**How to Get Into Grad School: Psychology Society Event**October 20th 2014  
#GetPsyched

**Mark Fesnke (Graduate Coordinator)**

* explore your different options

🡪 counseling  
🡪 education   
🡪 social work   
🡪 what interests YOU?

* courses differ depending on which strand of psychology you go in

applying

* grades matter (esp last 2 years)
* references (at least 1) GET TO KNOW YOUR PROFS

🡪 in order for a professor to advocate for you they will need to know you aka START TALKING TO THEM -> what are your future directions?, are you accepting grad students?, can I do a tour of your lab?

* GRE’s

🡪 do your homework (requirements differ depending on what you want to do)

* personal statement

🡪 time you brag about yourself

🡪 what interests you about the program

internal funding

* you can get these by being a TA (doing marking etc.)
* research assistant (grants)
* supervisors grant   
  🡪 those who have a more attractive resume are more likely to get a top up of money
* scholarships   
  🡪 know the deadlines

external funding

* http://www. uoguelph.ca/graduatestudies/finance/extawards
* deadline Dec. 1 2014   
  🡪 OGS Ontario Graduate Scholarship   
  🡪 SSHRC   
  🡪 NSERC   
  🡪 CIHR
* look for niche scholarships (few people applying)

what do you want to do with your graduate degree?

* academia
* practice
* clinical work
* consulting
* you could ask a potential supervisor what their past students are doing

DO’s

* speak to profs/TAs
* get experience
* work toward thesis
* study for GRE’s
* pick an exciting topic
* read articles and work on your writing skills (use the resources on campus)

DONT’S

* don’t have a generic application
* be too modest
* feign interests
* wait until the last minute
* ignore budgeting
* don’t take it too personally

**Harvey Marmurek (applied cognitive/neuroscience)**

* very competitive
* looking at transcripts (A- average in last two years)
* contact potential advisors (who’s research are you interested in)

**Barbara Morrongiello (Clinical)**

* not unusual to take more than one year for acceptance
* takes a long time to complete a clinical degree (6-7 years)
* extremely competitive
* 6 or 7 years of training without being paid
* don’t favour people who leave after masters
* extremely stressful (courses, research, training)  
  🡪 have to be able to manage stress really effectively   
  🡪 don’t waste time applying unless you’re 100%   
  🡪 some alternatives (social work, organizational clinical work -> not as research intensive)

what you need

* critical statement is the most critical thing
* selecting a supervisor is important (being in touch ahead of time)
* plan ahead for GRE’s
* high GPA
* looking for commitment
* honours thesis
* might work better to take a year off to think about it
* take a broad range of courses

**Ben Giguere (Applied Social)**

* big difference between learning about it and making a career out of it
* very broad program
* get experience   
  🡪 get into labs -> you want to know if you’ll like it
* figure out a general topic that you’re interested in
* some kind of social background that shows you can understand the social world in a meaningful way
* social skills are important

**Harjinder Gill (Industrial Organizational)**

* Focus on stats + research methods
* IO can help companies with problems like how to deal with a merger
* Lots of job opportunities
* You could get into consulting
* Most programs encourage people to stay for PhD
* A- average
* GRE scores
* Get started early
* A masters in industrial relation can be a substitute
* College could be an alternative as well
* We favour research experience in any area
* Have research / letters or reference
* Do your homework

mfenske@uoguelph

bmorrong@uoguelph

bgiguere@uoguelph

hmarmurek@uoguelph

gill@psy.uoguelph