

How to Get into Graduate School

A Guide to Success

Four rules to success: (i) have fun (ii) know the deadlines (iii) be well informed (iv) have fun!!

Why Graduate School?

Things to Do Before Applying

- _____ Define your area(s) of interest
- _____ Talk to advisors, professors, mentors, graduate students, peers
- _____ Get information, attend conferences, network!
- _____ Check out programs (departments, interdisciplinary programs)
- _____ Find out the requirements and deadlines
- _____ Make a list of potential referees & inquire about their availability

Key questions to ask for selecting a program

- _____ Is my area of interest well represented? Is there a critical mass?
- _____ Does the school has a good reputation in that area? The program? The Faculty?
- _____ Will I have multiple options?
- _____ Are graduates moving on to successful careers?
- _____ Will I be happy there?
- _____ What are the terms of the financial support?

Making contact

- _____ Do you know anyone at the institution? An alumni? A recruiter?
- _____ Contact a professor and follow through

The application process

- _____ GRE (general, subject), TOEFL
- _____ GPA
- _____ Application fee
- _____ Major, minor, coursework
- _____ Research, publications and presentations
- _____ Letters of recommendation (when, who, how many?)
- _____ Statement of research interests
- _____ Interview