFAQ>.

What should job-seekers bring with them to interviews?

The standard procedure is to bring copies of all job materials (CV, cover letter, teaching statement, writing sample, syllabi, etc.) although it is likely that the search committee will have copies of their own in hand. Prepare as if you were going to an on-campus interview with talking points about your research and teaching. Most interviews are between 10 and 30 minutes.

NETWORKING

Which receptions should I attend?

Many groups hold receptions at the Annual Meeting, including academic departments, APSA committees, and APSA sections. Most receptions, unless specified as “invitation only,” are open to all Annual Meeting attendees. The receptions you should attend depend on your interests.

What questions should I ask journal editors?

This depends on your own interests and experience with the publishing process. If you are unfamiliar with publishing, don't be afraid to mention that you are new to the process. Some journals accept graduate students as reviewers, so you can also inquire about their process for applying. Being a reviewer can give you a unique, in-depth perspective on publishing.