



GRADUATE SCHOOL ADMISSIONS

Advice from Undergraduate Research and Fellowships

Interested in graduate school?

Start your search in your academic department of choice at Columbia:

- Your personal mentors in the department (professors whose classes deeply interested you, those with whom you have previously worked as a teaching or research assistant, or those with whom you have discussed your future (or with whom you would like to!)
- Department Director of Graduate Studies (DGS)

In many fields, you should cold email professors under whom you wish to study:

- Check with your faculty mentors to see if this is expected in your area of study
- You may or may not receive a response, however it can be important for faculty to hear from you, explaining your interests and why you feel the program, and in particular their mentorship, would be a good match

Fellowships provide funding and other support for graduate study:

- During your graduate school search, make sure to consult the URF Opportunity Database (<https://urf.columbia.edu/opportunity/search>) to look for opportunities tailored to your graduate study interests
- Look into, and apply for, fellowship and funding opportunities before applying to your graduate programs of choice. Many fellowship programs expect you to apply to funding before, or at the same time as, your graduate program (not after you are admitted!)
- Once you begin a graduate program, ask about local fellowship opportunities available to continuing students - new opportunities may arise!

URF provides support for graduate school applications:

- Keep in mind that URF advisors are not experts in graduate admissions in your field of study - so check in with your academic department first
- If you would like support crafting such aspects of your application as your personal statement, research statement, and more, book an appointment with a URF advisor to go over these materials together (<https://urf.columbia.edu/urf/about/advising>)

Good luck with your search, and don't hesitate to reach out for support!