



SOS Presents:

How To Get Into Graduate School

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Agenda

- The Graduate School Experience
- Finding A Graduate School
- The Application Process
- Typical Application Timeline
- Funding Opportunities
- Q & A Panel with Guest Speakers

The Graduate School Experience

How is graduate school different from undergrad?

- More seminar-type courses, especially at the advanced level
- More papers, projects and presentations, but fewer tests
- More researched-oriented
- Increased specialization - narrowing of subject matter being studied

The Graduate School Experience

How is graduate school different from undergrad?

- Much more independent work - self-discipline a necessity
- Less short-term feedback about how you're doing academically
- Increased pressure to maintain high grades – generally B or higher
- Increased competition from talented students



The Graduate School Experience

Other points to consider:

- Direct entry Ph.D.
- Thesis-based vs course-based
- Length of program

Finding A Graduate School

Internet Searches

- Use a variety of key words
- Be careful of the results as they may rely on frequency matches rather than program quality

Advisors, Mentors and Current Graduate Students

- Great resource for graduate program information

Professional Associations

- Conferences: great for networking, learning about type of research at prospective schools
- Journals: who is doing a cutting-edge research?

Graduate & Professional Studies Expo

Career • Centre

Wednesday, Oct. 22, 2014 11am - 3pm

Founders Assembly Hall, Winters Dining Hall
& McLaughlin Junior Common Room

Connect with recruiters from business and law schools, teacher education programs, graduate studies programs, professional schools and colleges and improve your chances of getting into the program of your choice.

- Meet recruiters at the Educator Exhibition
- Learn about York's Graduate Studies programs
- Attend panel discussions on getting into law, teacher education, and MBA programs
- Find out how to finance your education

careers.yorku.ca/gpse





Why should you start looking soon?

To Find Out Important Information:

Required Classes:

- Some programs require undergraduate courses as prerequisites

Tests and Cut-off Scores:

- Some programs require a test (e.g. GRE, GMAT)
- Cut-off scores narrow down applicant pool for interviews

Typical Application Materials

- Application Form
- Letters of Recommendation (usually two)
- Personal Statement
- Transcripts
- Standardized Test Scores (GRE, GMAT)
- Writing and Portfolio Samples



The Personal Statement

- Be specific in your goals and intentions
- Write a separate letter for each school
 - Schools may have different essay instructions; follow them carefully!
 - Mention specific details of the school's program



The Personal Statement

Typical essay requirements:

- **General Essay:** background, future plans, your reasons for choosing that school, etc
- **Research Essay:**
 - your specific research interests
 - questions you have thought about
 - why you are interested in these questions
 - what articles you have read to spark your interest



The Personal Statement

This is your chance to *sell yourself*.

- Take your time. Write it well.
 - Convince the school they want you as a graduate student
 - You may already be ranked before your interview!



The Personal Statement

This is your chance to *sell yourself*.

- Ask a professor for feedback.
 - They know the process; they've been there!
 - They may sit on admission committees
 - Will know what details to include for success



Letters of Recommendation

A STRONG letter should:

- Be from a professor who knows you outside of class:
 - Research practicum, honours thesis, faculty club supervisor, et cetera
- Say more than just about your grades:
 - Problem-solving skills
 - Teamwork
 - Your character



Letters of Recommendation

Provide for each professor:

1. **Envelopes** typed with addresses for each school
2. Each school's **required forms** (fill out all information)
3. **Instructions** from each school (seal and sign, mail or return to student)
4. **Specific information** to include (about you, the applicant)
5. **Deadlines** (for returning to you or mailing—NOT the application deadline!)



Sending Applications

- Mail applications should arrive **TWO WEEKS** before the deadline
- Write a CV (curriculum vitae) to include all your experience and awards
- Double and triple check your packages to make sure they're complete
- Call and confirm receipt of your application one week before the deadline

Expenses

Plan ahead and consider the following costs:

- Transcripts

 - ~\$15 for YorkU

- Test score reports

 - e.g. GRE: \$195 to write; free to send to four schools, ~\$27 for each additional

- Application fees

 - Vary by school, often \$25 and up

Typical Application Timeline

- **August - September**

- Start browsing through programs guides, web sites and university catalogs

- Meet with faculty members you know to discuss personal statement and possible programs

- Start asking for letters of recommendation

- **October**

- Determine which programs to which you'll apply

- Establish your timeline based on deadlines

- Start writing your personal statement



Typical Application Timeline

- **November**

- Complete application forms and order transcripts
- Provide your recommending professors with letter of recommendation forms and information

- **December - January**

- Mail applications (even if early; better safe than sorry)
- Don't forget to follow up on receipt of your applications!



Funding Opportunities

Internal: from the graduate school

External:

- OGS
- Tri-Council
- Others (HSF Master's, etc.)
- OSAP

Ontario Graduate Scholarship Program (OGS)

Scholarship information

Who It's For:

Graduate students at masters or doctoral level

Amount of Aid:

\$5,000 per term up to a maximum of \$15,000

Students wishing to apply to graduate programs at more than one institution will have to complete each institutions OGS Program application form

The Canada Graduate Scholarship – Master's

- CGS – \$17,500 for 12 months, non-renewable
- CIHR, NSERC, SSHRC – support 2,500 students annually

| Selection Criteria | Weight |
|---|--------|
| Academic Excellence | 50% |
| Research Potential | 30% |
| Personal Characteristics and Interpersonal Skills | 20% |



Heart and Stroke Foundation Doctoral Research Award

- Value: \$21,000 per annum, for a max of three years
- Eligibility:
 - Canadian citizen or permanent resident
 - Full-time research in cardiovascular or cerebrovascular studies
- There will not be a 2015/2016 National Personnel Award.
Maybe offered in the future as funding permits

Q & A Panel

Guest Speakers:

Sanam Pourhabib, Nick Zinck, Deanna Harris, John Babu,
Venilla Rajaguru

(Current York University Graduate Students)





For More Information:

<https://osap.gov.on.ca/OSAPPortal/en/A-ZListofAid/PRD19842319.html>

<http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/>

<http://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/index-eng.aspx>

<http://hsf.ca/research/en/personnel-award-programs>

<http://www.yorku.ca/sos>

<http://www.registrar.yorku.ca/transcripts/>