



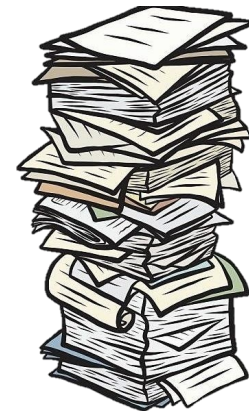
APPLYING TO GRAD SCHOOL

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AGENDA

- Why grad school?
- Picking the right program
- Searching Universities
- Picking the right supervisor
- Application components
 - GREs
 - Reference Letters
 - Personal Statement
 - CV
 - Transcripts
- CGS-M Funding
- Timeline



WHY (OR WHY NOT) GRAD SCHOOL?

- **Grad school is not for everyone!**
- What is your career goal?
 - Do you know what your career goal is yet?
- How long are you willing to be in school for?
- How much do you enjoy research?

PICKING THE RIGHT PROGRAM



PICKING THE RIGHT PROGRAM

Mainly Clinical
Focus

Mainly Research
Focus



PsyD
Clinical Psychology



MA & PhD
Clinical or Counselling
Psychology

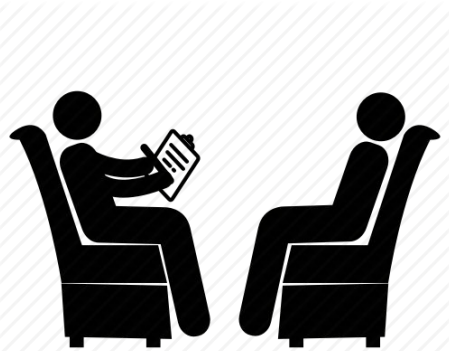


MA and/or PhD
Research Psychology

PICKING THE RIGHT PROGRAM

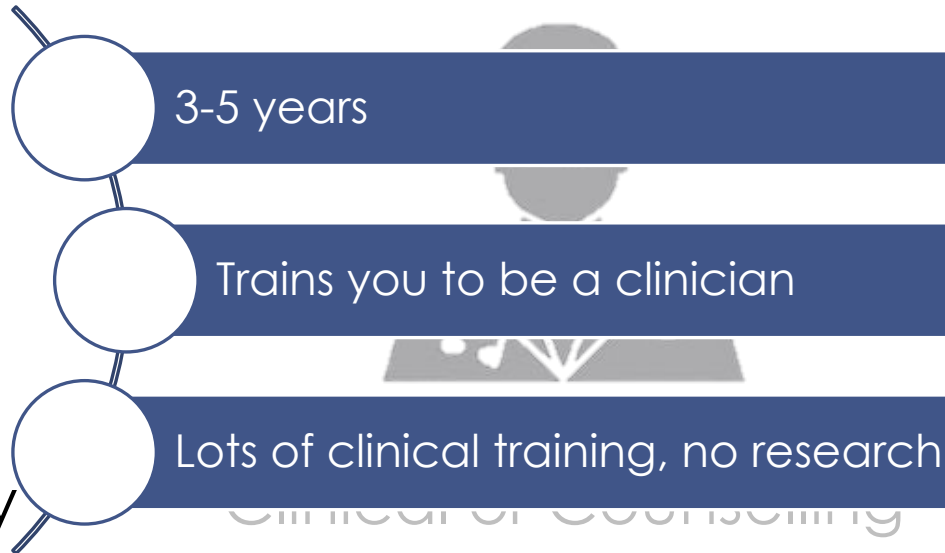
Mainly Clinical
Focus

Mainly Research
Focus



PsyD

Clinical Psychology



Clinical or Counseling
Psychology



MA and/or PhD
Research Psychology

PICKING THE RIGHT PROGRAM

Mainly Clinical
Focus

Mainly Research
Focus



PsyD

Clinical Psychology



MA & PhD

Clinical or Counselling
Psychology

5-7 years

Trains you to be a scientist
practitioner

MA and/or PhD

Lots of research AND clinical training

PICKING THE RIGHT PROGRAM

Mainly Clinical
Focus

Mainly Research
Focus



PsyD

Clinical Psychology

2-7 years

Trains you to be a researcher

MA & PhD

Lots of research, no clinical work

Psychology



MA and/or PhD

Research Psychology

OTHER PSYCHOLOGY-RELATED GRADUATE PROGRAMS

- ❖ Industrial/Organizational Psychology
- ❖ School/Educational Psychology
- ❖ Art/Music Therapy
- ❖ Social Work
- ❖ Neurobiology
- ❖ Forensic psychology
- ❖ Human resources

