



Graduate School

Important Questions to Ask

Programs:

- What is the average time to complete the program?
- How reliable is your financial support from year to year?
- What are the funding sources? Will I need to TA? If so, how many semesters?
- What is your student retention rate?
- Placement rates and types of jobs obtained by recent graduates?
- How are students paired with their faculty PI/mentor? Do you have rotations? First-year seminar series?
- What is the most important piece of the graduate school application? What things should I stress?
- Do you offer application fee waivers? Cornell does!

Graduate Students:

- What do you feel are the most important deciding factors when looking at potential graduate programs?
- Given what you know now, what would you have done differently?
- What do you feel has helped you survive/cope with stress?
- Why did you decide to attend this particular graduate school?
- What are the funding sources? Will I need to TA? If so, how many semesters?
- What do you like most and least about graduate school (and the institution where you are now)?
- How have you gone about building your community in graduate school?
- Tell me about diversity, inclusion and cultural initiatives at your university?
- Are there professional development opportunities available for me? Is there career services assistance?

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