



Types of Graduate Programs



- Research Programs (M.Sc, PhD)
- Professional Programs (Medicine, Pharmacy, etc.)
- Course - Based/Professional Masters (Master of Food Science (MFS), Masters of Food and Resource Economics)

EXPLORING OPTIONS

- If you are hoping to work in a specific field, research the educational background of people working in that field or talk with them. **Is a graduate degree necessary to do this kind of work?** Are there specific skills/topics it is important for you to cover in your graduate program?
- What is most important for you to gain from your graduate school experience ? (industry connections, hands-on experience, skills in particular areas, the opportunity to research or learn about a certain area ...)
- What ideas do you have about what graduate school is like? What kind of person do you imagine having a graduate degree?



DIFFERENCES BETWEEN RESUME AND CV

- 1) Length (CV can be longer, but most UG CVs are often in the 2 page range)
- 2) Focus (CV will typically focus mainly on research and academic accomplishments, although it might touch briefly on work and leadership experience, especially if related)
- 3) Design (typically much simpler in design/layout, no colors, graphics, etc.)
- 4) References (include full contact details for 3-4 references on your CV, no need to include references on a resume)
- 5) Progression Over time (a CV will likely always have the same sections that you will add to, and it will grow much longer over time vs a resume that might still be 1-2 pages at any point in someone's career)



STATEMENT OF INTENT

- Think like a reviewer: what will they want? What makes someone a good social worker/data scientist/anthropology Ph.D. student?
- Are you telling them about yourself, or about your proposed work in the graduate program? Or both?
- What criteria are they looking for (i.e. academic performance, social engagement, volunteer work)?



ASKING FOR REFERENCE LETTERS

References

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Who Do I ask?

Usually (but not always) an academic working in a relevant research field

Someone who knows you well (ish)

Be strategic

When do I ask?

Early! Give your letter writers plenty of time... but be aware they may not write until the last minute

Reminders are okay (but don't nag)

Letter writers will often want to see a copy of your personal statement, CV etc.

How do I ask?

Respectfully but confidently

Have a meeting with your recommenders if possible

Give them all the information to write a good letter. Help them to help you.

RESOURCES

Sample CVs and Resumes: <https://students.ubc.ca/career/career-resources/resumes-cover-letters-curricula-vitae>

Personal Statements and Statements of Purpose:

<https://grad.berkeley.edu/admissions/apply/personal-statement/>

<https://grad.berkeley.edu/admissions/apply/statement-purpose/>

Additional Resources and Information: <https://students.ubc.ca/career/career-resources/pursuing-grad-studies>



Closing Thoughts...



Take the time to
reflect and research



There is often more than
one path to the same
goals



Some uncertainty
is inevitable

Q&A



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