This is all about

- Clarifying the process of applying to graduate school in physics
- Ways of getting involved in research and hence figuring out if you are interested in graduate school
- Answering the question(s) “what do graduate students do?” and “what do they think about it.”
- Answering any other questions you may have.

How do you know if you want to go to graduate school in physics?

Grad School is mainly about RESEARCH

If you know you want to do research either in academia, or in industry, then apply.

If you don't know about research, there are MANY opportunities to try it.

The best way to do some research is to bug the physics faculty.

Try different projects

If you are interested in physics research, or simply think you might be, try it out!

http://www.compadre.org/student/research/

has a good listing

Having decided to go to graduate school, where is the $ moola $ going to come from?

You SHOULD apply for external funding because...

- Attempting to formulate your research interests will help you clarify them.
- With independent funding it is easier to get a job in the research lab of your choice.
- You *might* actually win a fellowship!

Everyone should apply for this one.

<http://www.nsfgrfp.org/>

GRFP Fellows Receive the Following:

- **Three years of support**
- **$30,000 annual stipend**
- **$10,500 cost-of-education allowance**
- **$1,000 one time international travel allowance**
- **TeraGrid Supercomputer access**

For the Applied folks

-with a very good record

http://www.hertzfoundation.org/

Successful applicants have the choice of two Fellowship options:

Option 1 - Five Year Hertz
- $31,000/ 9-month personal stipend*
- Full tuition equivalent
- Renewable for up to 5 years

Option 2 - Five-Year Coordinated
Hertz Period - Two Years
- $36,000/ 9-month personal stipend*
- Full tuition equivalent

Other Fellowship Period - Up to Three Years
- $3,500/ year supplemental stipend* from Hertz
- Requires Awardee to accept a 3-year Fellowship from another source

Churchill Scholarship

At least fourteen Churchill Scholarships, are offered annually.

The Churchill Scholarship is worth between $44,000 and $50,000, depending on the exchange rate.

It covers all University and College tuition and fees (currently about $25,000). In addition, students receive a living allowance of £10,000 if enrolled in a nine-month academic program and £12,000 if enrolled in a full-year academic program. They also receive an allowance of up to $1,000 for travel to and from the United Kingdom.

Some Resources

- http://www.physics.purdue.edu/resources/graduate_funding.shtml
- http://scipp.ucsc.edu/~profumo/service/grad_fund.pdf
- A new wiki hosted at the UO??

Some cool opportunities

WHY PSI?

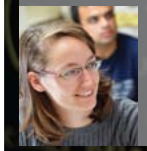
Perimeter Scholars International (PSI) is a 10-month intensive Master's level course held at Perimeter Institute for Theoretical Physics, a leading international research centre in Waterloo, Ontario, Canada.

PSI is designed to prepare outstanding students from around the world for cutting edge research. The syllabus exposes students to the whole spectrum of theoretical physics through a stellar array of international lecturers as well as dedicated professional tutors. Graduates receive a Master's Degree in Physics from the University of Waterloo and a Perimeter Scholars International Certificate from Perimeter Institute.

FULL FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Students accepted into PSI are eligible for full scholarships covering all expenses, including:

- Full tuition
- Accommodation
- Books and materials
- Health Insurance
- Return transportation
- Living stipend
- Meals
- Laptop



APPLY TO PSI

PSI welcomes applications from exceptional students with an undergraduate honours degree in Physics, Math, Engineering or Computer Science with a minimum of 3 upper level undergraduate or graduate courses in Physics. PSI recruits a diverse group of students and especially encourages applications from women.

OUTSTANDING FACULTY

John Berlinsky, PSI Director Neil Turok, Director, Perimeter Institute

2009-10 Faculty Includes:

Niayesh Afshordi
Perimeter Institute

Ben Allanach
Cambridge University

Philip Anderson
Princeton University

Nima Arkani-Hamed
Institute for Advanced Study

Katrin Becker
Texas A&M University

Melanie Becker
Texas A&M University

Carl Bender
Washington University

Freddy Cachazo
Perimeter Institute

Matt Choptuik
University of British Columbia

Sue Coppersmith
University of Wisconsin at Madison

David Cory
MIT

Kari Dalnoki-Veress
McMaster University

François David
Institut de Physique Théorique, CEA-Saclay

Jaume Gomis
Perimeter Institute

Daniel Gottesman
Perimeter Institute

Ruth Gregory
Durham University

Leo Kadanoff
University of Chicago

Luis Lehner
Perimeter Institute & University of Guelph

Renate Loll
Universiteit Utrecht

Rob Myers
Perimeter Institute

Hiranya Peiris
Cambridge University

Malcolm Perry
Cambridge University

Michael Peskin
SLAC

Frans Pretorius
Princeton University

Sid Redner
Boston University

Anders Sandvik
Boston University

Erik Sorensen
McMaster University

Robert Spekkens
Perimeter Institute

Andrew Tolley
Perimeter Institute

David Tong
Cambridge University

Xiao-Gang Wen
MIT

perimeter scholars international

APPLY TO PSI

PROGRAM INFORMATION AND ONLINE APPLICATIONS AT:

perimeterscholars.org

The deadline for applications is February 1, 2010

PERIMETER INSTITUTE
FOR THEORETICAL PHYSICS

For the mathematically inclined:

Part III of the Mathematical Tripos

in

Cambridge

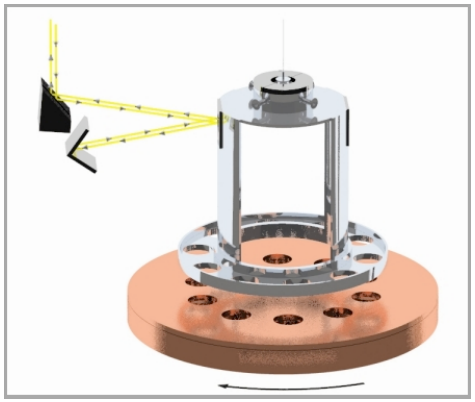
Obtain a Master of Advanced Study degree

You come to me with the question

"I know am interested in experimental gravitational physics. Who does that anymore?"

To which I would reply...

The Eöt-Wash Group at UW



LIGO at Michigan, Caltech, MIT

Neil Cornish at Montana State

Penn State

-Center for Gravitational Wave physics

-Institute for Gravitation and the Cosmos

Or you may ask:

"I am interested in research in optics, what programs should I be looking at?"

I have no clue!
But Dash would be a good person to ask.

Some comments

Academic jobs are incredibly competitive, largely due to lack of funding.

However there are many other reasons to go to graduate school in physics. So do not let that stop you!

Do not limit yourself by your degree!

With a bachelors in physics under your belt you can go into

-applied math

-biology

-computer science

...

Course work counts!

If you want to into high energy theory for example (god help you) then you will be competing against students who have already taken QFT as undergraduates.

Applying costs big bucks!

Choose wisely