



Graduate School & Graduate Scholarships

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Graduate School



- Consider both benefits and costs (educational, financial, social)
- Determine what is expected (coursework, independent research, major essay, thesis)
- Explore potential universities & graduate programs
- Examine program requirements (entrance grades, exam scores (GRE), etc.)
- Consider possible supervisors
- Investigate funding opportunities
- **CHOOSE A FACULTY MENTOR (OR TWO) AT STU!**



Meet With Your Mentor

- ▶ A faculty mentor here at STU can help to guide you through the process.
 - ▶ Knowledge of the discipline
 - ▶ Knowledge of different graduate programs
 - ▶ Knowledge of potential supervisors
- ▶ Your faculty mentor should be a professor with whom you have already established a working relationship, and who knows your talents and capabilities.
- ▶ Your faculty mentor can also help you to craft an effective research proposal that is well-aligned with the standards of your discipline.



How to Choose a Graduate School

- What are your research interests?
- Are these research interests specific to a single discipline, or are they interdisciplinary?
- Would you be more comfortable in a large graduate program, or a small one?
- What information is available on the graduate program's website?
- Who are your potential supervisors?
- What is the length of the program?
- How much does it cost? What funding do they offer?
- Is there a residency requirement?
- Where is the university located, and where would you like to live?
- Are there recent graduates that you can talk to about their experience?
- Think about what makes the most sense for YOU.



Preparing To Apply

- ▶ Typical applications consist of:
 - ▶ Application form
 - ▶ Application fee
 - ▶ Official transcripts
 - ▶ Letter of intent/cover letter/research proposal
 - ▶ Sample of your writing
 - ▶ Reference letters
 - ▶ Curriculum vitae
- ▶ Pay attention to deadlines! Funding deadlines and application deadlines may not be the same.



Asking for References

- ▶ Consider who would be a good reference for you.
 - ▶ Academic vs. non-academic references
 - ▶ Have you established a good working relationship with this person?
 - ▶ Is this person in a position to supply you with a positive reference (i.e., did you do well in their courses)? What is a “good” reference?
- ▶ Give potential referees PLENTY of time (at least one month before deadline)
- ▶ Arrange an appointment
- ▶ Provide all required information
- ▶ Seek input, ask referee to be involved in the process
- ▶ YOU must keep track of deadlines and provide gentle reminders
- ▶ Take “no” for an answer



Securing Funding

- Internal funding
 - RA/TA jobs
 - Fellowships & awards
- External funding
 - Federal (Tri-Agency, i.e., SSHRC)
 - Provincial (i.e., Ontario Graduate Scholarships)
 - Philanthropic (i.e., O'Brien Foundation – Nov. 1st deadline!)
- Pay careful attention to deadlines!
- How to find funding opportunities
 - <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/finance/educationfunding/scholarships.html>
 - <https://www.scholarshipscanada.com>
 - <http://apps.gradstudies.dal.ca/external/>



Canada Graduate Scholarships – Master's Program

- ▶ https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/students-etudiants/pg-cs/cgsm-bescm_eng.asp
- ▶ \$17,500 per year
- ▶ Apply to up to three institutions (each “host” university has an allocation)
- ▶ Application deadline: December 1st (but also check with the graduate programs to which you will be applying)
- ▶ Online application via the “Research Portal”
- ▶ Tenable only at Canadian universities; must be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident
- ▶ Key components:
 - ▶ research proposal
 - ▶ Reference letters
 - ▶ Transcripts
 - ▶ Canadian Common CV (CCV)

Example

- ▶ Helene is a student who wants to do a Master's degree on her favourite art forms: anime and manga. How should she proceed?
- ▶ FIRST, she should approach at least one professor here at STU to act as her faculty mentor, to provide her with advice and guidance on the whole process. Helene chooses Prof. Jones, who taught a Cultural Studies course on anime and manga, and who did graduate research on this topic.
- ▶ NEXT, Helene should conduct her own research on graduate programs and potential supervisors in Canada where she might study. She finds:
 - ▶ [MA in Asian Studies, UBC; Dr. Sharalyn Orbaugh](#)
 - ▶ [MA in Film Studies, Concordia; Dr. Marc Steinberg](#)
 - ▶ [MA in Communication and Media Studies, University of Calgary; Dr. Bart Beaty](#)
- ▶ NEXT, Helene should think about the size of these programs, where they are located, what they will cost, etc., etc.
- ▶ NEXT, Helene must note ALL relevant information about application requirements, funding, deadlines, etc., etc.
- ▶ FINALLY, Helene should begin to prepare her applications, as well as an application for a [Canada Graduate Scholarship](#)



Points to Remember

- ▶ Plan ahead: understand deadlines and procedures, make timelines, set goals
- ▶ Find (a) suitable faculty mentor(s)
- ▶ Ask for references EARLY
- ▶ Focusing on your applications now will pay off in the future
- ▶ Contact the Office of Research Services (research@stu.ca) for more information
- ▶ Questions?