PICKING THE RIGHT PROGRAM: ELIGIBILITY

- Completion of Bachelors in Psychology, Honours or equivalent
- B+/A- (Research), A (Clinical)
- OPQ Requirement classes (Clinical)
- Graduate Record Examinations (GRE): General, Psychology
- Experience: Research and Clinical

OPQ REQUIREMENTS

Course Content Domain	OPQ Course Credit Req'd.	C C V
1. Biological domain †	6	
2. Social-cultural domain †	6	
3. Cognitive-affective domain †	6	
4. Developmental Psychology †	6	

Course Content Domain	OPQ Course Credit Req'd.	C C V
5. History and Systems of Psychology †	3	
6. Psychological Measurement and Assessment	3	
7. Research Methods	3	
8. Statistics	3	
9. Personality	3	
10. Abnormal Psychology	3	

PICKING THE RIGHT PROGRAM: CPA ACCREDITATION

- Types of doctoral programs accredited by CPA
 - Clinical Psychology
 - Clinical Neuropsychology
 - Counselling Psychology
 - School Psychology
- Check to see which programs are accredited before applying
 - <https://cpa.ca/accreditation/cpaaccreditedprograms/>
- Very competitive – relocation may be necessary


CHOOSING A UNIVERSITY



CHOOSING A UNIVERSITY

- Getting into grad school can be tough
- Think of applying to at least 3-5 universities to increase your chances
- To get started check out:

<https://www.universitystudy.ca/canadian-universities/>



UNIVERSITYSTUDY.CA

EXPLORE UNIVERSITIES

SEARCH PROGRAMS

FIND SCHOLARSHIPS

PLAN FOR UNIVERSITY

Home » Canadian universities

CANADIAN UNIVERSITIES

Start your search today by browsing the directory below and learn more about Canada's universities.

CHOOSING A UNIVERSITY: FACTORS TO CONSIDER

- Location
- Cost
- Quality of Life
- Program of Interest
 - Research vs. Clinical Focus
- Types of classes you can take
- Faculty

WOULD I RATHER BE FEARED OR LOVED?

EASY

**BOTH. I WANT PEOPLE TO BE AFRAID
OF HOW MUCH THEY LOVE ME**

quickmeme.com

PICKING THE
RIGHT
SUPERVISOR

PICKING THE RIGHT SUPERVISOR

- Availability – are they taking on students?
- Research Focus (publications, CV, lab website)
- Clinical Focus
- ** Personality (current/past graduate students)
- Lab atmosphere
- Expectations
- Funding

PICKING THE RIGHT SUPERVISOR

- Contact prospective supervisors early in academic year of application
 - Introduce yourself
 - Explain interest in the program/their research
 - Ask them if they are taking students
 - Invite them to contact you
 - Give them notice of your application

PICKING THE RIGHT SUPERVISOR: INTRODUCTION EMAIL

Hello Dr. Fawcett,

My name is Cassandra Goldfarb; I have recently completed an Honours undergraduate degree in B.Sc. Neuroscience program at Bishop's University in Sherbrooke, Quebec. I have a passion for research, which developed during my time in the Health and Well-Being Laboratory situated at Bishop's University as a research assistant. I have found a particular interest in studying memory, specifically, I am interested in learning more about eyewitness memory. My honours thesis revolved around the differences in memory for emotional versus non emotional stimuli.

I began searching for potential graduate programs relating to these interests, and have found my interests coincide with some of yours. Having read some of your publications including "Looking Down the Barrel of a Gun: What Do We Know About the Weapon Focus Effect?", I am interested in learning more about your work on the weapon focus effect and if it is threat of novelty which brings it about.

It is for this reason I am contacting you to ask if you have plans to take on graduate students beginning in September of 2019. I have attached a copy of my CV and transcripts for your consideration.

I understand you are quite busy, but I would very much appreciate any help you might be willing to offer.

