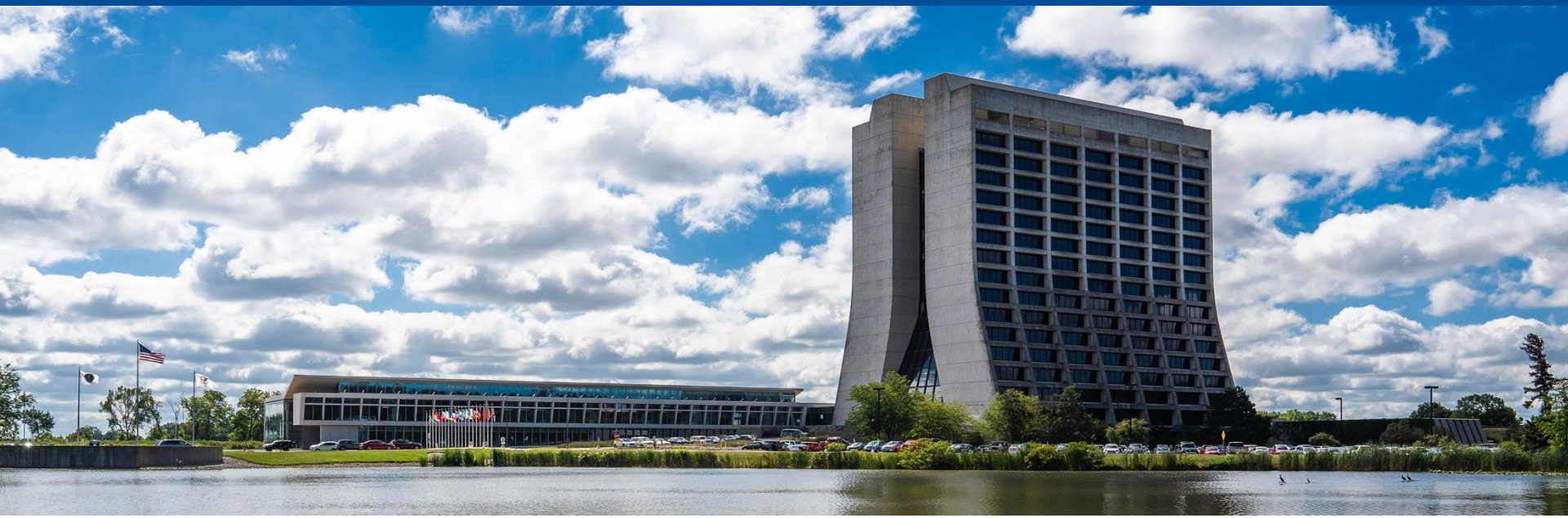


Be Seen! Applying for Grad Schools and Fellowships

Richard Wallace
Workforce Development Liaison
18 July 2024

Land Acknowledgement

- Before we begin, I would like to acknowledge the land on which we gather today. The Greater Chicagoland area has long been a center for diverse Indigenous peoples, including the Potawatomi, Odawa, and Ojibwe nations, collectively known as the Council of the Three Fires, as well as the Miami, Ho-Chunk, Menominee, Sac, Fox, and their descendants.
- We recognize that Chicago is situated on land that has been a site of human activity for thousands of years, and it is crucial to honor the enduring presence of Indigenous peoples past, present, and future. This acknowledgement is a small step in recognizing the historical and ongoing injustices faced by Indigenous communities.
- We offer our gratitude to the Indigenous peoples of this land and reaffirm our commitment to collaborating with and supporting their communities. Let us carry this awareness and respect into our work today and always

Thank you, Dr. Alex Drlica-Wagner, for your assistance and contribution!

About Your Speaker

Name: Richard A. Wallace

Pronouns: He/Him/His

Hobbies: Spending time with my fiancée, Playing Videogames, Watching Movies/TV, Building Lego sets, Watching Pro Wrestling, Playing Dungeons & Dragons, Traveling the World, Watching Football, FOOTBALL, and Basketball.

