

Questions to Ask

When selecting a school or program:

- Does it have high quality faculty and research facilities?
- Are broad offerings of course work and degree options available?
- What are the degree requirements? Is there a thesis or creative component?
- Are support services available?
- How are major advisors selected?
- How long might it take to complete my program?
- Are offices or study spaces available for graduate assistants?
- What kinds of placement services are available?
- What is the program's placement record?
- Will I need to take extra background courses/prerequisites?

When considering community services and environment:

- What types of housing are available?
- Are quality childcare services available?
- Where are the schools and business districts located in relation to the campus?

On financial aid and tuition costs:

- What will be the total cost each term?
- Are there tuition waivers? What costs is optional?
- Are fellowships or assistantships available? What responsibilities are attached to them?
- What types of financial aid are available to me?
- When are the financial aid deadlines?

On admission procedures:

- When are the admission deadlines?
- Are standardized tests required before admission? What are their deadlines?
- What other application materials are required?
- Are campus visits required, recommended?
- What criteria are used for the admission decisions?
- Who makes the admission decisions?
- How and when will I be notified regarding admission?

And to ask yourself:

- What are the advantages of a graduate degree?
- What are my objectives and expectations of graduate work?
- Do I have particular areas of research interest?
- What are my plans after graduate school?
- How will a graduate degree affect my future career goals?
- Will the benefits of a graduate degree exceed the costs?

Please note: Graduate school representatives may not be able to answer all questions about specific graduate programs at their school.

