



## Graduate & Professional Schools Fair: Sample Questions for students

*Are you preparing for the Graduate & Professional Schools Fair, but you're not sure what you should ask? Here are some sample questions to help you get started on thinking about what to ask the Admissions and Recruitment team at the fair, at open houses, or even in an email!*

### General

- What are your most popular programs? What programs do you wish more students knew about?
- What makes this program unique?
- What mentorship resources or formal and informal support networks are available for students in the department, on the campus (if applicable), and at the institution as a whole?
- What are the areas of specialty of your Faculty members (and/or instructors)?
- What are the benefits of attending your institution?
- What supports are available for \_\_\_\_\_ (e.g., international students, students with disabilities, 2SLGBTQIA+ students, BIPOC-identifying students, etc.)?
- How can this program help me apply what I learn in a way that will benefit \_\_\_\_\_ (be specific about a future goal you are trying to attain)?
- What opportunities are there for funding at entrance and through the course of the program?
- How long do your students typically take to complete the program?
- What is a competitive mark to gain admittance? (*remember, no one can tell you with certainty what grade will guarantee admission, however, you can learn the average from previous years*)
- How do you calculate this mark (e.g., is it the Cumulative GPA or the last ten courses, do spring/summer courses count)?
- What advice would you give students who are concerned with their GPA?
- Sometimes students experience a term of low marks for various reasons. Is there an area in your application that will allow applicants to explain extenuating circumstances?
- Does the program require admission tests (GRE, GMAT, MCAT, LSAT, TOEFL, IELTS)? Is there a cut-off score?
- What are the other important factors that the admissions committee takes into consideration (e.g., volunteering, co-curricular activities, leadership experience and/or work experience)?
- At what stage do references become part of the selection process? How will my references be contacted?



- Does my academic reference need to be from a subject area that aligns with the program I am applying for?
- What if I don't have an academic reference?
- Do you accept applications after the deadline?
- What do you wish more students knew about the application process?
- May I visit the campus to speak with students and faculty?
- Are there any practicums/co-op/internships in the program? If there are, what supports are in place to support the placement seeking process.
- Can the program be completed on a part-time basis?
- Is it possible to receive advanced standing for work already completed?
- If I took some time off between my undergraduate degree and this program, would this affect my admissibility?
- Do you have multiple start date(s) for programs?
- What are alumni doing six months after graduation?
- What support does the program offer after graduation?
- Can I follow up with you if I have more questions? How do you prefer to be contacted?
- Are there any information sessions I should be aware of?

## Graduate Programs

- How long do your students typically take to complete a Master's or Ph.D. program?
- Are there opportunities for direct entry into the Ph.D. program from the Master's program? How do you apply for this process?
- How many graduate students do professors typically supervise?
- Should I contact professors of interest prior to my application?
- Do incoming students work on projects that have already been developed or are they expected to design their own project?
- What is the expected workload for students in the program?
- Do many students work in addition to taking classes and working on research?
- For course-based programs: Are there opportunities to complete a research thesis?
- What are the job prospects for students who graduate from this program? Do they typically go into academia, industry or are they pursuing other careers?

## Professional Programs

- For international professional programs: what advice would you give to students who want to return to Canada? What due diligence should be done?
- Are there opportunities for research? What are the policies for taking time off for research opportunities?



## Financial Support for Graduate Students

- What are the standard eligibility requirements for awards and bursaries (e.g. citizenship, residency, field of study, career goals, academic requirements, equity-deserving groups)?
- Is the award merit-based or needs-based?
- What types of awards are available (e.g., teaching assistantships, research assistantships, fellowships)?
- What is the stipend amount? Does the award cover tuition and fees?
- What is the duration of the award? Will it cover both my Master's and Ph.D. programs?
- Can the award be held concurrently with another award?
- What are the teaching and research requirements? How many hours per week are expected?
- How do you apply for the award and how are the recipients chosen? Does it entail national, provincial, university-wide, or departmental competition or nomination by the department at the time of admission?
- Is the award available to both Master's and Ph.D. students?
- What kinds of travel grants does the university provide for conferences and field research?