



Questions to consider asking during a graduate school interview

Application and Requirements

- Are any additional application materials required other than what has already been submitted via the AGU Bridge application?
- What are the conditions and expectations of the offer? Is there a GPA I am required to maintain throughout the program?

Curriculum

- What programs does your department offer? Are there any specializations or certifications available?
- Are advisors assigned or can they be selected?
- How are classes conducted in your graduate program? How many courses will I be expected to complete in my first year?
- Does your department have an orientation course or event?
- How is student progress monitored and measured?
- How many students do you typically accept? What is your student to faculty ratio?
- What research projects are open to prospective students this year?

Funding

- What does your funding package look like?
- Does the funding package include summer funding? If not, how do students in your department typically cover summer expenses?
- What supplemental funding opportunities are available to apply to?
- Do you offer financial relocation assistance?
- How much does an average 1-bedroom apartment cost to rent in the area?
- How does the funding package compare to local cost of living/living expenses?
- Do students typically take on additional jobs to cover living expenses?
- What is the funding payment schedule? When will I receive my first check and on what schedule? Are there any one-time bonuses or supplemental funds dispersed, and if so, when?

Working

- Is the stipend a research stipend or will I be required to TA or do similar work as part of my funding package?
- Do graduate student-workers have an option to join a union?
- For TA/work stipends, how many hours a week am I expected to work? Is there sick leave? What is the process for requesting time off?
- For research stipends, what is the process for requesting time off? How is my progress measured?
- What types of career development resources are available throughout the program? How does your program assist with job placement at graduation?

Student Support and Department Culture

- When does the semester start? Is there programming before the start of the school year I would be expected to attend?
- Does the school provide health insurance? Am I responsible for the cost or is it provided free of charge or at a subsidized rate?
- Is graduate housing available? What is the cost? Are there other housing resources available?
- Is there a way to contact current or former graduate students in your Bridge Program so that I can learn more about their experiences?
- What inclusive practices has your department implemented? How will you continue to support diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives in the coming years?
- What types of training do faculty mentors take to prepare them to mentor students? Are any of these trainings focused on diversity, equity and inclusion?
- What types of activities or events are hosted by your department to create community?
- Does the school have a center for diversity, equity and inclusion, affinity organizations, or similar institution-level resources? How has your department worked with available resources and organizations in the past?

Adapted from the work of the Inclusive Graduate Education Network (IGEN)