

Questions to Ask A Graduate Program

STUDENT SUPPORT

Is there a diverse group of students, faculty, and administrators?

Questions to Ask A Graduate Program

STUDENT SUPPORT

Is there support for
the needs of students
from all backgrounds?

Questions to Ask A Graduate Program

STUDENT SUPPORT

Are there regular
followup meetings with
graduate students?

Questions to Ask A Graduate Program

STUDENT SUPPORT

Are there symposia
on issues pertaining to
graduate students?

Questions to Ask A Graduate Program

STUDENT SUPPORT

Are there graduate education workshops for undergraduates?

Questions to Ask A Graduate Program

STUDENT SUPPORT

What kind of social events does the graduate school or university sponsor each year?

Questions to Ask A Graduate Program

STUDENT SUPPORT

How is the access to
faculty and graduate school
administrative staff?

Questions to Ask A Graduate Program

STUDENT SUPPORT

Are there comprehensive wellbeing services with a professional staff equipped to serve a diverse student population?

Questions to Ask A Graduate Program

STUDENT SUPPORT

How robust is the communication between the graduate school and students (e.g., newsletters, social media)?

Questions to Ask A Graduate Program

STUDENT SUPPORT

Do the program,
the graduate school,
and the university
focus on mentoring
for student success?

Questions to Ask A Graduate Program

STUDENT SUPPORT

How much professional development programming is there for graduate students?

Questions to Ask A Graduate Program

STUDENT SUPPORT

Are there active student groups that appeal to me?

Questions to Ask A Graduate Program

STUDENT SUPPORT

What kind of resources and support are there for students with children?

Questions to Ask A Graduate Program

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Is the award merit-based
or need-based?

Questions to Ask A Graduate Program

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

What are the standard eligibility requirements (e.g., citizenship, residency, field of study, career goals)?

Questions to Ask A Graduate Program

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

What types of awards
are available?

(e.g., teaching assistantships,
research assistantships, fellowships)

Questions to Ask A Graduate Program

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

What is the stipend amount? Does the award cover tuition and fees?

Questions to Ask A Graduate Program

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

What is the duration of the award? Is the stipend guaranteed over the life of the award?

Questions to Ask A Graduate Program

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Can the award be held concurrently with another award? Can it be used as a supplemental award?

Questions to Ask A Graduate Program

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

What are the academic requirements?

(e.g., student must maintain good academic standing, must make satisfactory progress toward the degree, etc.)

Questions to Ask A Graduate Program

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

What are the teaching and
research requirements?
How many hours per week
are expected?

Questions to Ask A Graduate Program

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

What are the penalties
(if any) if you fail to
complete the degree?

Questions to Ask A Graduate Program

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

What are the payback provisions? Does the award require anything of you upon completion of the degree?

Questions to Ask A Graduate Program

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

How do you apply for the award and how are the recipients chosen?

Competition (nationwide, statewide, university-wide, or departmental) or nomination by the department at the time of admission?

Questions to Ask A Graduate Program

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Is the award available
to both master's and
Ph.D. students?

Questions to Ask A Graduate Program

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

What kind of dissertation support funding does the university provide?

Questions to Ask A Graduate Program

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

What kinds of travel grants does the university provide for conference participation and research?

Questions to Ask A Graduate Program

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Does the university provide funding support for emergencies (e.g., short-term loans, hardship assistance grants)?

Questions to Ask A Graduate Program

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

(For external Awards from outside the university)

Is the award portable
(may be used at any
institution to which you are
admitted) or institutional
(may only be used at the
awarding institution)?

Questions to Ask A Graduate Program

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

(For external Awards from outside the university)

Do you have to be admitted to a school to be eligible for award consideration, or can you apply for the award before seeking admission to graduate school?

Questions to Ask A Graduate Program

ACADEMIC SUPPORT

What kind of formal and informal support networks exist in the department, the graduate school, and the university?

Questions to Ask A Graduate Program

ACADEMIC SUPPORT

Does the campus and departmental culture encourage mentoring?

Questions to Ask A Graduate Program

ACADEMIC SUPPORT

What research opportunities are there for graduate students?

Questions to Ask A Graduate Program

ACADEMIC SUPPORT

What opportunities exist for scholarly discussions among students and faculty in a multidisciplinary setting?

Questions to Ask A Graduate Program

ACADEMIC SUPPORT

Do curricula address ethnic, racial, gender, and cultural issues?

Questions to Ask A Graduate Program

ACADEMIC SUPPORT

Are there robust English language resources for international students?
