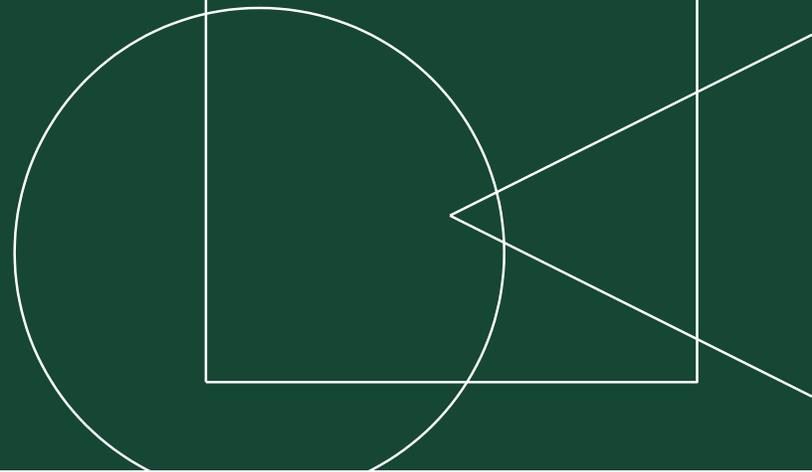


Applying to Graduate Studies



Consider the type of graduate program you want: Master's programs can be of different lengths, and be research-intensive or course-based. Think about the type of program that suits your academic and career goals. Two year research-intensive programs require coursework and a thesis. Other programs may have more coursework and a Major Research Paper. Some programs are course-based only, and may have a placement or internship option. There are many professional masters that involve practicum or placement hours to prepare for a specific profession.

Research programs:

Research schools that fit with your academic and professional interests; ask faculty for recommendations of programs and faculty; find Canadian programs at universitystudy.ca

Research admissions requirements:

For each program, research the academic grades required and whether there are prerequisites courses or requirements such as an undergrad thesis. Non-academic admission requirements may include relevant volunteer or work experience and supplementary materials such as a CV or resume. Some programs may ask for test scores i.e. Psychology may require the GRE and most MBAs ask for the GMAT.

Find a supervisor:

For research intensive programs, you will need to contact a potential supervisor. Read their biographies and research publications before contacting them.

Research funding:

Research the funding information of the school you are applying for. External funding: The Canadian and provincial governments offer a number of scholarships and bursaries. Some funding deadlines are early. (Canadian Graduate Scholarship Masters are due Dec.1) Trent School of Graduate Studies publishes deadlines on their website every year. Read guidelines carefully to ensure your program of study is eligible and that you have the required grades.

Internal funding:

The program may have funding which usually involves work as a Teaching or Research Assistant. Loans: Graduate study can be OSAP eligible.

Know your deadlines:

Each school has its own application deadlines, some as early as December.

Ask for references:

Approach faculty, giving them plenty of time to write a reference before the deadline; assist your references by providing them with your personal statement, your résumé or CV, and information about the program you are applying to. Ask: "Would you be willing to write me a positive reference for grad school?"

Write the personal statement or plan of study. This essay allows you to articulate your suitability for the program. For a research-oriented program, outline your research topic and the plan to accomplish it. Ask a faculty member to review your statement. Careerspace and Academic Skills can also do a review.

Online applications: Each school you apply to will have an online application and an application fee. Register and log on to complete the application and access all the documents required.

Applying to Graduate Studies

(Adapted from: Your Future: A guide for potential graduate students. Canadian Association for Graduate Studies www.cags.ca)

Summer

- Research programs and schools. Consider visiting schools.
- If a standardized test is required, check dates, and make time to register, study and take practice tests.
- Visit university websites to find application deadlines which vary school to school.
- Consider individuals whom you would like to write your letters of recommendation.
- Investigate scholarship and financial aid options and deadlines.
- Research Canadian scholarships. Trent's Grad Studies Department website has relevant resources.

Fall

- Read the applications thoroughly and prepare any other materials requested
- Write your personal statement / statement of intent / plan of study

- Have faculty members and Careerspace staff review statements
- Obtain letters of recommendation – provide program information and sufficient time
- Complete financial aid applications by appropriate deadline(s)
- Follow up with schools before deadlines to ensure your application 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? Consider:

- What are my career goals?
- Am I interested enough in the subject to stay with it two, 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 give up the income in order to remain a student or return to school?

Where to go? Consider:

- What is the reputation of the program?
- Is the faculty researching what I am interested in?
- What are the course and thesis requirements to get my degree?
- How long will it take?
- What financial aid is available?
- Do I have the grades and prerequisites?
- What are my chances of being accepted?
- What are employment opportunities like with this degree?

Careerspace Resources

Professional & Graduate Schools Expo: Visit trentu.ca/careerspace for details - Meet with school representatives to learn more about their graduate programs.

Careerspace Appointments:

- 1:1 review of personal statements, résumés and CVs.
- 1:1 appointments to discuss your grad school application