Interesting Fact: I do Improv & Stand-Up Comedy.

What are my qualifications for this talk:

Worked in Student Affairs Professionally from 2013 to 2022. (Resident Director and Academic Advisor)

I've advised roughly hundreds of undergraduates applying to grad school.

I applied to graduate school myself!

With Great Power Comes Great Responsibility!

Why Pursue Graduate School?

Advancing Knowledge in Your Field:

- In-depth Learning
- Research Opportunities
- Expertise Development

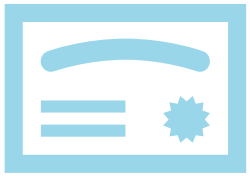
Career Opportunities in Academia, Industry, and Research:

- Academia
- Industry
- Research Institutions

Networking and Professional Development

- Connections
- Conferences and Workshops
- Skills Enhancement

Types of Graduate Programs



Master's Programs:

Duration: Typically 1-2 years.

Focus: Often course-based with a project, comprehensive exam, or thesis component.

Objective: Provide advanced knowledge and skills in a specific field, preparing students for professional practice or further academic study.

Examples: Master of Science (M.S.), Master of Engineer (M. Eng.), Master of Arts (M.A.).

Ph.D. Programs:

Duration: Typically 4-6 years.

Focus: Research-intensive with significant original research leading to a dissertation.

Objective: Prepares students for careers in academia, research, and high-level industry positions.

Examples: Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.), Doctor of Engineering (D.Eng.)

Types of Graduate Programs

Structure:

Master's: Combination of coursework and research, with a focus on applying existing knowledge.

Ph.D.: Primarily research-focused, with coursework in the early years followed by independent research.

Duration:

Master's: 1-2 years, sometimes 3 years for part-time programs.

Ph.D.: 4-6 years, depending on the field and progress in research.

Outcomes:

Master's: Often leads to advanced professional roles or further academic study.

Ph.D.: Leads to academic positions (e.g., professor), research roles, and high-level industry jobs.

Types of Graduate Programs

Interdisciplinary Programs:

- Overview: Combine multiple fields of study to address complex problems.
- Benefits: Broadens expertise and open up diverse career opportunities.
- Examples: Bioinformatics, Computational Science, Environmental Engineering

Dual-Degree Programs:

- Overview: Allows students to earn two degrees simultaneously (e.g., M/S/M.B.A., M.D./Ph.D).
- Benefits: Saves time and provides comprehensive training in two fields.
- Examples: Joint programs in law and engineering, business and technology.

Preparing for Graduate School

Courses:

Relevant Coursework: Focus on taking advanced courses in your field to build a strong foundation. Highlight any specialized courses that align with your research interests.

Grades/GPA: Maintain a strong GPA, particularly in your major courses. Admissions committees look for evidence of academic rigor and consistency.

Skills Development: Take courses that develop critical skills such as statistics, programming, and technical writing, which are valuable in graduate research.

Relevant Projects:

Capstone Projects: Engage in significant projects that demonstrate your ability to apply theoretical knowledge to practical problems.

Independent Study: Pursue independent study opportunities to explore topics of interest more deeply and show initiative.

Preparing for Graduate School

Internships:

Industry Internships: Gain practical experience in relevant industries, which can provide insights into real-world applications of your academic knowledge.

Research Internships: Participate in research internships at universities or research institutions to gain hands-on experience in conducting research.

Laboratory Work:

Lab Assistantships: Work as a lab assistant to develop technical skills and familiarity with research protocols.

Undergraduate Research: Engage in research projects under the guidance of faculty members. This can lead to co-authorship on publications and presentations at conferences.

Publications:

Conference Papers: Aim to present your research findings at academic conferences. This showcases your work to a broader audience and adds to your academic credentials.

Journal Articles: Try to publish your research in peer-reviewed journals. Even as a co-author, this is a strong indication of your research capabilities.

Applying for Graduate School

PhD programs are mostly about research.

You should expect to get **paid** to get a PhD in the physical sciences!

