

Quick Tips: Finding programs

Transcript

Let's take a look at some quick tips on the topic of finding programs for graduate school applications. Be sure to read all of the information in the "What you need to know" and "Master's and PhD programs" sections to get you started on planning for graduate studies.

What should you consider when choosing a program? Do some self-assessment—the number one question is: what do YOU want to get out of it? What is your motivator? It is A LOT of work to do just because you feel a bachelor's degree is not enough or others are pushing you to do it—you are going to need more motivation than that when it gets difficult.

Do your research! This is an important decision, so you have to figure out what is important to you. Why are you considering grad school? How does it fit into your career goals? What do you need in a supervisor if you are considering a research-based grad degree?

Visit Universities Canada to search a database to find programs across Canada and find scholarship information. Peterson's graduate school search will help you find university programs in the United States. Many other websites can help you locate the program(s) in which you are interested, some of which may be accessed through the [Centre for Career Action website](#). Centre for Career Action also has many books on a variety of programs. Each fall, Professional & Post-degree Day is held on campus and is an opportunity for you to meet with admission representatives from a number of programs.

A lot of people are concerned with the "reputation" of a program, but sometimes are not sure exactly what that is. In North America, while rankings exist, they are rarely helpful in assessing individual graduate PROGRAMS.

Use your own program criteria to guide you. These may include faculty members, areas of research, facilities, funding availability, applicant acceptance ratio, choice of courses, size of classes, student completion rate, average time taken to complete degree, job placement rate, housing, tuition and living costs, location, and career services support.

You may be advised not to pursue graduate studies at the institution where you completed your undergraduate degree because many believe that exposure to different people, perspectives, and lifestyles will be an asset to your personal and professional development. But the most important consideration is to select the program of study that is appropriate for you, regardless of where you completed your undergraduate degree.