



## Applying to Graduate Schools in the U.S.: Resources

### Some General Resources for graduate study in the U.S. and choosing graduate programs:

#### **EducationUSA Advising Centers:**

**[www.educationusa.info](http://www.educationusa.info)**

Centers available in Hanoi and HCMC (at American Center Hanoi and Consulate in HCMC)

These are a network of educational advising centers that are located around the world that provide accurate, unbiased information about U.S. higher education. These centers have many resources (books, handouts, advising sessions, web resources, etc.). They provide advise (most cases free) on how to choose universities, admissions, test preparation, visas, pre-departure orientation, etc.

- <http://www.educationusa.info/pages/students/research-grad.php>  
Good link that provides an overview of graduate education in the U.S.
- [https://www.educationusa.info/files/9b6836a3-1914-47d5-f8c9-6dd1054ff40a/IYWTS\\_Bk2%209-7-10.pdf](https://www.educationusa.info/files/9b6836a3-1914-47d5-f8c9-6dd1054ff40a/IYWTS_Bk2%209-7-10.pdf)  
“If you want to study in the United States: Graduate and Professional Study and Research”

***Peterson's Annual Guide to Graduate Study.*** Published annually. Peterson's, Princeton, NJ.

<http://www.petersons.com/>

*Book 1 — Graduate and Professional Programs*

*Book 3 — Graduate Programs in the Biological Sciences*

*Book 4 — Graduate Programs in the Physical Sciences, Mathematics, Agricultural Sciences, the Environment and Natural Resources*

*Book 5 — Graduate Programs in Engineering and Applied Sciences*

#### **PhDs.org**

**[phds.org/rankings](http://phds.org/rankings)**

The ranking system at PhDs.org allows the user to run customized rankings based on the 2010 survey data collected by the National Research Council. This site allows the user to indicate the importance of a variety of factors and rank programs according to those criteria. The site also includes articles about applying to graduate school.

#### **GradSchools.com**

GradSchools.com offers many articles about graduate education and tips about the graduate admissions process. The site includes a search function for identifying graduate programs by discipline.

*Applying to Graduate Schools in the U.S.*, 4th ed. Peterson's, Princeton, NJ.

*Greenes' Guides to Educational Planning: Making It into A Top Graduate School.* Collins, New York, NY.

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**Writing the Statement of Purpose (SOP):**

- <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/642/01/>  
This site gives some guidelines and also has examples of personal statements as well as some advice from some admission officers at various U.S. universities about what are some characteristics of a good SOP.
- [http://sciencecareers.sciencemag.org/career\\_development/previous\\_issues/articles/2006\\_01\\_06/sell\\_yourself\\_guidance\\_for\\_developing\\_your\\_personal\\_statement\\_for\\_graduate\\_school\\_applications](http://sciencecareers.sciencemag.org/career_development/previous_issues/articles/2006_01_06/sell_yourself_guidance_for_developing_your_personal_statement_for_graduate_school_applications)  
“Sell Yourself: Guidance for Developing Your Personal Statement for Graduate School Applications” An article on writing a SOP.
- [www.rpi.edu/dept/llc/writecenter/web/gradapp.html](http://www.rpi.edu/dept/llc/writecenter/web/gradapp.html) -- Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute's clear directives on writing the statement of purpose.
- *Graduate Admissions Essays — What Works, What Doesn't and Why.* Donald Asher. Ten -Speed Press, Berkeley, CA.
- *Graduate Admissions Essays: Write Your Way Into the Graduate School of Your Choice.* 2000. Donald Asher. Ten Speed Press, Berkeley, CA.
- *How to Write a Winning Personal Statement for Graduate and Professional School- 3rd edition.* 1997. Richard J. Stelzer. Peterson's, Princeton, NJ.
- *Perfect Personal Statements, 3rd ed.* Peterson's, Princeton, NJ

**Letters of Recommendation**

- <https://career.berkeley.edu/grad/gradletter.stm>  
University of California Berkeley Career Center site that has good tips on recommendation letters for graduate school.
- <http://www.socialpsychology.org/rectips.htm>  
Site provides some useful tips on the good practices to adopt when soliciting recommendation letters.
- <http://www.press.umich.edu/pdf/9780472031887-appendixg.pdf>
- [http://www.orl.med.umich.edu/rehughes/sample\\_letter.pdf](http://www.orl.med.umich.edu/rehughes/sample_letter.pdf)  
Sample of different types of recommendation letters; contains an example of a strong recommendation letter also.