Application deadlines are usually in the winter (December - January). You usually hear back in February and March and need to decide by mid-April. You would start at your new school **in the fall of next year**.

Some programs require standardized tests (GRE General and Subject tests); These tests are offered on a limited schedule, so good to find out soon if you will need to take them.

Applying to grad schools can be expensive. **Ask about fee wavers** (they are not always clearly advertised)

Components of an Application

Undergraduate Transcript

GRE Tests (general and/or subject)

Curriculum Vitae

Personal Statement (or Diversity Statement and/or Teaching Statement)

Letters of Recommendation (3)

Ordering Undergraduate Transcripts

IMPORTANCE OF TRANSCRIPTS

STEPS TO ORDER TRANSCRIPTS

TIPS FOR SMOOTH PROCESSING

COMMON ISSUES AND SOLUTIONS

Importance of Transcripts

Importance of Transcripts

Official Record

Transcripts provide an official record of your academic performance.	Required by graduate schools to verify your academic history.

Academic Evaluation

Admissions committees use transcripts to evaluate your coursework and GPA.	Important for assessing your preparedness for advanced study.

Steps to Order Transcripts

Identify Requirements
Determine how many copies you need and the format required (electronic or paper).
Check specific instructions for each graduate program to ensure compliance.
Access Transcript Request System
Visit your university's registrar or student services website.
Look for the transcript request section or student portal.
Fill Out the Request Form
Provide necessary information: name, student ID, dates of attendance, and recipient details.
Specify delivery method (electronic, mail) and address if applicable.
Pay the Fees
Be aware of any fees associated with ordering transcripts.
Pay online or follow the university's payment instructions.
Submit the Request
Double-check the information for accuracy.
Submit the request and note any confirmation or tracking numbers.

Tips for Smooth Processing

Order Early

Allow ample time for processing and delivery, especially during peak times.

Check for Holds

Ensure there are no holds on your account that could delay transcript release (e.g., unpaid fees, library fines).

Request Delivery Confirmation

If available, opt for delivery confirmation or tracking to ensure your transcripts arrive.

Common Issues and Solutions

Processing Delays

Contact the registrar’s office if your transcript has not been processed within the expected timeframe.

Incorrect Information

Double-check recipient details and personal information before submitting your request.

Lost or Missing Transcripts

If transcripts are lost in transit, contact the registrar to arrange for another copy to be sent.

One Note: GRE Requirements Vary…

GRE requirements & admissions fees for US/Canadian Astronomy & Physics Programs

File Edit View Insert Format Data Tools Extensions Help

Program		GRE (Physics, General, & Temporary)*					Application Fee §				Table last updated: 2023-07-19
University	Department †	Phys.	Gen.	22-23	Policy	Verified by	Dom.	Intl.	Waiv.	Verified by	* Key:
Arizona	Physics	N	O		URL	R. Wechsler	$85	$95	N	J. Guillochon	N = Does not accept
Arizona State	Earth & Space	N	N		URL	S. Starrfield	$70	$115	N	S. Starrfield	O = Optional, no impact if not submitted ‡
Cal State Northridge [m]	Phys. & Ast.	N			URL	J. Barranco	$70	$70	Y	J. Guillochon	R = Optional but reporting recommended ‡
Case Western Reserve	Astronomy	N			URL	C. Mihos	$50	$50	N	J. Guillochon	Y = Still required
Case Western Reserve	Physics	N	N		URL	C. Covault	**$0**	**$0**	N	C. Covault	
Cornell	Astronomy	N	N		URL	N. Lewis	$105	$105	Y	J. Guillochon	
Cornell	Applied Physics	N	N		URL	D. Muller	$105	$105	Y	D. Muller	[a] = Alternative requirement if PGRE not reported
Florida	Astronomy	N	N		URL	D. Narayanan	$30	$30	N	J. Guillochon	[b] = GRE scores "blinded" until other app materials reviewed
Georgia State	Astronomy	N	N		URL	M. Bentz	$50	$50	Y	M. Bentz	[c] = Considering relaxing policy for 2022-2023
Georgia State [o]	Physics	N	N		URL	M. Bentz	$50	$50	Y	M. Bentz	[d] = Department ignores physics GRE, but school requires
Indiana Univ.	Astronomy	N			URL	E. Mills	$60	$65	Y	J. Guillochon	[e] = Exceptions made
Johns Hopkins	Planetary	N			URL	S. Stanley	$75	$75	Y	J. Guillochon	[g] = Department ignores general GRE, but school requires
Michigan [o]	Ast. & Astrophys.	N	N		URL	E. Rauscher	$75	$90	Y	J. Guillochon	[i] = Required for international students
Michigan State	Astronomy	N	N		URL	J. Strader	$65	$75	Y	J. Strader	[m] = Masters only program
Minnesota State	Phys. & Ast.	N	N		URL	P. Crowell	$75	$95	N	P. Crowell	[n] = No admissions fees for first N applicants
Montana State	Physics	N	N		URL	D. Ayzenberg	$60	$60	N	D. Ayzenberg	[o] = Online policy not yet fully updated to reflect current status
New Mexico State	Astronomy	N	N		URL	J. Jackiewicz	$40	$50	N	J. Guillochon	[r] = PGRE weight reduced in evaluation and/or no minimum score
Northwestern [o]	Astronomy	N	N		URL	E. Teng	$95	$95	Y	J. Guillochon	[s] = Sub-discipline within a larger department
Notre Dame	Physics	N	N		URL	S. Goethals	$75	$75	Y	J. Guillochon	[t] = PGRE recommended for non-physics majors

