

## GRADUATE SCHOOL RESEARCH

[www.petersons.com/graduate-schools.aspx](http://www.petersons.com/graduate-schools.aspx)

[www.gradschools.com](http://www.gradschools.com)

[www.princetonreview.com/graduate-schools-programs.aspx](http://www.princetonreview.com/graduate-schools-programs.aspx)

Graduate School Abroad: <https://www.gradschools.com/graduate-schools-by-country>

Graduate Record Exam (GRE): [www.ets.org/gre](http://www.ets.org/gre) and [www.princetonreview.com/grad/gre-information.aspx](http://www.princetonreview.com/grad/gre-information.aspx)

Graduate Management Test (GMAT): [www.mba.com/us](http://www.mba.com/us)

### **WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN A GRADUATE PROGRAM AND SCHOOL**

When you are looking at schools and programs, consider some of the following:

**Career Goals** - What is your goal and will a graduate degree help you?

**Degree Program** – What courses are taught? What type of research will you conduct?

**Location** – Where are you willing to live while attending school?

**Faculty** – Who are the faculty and what are their backgrounds? What kind of research have they done and how many publications do they have?

**Facilities** – Are the labs, research and computer facilities up to date? What facilities are available to graduate students?

**Reputation** - Consider the reputation <http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/grad/rankings/rankindex.htm> of the program and the faculty at each college. Another ratings site is phds.org

**Campus Environment** – What size is the school and the program? Try to visit the campus and speak with faculty, current students, admissions and financial aid representatives. Does the campus environment feel comfortable to you?

**Graduate Internships** – Are internships a required part of the degree program? Ask where students have done their internships. Does the school help with finding these opportunities?

**Application requirements** – Find out the admissions requirements (GPA, test scores, etc.) What is the application deadline? Is a personal statement or essay required?

**Placement information** - Ask to see the placement information for past graduates of the program to find out the placement rate, the types of jobs and which companies graduates worked at upon graduation, and salaries graduates received.

**Cost** – Create a budget for each school, including tuition, room & board, books, fees and living expenses and determine if you can afford to attend each college you are considering.

**Financial Aid** – Check with the Financial Aid Office at every school to learn what they offer to graduate students.

### **QUESTIONS TO ASK REPRESENTATIVES**

1. What are the admission requirements and procedures? (i.e. - GREs, LSATs, campus interviews?)
2. What are the application fees? Can fees be waived for economically-needy students?
3. What is the deadline for application? Does the institution have rolling admission policies?
4. What is the ratio of applicants to students admitted?
5. What are the academic qualifications of accepted applicants? What other entrance requirements are there?
6. What is the application deadline for financial aid?
7. How much financial assistance is given to students, and in what forms (loans, grants, fellowships, work study programs)? What is the percentage of students in your discipline who receive graduate assistantships?
8. How diverse is the student body?
9. Does the institution actively recruit multicultural students?
10. What is the ratio of applicants entering directly from undergraduate school to those entering with several years of work experience?

### **QUESTIONS TO ASK REPRESENTATIVES (cont.)**

11. What is the ratio of full-time to part-time students?
12. What is the program's attrition rate?
13. What is the program's curriculum?
14. What is the required number of credit hours? What other degree requirements are there?
15. Are there any foreign language requirements?
16. What degrees do faculty teaching in your discipline hold? Where were they received? (Is there diversity?)
17. Is faculty involved in research? What grants have they received for their projects?
18. What is the ratio of students to faculty?
19. What is the ratio of full-time to part-time faculty?
20. Is there any information regarding the library facilities, independent research centers, labs, and/or institutes on campus or in the community?
21. What type of computers are used and how many are available for the student body?
22. Are placement statistics on graduates available?
23. How many students in your discipline are assisted in finding internships, summer jobs and/or post-graduate employment?
24. What types of career information panels, workshops, counseling and other programs are offered?
25. How involved is the surrounding community with the school?
26. What are the number and types of student organizations on campus?