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Going to Grad School

To go or not to go to grad school

Do you want to go to grad school?

What for?

Clinical or research?

A few things to think about

You do not have to go to grad school

- Make sure you are going for the right reasons

Applying requires time and effort (and money)

- Months of emails, essays, and forms

Being in grad school requires time and effort (and money)

- Years of reading, writing, courses, tests, lab work...

There will be rejection, and that's okay

- Many different reasons
- Special mention: clinical programs

A few more things before applying



When?

Right after graduation?

Take a gap year(s)?



Where?

Ideal program?

Dream university?

Perfect supervisor?

A city you want to live in?

You have to decided to go, now what?

Apply to programs

Apply for funding



Applying to grad school



The basics

- **Supervisor**
- Transcripts
- Reference letters (2-3)
- CV
- Statement of interest
- Funding
- Graduate Record Exam (GRE)

Each program has different requirements, read instructions!

Getting a supervisor

- Do your research interests align?
- Are your working styles compatible?
- Are they well funded?
- Can they help you get funding?

Contacting a supervisor

- Do it early, around August
- Establish a link between your experience and interests, and their work
- Do your homework and show it
 - Read their papers
 - Go through their website
- Are they looking for grad students?
- Do they supervise research or clinical students?

Asking for letter of reference

Who?

- Thesis supervisor
- You were a good volunteer, RA or TA for them
- Profs that know you well

When?

- Before you apply
- 3-4 weeks in advance

How?

- Remind them who you are
- Give them the information they need
 - CV
 - Where you are applying
 - Deadlines

Statement of purpose

- Letter of intent, personal statement...
- Explain why you want to be in that particular program
- Sell yourself: why are you a good candidate?
- The ultimate goal: what will you do with the degree?
- Read instructions!
 - Include specific information
 - Length

Funding



Money can come from different places

- Graduate stipend
- Internal awards and scholarships
- External funding
 - Federal
 - Provincial

Graduate stipend

- Programs might guarantee a minimum salary
 - Find out if and how much
 - Concordia: \$21,000/year
- Supervisors might have grants to pay you from
- Top off with TA and RA work
 - Be mindful of the workload

Internal awards and scholarships

- Depends on the university, department, program...
- Automatic consideration upon application
 - You don't have to do anything else!
- Supplemental application
- They can be a good source of extra money and good for your CV

External funding

	Federal (Tri-Agency)	Provincial (Fonds de recherche du Québec)
Social Sciences	SSHRC Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council	FRQSC Société et culture
Health Sciences	CIHR Canadian Institutes of Health Research	FRQS Santé
Natural Sciences	NSERC Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada	FRQNT Nature et technologies

The basics

- Transcripts
- CV –ish
 - Tri-Agency: Canadian Common CV ([CCV](#))
 - FRQ will ask for education, experience, and awards in the form
- Research proposal

Each agency has different requirements, read instructions!

Choosing the right agency

- Think of your research proposal
- Check supervisor's funding
- Look at projects that the agency funds

- Federal: any program in Canada
- Provincial: can be taken outside Quebec

<https://www.concordia.ca/sgs/awards-funding/provincial-federal.html>

Federal funding

Eligibility:

- Canadian citizens, permanent residents of Canada, or Protected Persons

Master's programs:

- \$17,500/year for one year
- December 1st

Federal funding

Doctoral programs:

- Value of award varies
- [CIHR](#) – October 13th
- [NSERC](#) – October 17th
- [SSHRC](#) – October 17th

Provincial funding

Eligibility:

- Canadian citizens or permanent residents and have RAMQ
- Proof of admission to program or acceptance from supervisor

Master's programs:

- \$20,000/year up to 2 years
- [FRQNT](#) – October 3rd
- [FRQS](#) – October 5th
- [FRQSC](#) – October 4th

Provincial funding

Doctoral programs:

- \$25,000/year up to 4 years
- [FRQNT](#) – October 3rd
- [FRQS](#) – October 5th
- [FRQSC](#) – October 4th

Final tips



- There is not just one right path
 - It's okay to go to grad school, or not
 - It's okay to go right after graduation, or not
- Do it for the right reasons
 - Being called "Dr." is nice, but not enough
- You will survive being rejected
- Be mindful of time
 - Start early
 - Applying will take a lot of time
- Grad school is an investment
 - Put your time, effort, and money in the right place

Questions?