

Researching a Graduate School: Things to Think About

Is this the right place for you?

- Is there a departmental focus consistent with your interests?
- Is there at least one faculty member (preferably more) who does what you're interested in? If not, look somewhere else.
- If so: what does the faculty member or members do? (see webpage and list of publications)
- Ideally, read at least one of that person's articles and be able to summarize it.
- Are relevant faculty doing research? How well are they cited?¹
- If you intend to do fieldwork: what opportunities exist for field work?
- Does the program require training or prerequisites that you lack? (Not a deal-breaker, but you will need to make up deficiencies).
- What are the entrance requirements? Do they sound feasible for you?

General Program Information

- What degrees are offered?
- What are the degree requirements? Courses? Exams?
- How long will it take to complete them?
- Will you be expected to do research before the thesis or dissertation?
- What opportunities exist for field work?
- What are their graduates doing?
- What is the average time to degree? (if available)

Other important stuff

- What financial support is available? (how much, what type, for how long, etc.)
- What are the facilities like? (libraries, labs if appropriate, etc.)
- How's the skiing (beaches, climate, etc.)?

¹To check citation rates, go to Marriott homepage and follow these links: article databases → science citation index (or web of science) → web of science (tab at top) → cited reference search (tab at top) → cited author (enter last name first initial, for example Harpending H, or Harpending H*) → click expanded titles to find the articles by your prof, and you will see the number of citations by each article.