

Graduate Studies

... Getting Started – resources, tips and more!

Career Centre Library Resources

Visit us in Champlain College, Room 204 to browse the library.

- ☆ Academic
 - University calendars & professional programs information
 - “Directory of Canadian Universities”
 - “Guide to Professional Programs in Canada”
 - International school and program information
 - Index of Graduate Degrees (USA)
 - Test preparation materials (GRE, GMAT, etc.)

- ☆ General & Graduate Studies Assistance
 - “Perfect Personal Statements” – examples, recommendation letters, tips
 - Graduate School Guides – variety of information on what grad school is, is it for you, choosing a program, getting accepted and tips for during your studies.
 - “Your Future: a guide for potential graduate students” – Published by the Canadian Association for Graduate Studies
 - Discipline and sector specific information
 - Resume, Cover Letter, Curriculum Vitae and Portfolio development resources

Other Resources

- ☆ Wondering “What can I do with my studies in....?” – The Career Options Project - www.trentu.ca/careers/students/careeroptions.html
 - Includes Trent discipline specific information
- ☆ Make an appointment – Meet with one of the Career Centre staff to discuss any questions you might have or to have your personal statement or resume reviewed.
- ☆ **Professional & Graduate School Expo – October 12, 2006**
 - Meet with school representatives to learn more about their graduate programs.
- ☆ “What Can I Do with My Degree?” Workshop – begin to explore your options.
- ☆ www.trentu.ca/careers - Check out our website for great links and more.

Be prepared: a useful timeline

Adapted From: Canadian Association for
Graduate Studies

Summer

- Begin to narrow your choices of programs and schools
- Check dates for standardized tests
- Visit university websites and find application deadlines
- Start to consider individuals you would like to have write your letters of recommendation
- Investigate scholarship and financial aid options and deadlines

Fall

- Read the applications thoroughly and prepare any other materials requested
- Write your personal statement / application essay
- Have a faculty member or Career Centre staff review application documents
- Send in completed graduate school application(s)
- Obtain letters of recommendation– be sure to provide program information & sufficient time
- Complete financial aid applications by appropriate deadline(s)
- Follow up with schools before deadlines to make sure your application package is complete

Winter

- Continue to gather information about each institution so that when you are notified of acceptance, you can make your decision easier

Spring

- Keep track of acceptances, wait lists and rejections
- Visit schools that accept you
- Be sure to notify schools that accept you of your decision (to accept or not)
- Send thank you notes to your reference people

To Consider...

Should you do it? *Take a piece of paper, think about these questions, and write down your answers.*

- What are my career goals?
- Master's or doctorate?
- Am I interested enough in the subject to stay with it for two or three or six years?
- Do I have the energy and commitment to work hard for as long as it takes?
- Can I take the pressure?
- Can I find the money to pay tuition, living expenses, and books?
- Can I go without working full time and give up the income in order to remain a student or, if I am out, to return to college?
- What do I want my life to be like a few years after completing the degree?

Where to go? *To help make up your mind where to apply, take each program you are considering; and then the answers to these questions:*

- What is the reputation of the program?
- Is the faculty researching what I am interested in?
- How specialized is the department?
- What are the course and thesis requirements to get my degree?
- How long will it take?
- Can I afford it?
- What are the possibilities for financial aid?
- Do I have the prerequisites for the program?
- What are my chances of being accepted?
- What are my chances of getting a job I want after I finish there?
- How much will it cost me to live there?
- Does the university have suitable graduate student housing?

Adapted From: <http://www.gradschools.com/info/handbook/>