[Click Here for Spreadsheet]

Curriculum Vitae

A CV is ***not*** a resume.

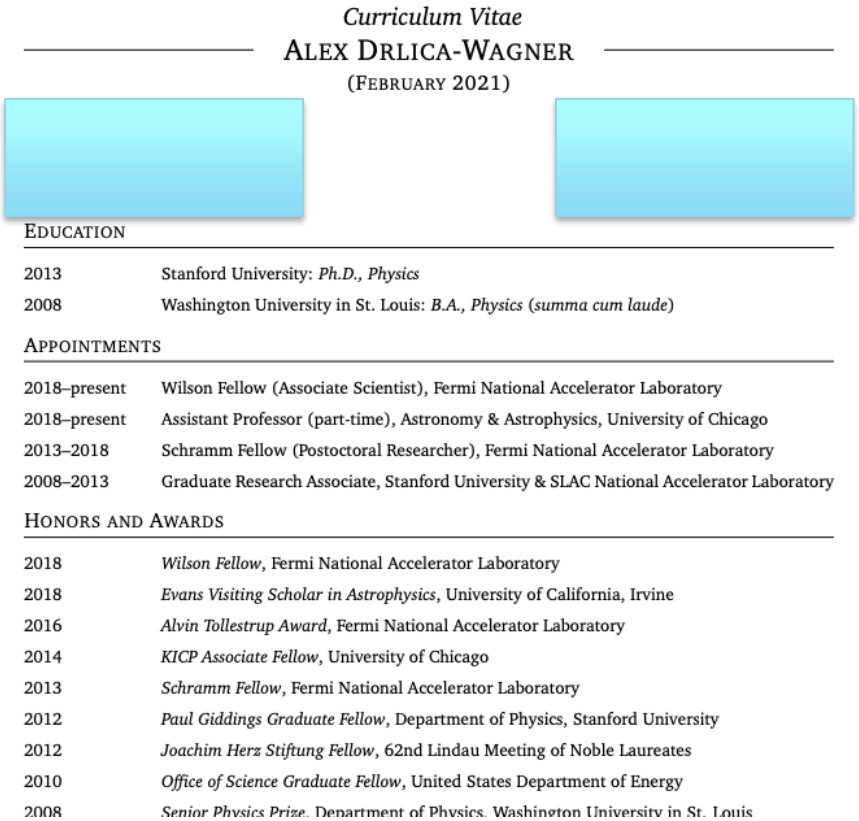
The CV should contain **everything** of relevance	This means your CV can be long!	In some occasions it is useful to explain things and not just give the title. For example, that award you won, how competitive was it? That paper that you were an author on, what did you contribute?

