# Some Factors to Consider When Choosing Your Graduate School or Program

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| **Factors to consider** | **Duke** | **School 2** | **School 3** | **School 4** | **School 5** |
| Reputation of the institution and program |  |  |  |  |  |
| Faculty's research interests and how they match yours |  |  |  |  |  |
| Graduate students’ access to faculty |  |  |  |  |  |
| Quality of research facilities (e.g., labs, libraries) |  |  |  |  |  |
| Diversity, social climate, and support system in the department, graduate school, and university |  |  |  |  |  |
| Career paths of the program's graduates | Program-specific career outcomes data: <https://gradschool.duke.edu/about/program-statistics> |  |  |  |  |
| Financial aid (amount, length, requirements) | PhD financial support: <https://gradschool.duke.edu/financial-support/phd-financial-support>  Master's financial support: <https://gradschool.duke.edu/financial-support/master-s-financial-support> |  |  |  |  |
| Cost of living and availability of affordable housing | See estimated living expenses in our cost-of-attendance tables: <https://gradschool.duke.edu/financial-support/cost-attend> |  |  |  |  |
| Geographic location | About Durham: <https://gradschool.duke.edu/student-life/city-durham> |  |  |  |  |
| Health and wellness resources | <https://gradschool.duke.edu/student-life/student-health-and-wellness> |  |  |  |  |
| Mentoring support | <https://gradschool.duke.edu/professional-development/cultivating-culture-mentoring> |  |  |  |  |
| Professional development resources for academic and nonacademic careers | <https://gradschool.duke.edu/professional-development> |  |  |  |  |
| English language support for international students | <https://gradschool.duke.edu/academics/english-international-students> |  |  |  |  |
| Childcare resources (if you are a parent) | <https://gradschool.duke.edu/student-life/students-children> |  |  |  |  |
| Student organizations | <https://gradschool.duke.edu/student-life/student-groups> |  |  |  |  |
| Communication with the graduate school | Some ways the Duke Graduate School communicates with students:  Newsletters: (<https://gradschool.duke.edu/about/newsletters>)  Social media channels: (<https://gradschool.duke.edu/about/duke-graduate-school-social-media>) |  |  |  |  |