

## **Academic job search 001.2.3104 (2 credits)**

**Lecturer:** Sofia Bouchebti

### **Course description:**

Securing a PhD or postdoctoral position is a critical step in an academic career .This course offers practical guidance on key aspects of the application process, including writing a compelling CV, motivation letter, and first contact email, as well as preparing for interviews. Additionally, students will learn how to search and identify suitable opportunities, evaluate potential advisors and research environments, and strategically position themselves for success in a competitive academic job market. This course is designed to help graduate students find and apply for their next academic position, whether a PhD or postdoctoral fellowship, in Israel or abroad.

*Please note: unlike courses in scientific writing or scientific presentation, this course does not address writing research papers or presenting scientific results, but instead focuses on the tools and strategies needed to move forward in an academic career.*

### **Course structure:**

The course will be conducted as weekly 2-hour meetings over the course of one semester. It will follow a workshop-style format, combining short lectures, discussions, exercises, and peer feedback. Students will develop and refine real application materials based on their individual academic goals. They will also practice presenting their research and participate in mock interviews to build confidence and improve communication skills.

### **Course topics:**

1. Course introduction: Overview and expectations
2. Writing an academic CV – Part 1
3. Writing an academic CV – Part 2
4. Finding the right position: How and where to search effectively
5. Crafting the first contact email
6. Motivation letter: When your background matches
7. Motivation letter: Making a case beyond your background

8. Presenting past and future research – Part 1
9. Presenting past and future research – Part 2
10. Interview preparation: Strategies and common questions
11. Mock Interviews: Practice and feedback
12. Final Session: General discussion and assessment of students' progress

**Grade components:**

Attendance and participation in class discussions	10%
Exercises	90%