Thank you very much for your time,

Cassandra Goldfarb



APPLICATION COMPONENTS



GOAL OF APPLICATION

- Demonstrate:
 - You will help potential supervisor accomplish their research goals (relatively painlessly)
 - Your strengths, competencies, and experiences
 - Why you are a good fit for that specific lab/program
 - Why that specific lab/program is a good fit for your personal goals
- Cohesive narrative of past experiences and future goals

APPLICATION COMPONENTS: GRES

- Standardized exam
- Two types
 - General GRE (math and literature)
 - Psychology GRE
- Not weighted very heavily
- Some universities do not require GRE marks
- Strongly recommend taking GRE the **summer before** starting your final undergraduate year

APPLICATION COMPONENTS: REFERENCE LETTERS

- Minimum 3 references
- Qualities of a good referee
 - Someone who knows you well
 - Someone you have worked with in a research and/or clinical capacity
 - Someone who can write a **strong** and **positive** letter for you
 - Ask explicitly!
 - Someone with credentials
- Send CV with reference letter requests
- Referees may ask for unofficial transcripts
- Give “fake” deadlines for referees!
 - Send reminders!

APPLICATION COMPONENTS: PERSONAL STATEMENT

- Why you want to go to grad school
- Why you are interested in this specific program (subject area and university)
- What your research/clinical interests are
 - How do they align with your prospective supervisors' research?
- Why you will succeed (skills and past experiences)
- What can you offer?

APPLICATION COMPONENTS: ACADEMIC CV

- Should contain all relevant experience
- Explain your role/experience briefly/succinctly
- Should look organized/aesthetically pleasing, but professional

APPLICATION COMPONENTS: ACADEMIC CV

- Education (degrees and universities attended)
- Language skills
- Relevant work experience
- Research experience
- Volunteer experience (community, leadership, relevant extra-curriculars)
- Awards/ Honours/ Distinctions (academic, financial, achievements)
- Additional training
- Publications (posters, presentations, papers)

APPLICATION COMPONENTS: ACADEMIC CV

- Education (degrees and universities attended)
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APPLICATION COMPONENTS: ACADEMIC CV

- <http://caps.mcgill.ca/tools/cv.php>
- http://www.apa.org/science/vitae_do_dont.html
- <http://www.careercenter.umich.edu/students/cclibrary/careerguides/cvpub2000.htm>
- <http://www.socialpsychology.org/vitatips.htm>
- <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/641/01/>
- <http://www.dartmouth.edu/~gradstdy/careers/services/vita.html>

APPLICATION COMPONENTS: OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPTS

- MUST request official transcripts be sent directly to the university(s) you are applying to
- Need to send in official transcripts from all attended universities
- Order them as EARLY as possible (Beginning Nov.)

FUNDING



CANADA GRADUATE SCHOOL-MASTERS (CGS-M): FUNDING

- Objective: To support students who demonstrate a high standard of achievement in undergraduate and early graduate studies
- Funding Amount: \$17,500/year
- If you have time it is **worth applying**
- Some supervisors only take on students who have external funding

CGS-M:APPLICATION COMPONENTS

- One application to either CIHR, NSERC or SSHRC and one to FRQ
- Application requirements:
 - Summary of proposed study
 - Canadian Common CV
 - 2 References
 - Official Transcripts (you send in)
- Weighted components:
 - Academic Excellence -50%
 - Research Potential -30%
 - Personal Characteristics and Interpersonal Skills - 20%



TIMELINE



TIMELINE

- Take GRE
- Explore Programs
- University Search
- Supervisors Search

Sept.

- Reach out to Supervisors
- Make a plan of action

- Begin grad school application (Oct)
- Reach out to References
- Order Transcripts (Nov)
- Apply CGS-M/Funding

Oct/Nov

Dec.

- Grad School Applications Due
- CGS-M Due

July/August

REAL ADVICE FROM FELLOW CONCORDIA GRADUATE STUDENTS

“Check if PI’s **collaborate** with others within and outside the university”

“Talk to students in the lab or recent graduates to get a feel for the **vibe**”

“Don’t feel **rushed** into applying to grad school”

“Research Programs **Thoroughly**”

“Don’t forget you need to **interview** potential supervisors”

“If you start searching for a university/ supervisor sooner than later, it gives you time to **ask questions**”

“Make sure you **like** the PI and Lab”

“Start your applications **early**”

“Apply to a **range** of universities”

“Think about **where** you want to study”

“Consider your **fit** with the lab and supervisor”

THANK YOU!

QUESTIONS?

