

APPLYING FOR ADVANCED GRADUATE STUDY

Applying for graduate programs requires many elements for success: an application and application documents, letters of recommendation, exams, and transcripts. From start to finish, this process typically takes longer than a year.



Research and exploration

SUMMER

Investigate programs of interest
Track required deadlines and materials
Begin working on documents
Review standardized test requirements

Research programs by

- visiting websites
- reading scholarship by faculty
- contacting students and faculty
- reviewing program requirements
- exploring funding opportunities



Preparation and advising

SEPTEMBER

Seek advice from mentors to narrow school choices
Discuss documents with mentors
Determine who will write letters of recommendation
Register to (re)take required exams

- Ask mentors if they have any program recommendations you have not considered
- Offer your CV and statement of purpose to letter writers



Exams and review

OCTOBER

Take exams if needed
Get document feedback from mentors and campus writing resources
Submit formal recommendation requests

- Get document feedback from multiple reviewers
- Provide clear instructions and deadline information to recommenders
- Give recommenders at least 2-3 weeks to write letters



Submit applications

NOVEMBER-JANUARY

Revise documents based on feedback
Request transcripts
Make sure all documents have been received
Submit application materials

- Submit applications in advance of deadlines to ensure all documents are received
- Applications for assistantships typically have earlier deadlines and may require additional documents



Admission

FEBRUARY-MARCH

Receive admissions offer, wait-list status, or admissions denial
Contact faculty or students with questions or arrange a visit
Complete FAFSA

- Wait to hear from as many programs as possible before committing
- Asking questions or visiting can help you decide which program to attend



Decisions

APRIL-MAY

Notify schools of your decision to accept/decline their offer
Correspond with the program and begin paperwork
Get advice from faculty and staff about getting started