It is preferred***reverse*** chronological order for itemized lists

Looking for a template? Ask a friend or look on the web for the CV of one of your professors/mentors.

Curriculum Vitae Sections

- Education
- Appointments/Employment
- Honors and Awards
- Publications
- Presentations
- “Leadership Activities”
- Other Things to Consider…



Curriculum Vitae

ALEX DRLICA-WAGNER

(FEBRUARY 2021)

EDUCATION

2013	Stanford University: *Ph.D., Physics*
2008	Washington University in St. Louis: *B.A., Physics* (*summa cum laude*)

APPOINTMENTS

2018–present	Wilson Fellow (Associate Scientist), Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory
2018–present	Assistant Professor (part-time), Astronomy & Astrophysics, University of Chicago
2013–2018	Schramm Fellow (Postoctoral Researcher), Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory
2008–2013	Graduate Research Associate, Stanford University & SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory

HONORS AND AWARDS

2018	*Wilson Fellow*, Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory
2018	*Evans Visiting Scholar in Astrophysics*, University of California, Irvine
2016	*Alvin Tollestrup Award*, Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory
2014	*KICP Associate Fellow*, University of Chicago
2013	*Schramm Fellow*, Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory
2012	*Paul Giddings Graduate Fellow*, Department of Physics, Stanford University
2012	*Joachim Herz Stiftung Fellow*, 62nd Lindau Meeting of Noble Laureates
2010	*Office of Science Graduate Fellow*, United States Department of Energy
2008	*Senior Physics Prize*, Department of Physics, Washington University in St. Louis

Curriculum Vitae- Education

- Core components are school, degree, and year
- But you can get more inventive…
  - GPA (include if you are proud of it, but it is not required)
  - Latin honors (again, include if you are proud of them)
  - Title of Senior Thesis and thesis advisor

EDUCATION

2013	Stanford University: *Ph.D., Physics*
2008	Washington University in St. Louis: *B.A., Physics* (*summa cum laude*)

Curriculum Vitae- Appointments/Employment

- Appointments or Employment can be used. Appointments has more sophistication to it for those aspiring to be in research.
- This is a good place to list internships and research positions
- Other employment can be useful too IF it can be connected to the rest of your application (probably not the summer you worked in McDonald's, but maybe the software internship that you did).

Appointments

2018–present	Wilson Fellow (Associate Scientist), Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory
2018–present	Assistant Professor (part-time), Astronomy & Astrophysics, University of Chicago
2013–2018	Schramm Fellow (Postoctoral Researcher), Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory
2008–2013	Graduate Research Associate, Stanford University & SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory

Curriculum Vitae- Honors and Awards

- Brag about yourself here! Highlight your accomplishments. Be proud of them!
- Usual content is year, award title, and awarding institution.
- Sometimes it is useful to give some context. Metrics are vital to standout in numerous applications. (i.e., “Awarded to one exceptional physics major each year”, “Awarded to top 1% of students”)

HONORS AND AWARDS

2018	*Wilson Fellow*, Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory
2018	*Evans Visiting Scholar in Astrophysics*, University of California, Irvine
2016	*Alvin Tollestrup Award*, Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory
2014	*KICP Associate Fellow*, University of Chicago
2013	*Schramm Fellow*, Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory
2012	*Paul Giddings Graduate Fellow*, Department of Physics, Stanford University
2012	*Joachim Herz Stiftung Fellow*, 62nd Lindau Meeting of Noble Laureates
2010	*Office of Science Graduate Fellow*, United States Department of Energy
2008	*Senior Physics Prize*, Department of Physics, Washington University in St. Louis
2007	*Greg Delos Fellow*, Department of Physics, Washington University in St. Louis

Curriculum Vitae- Publications

- If you don't have publications, skip this section.
- Papers on the arXiv and conference proceeding can be listed here but be clear about where they are published/submitted.
- It is ok to list papers that are submitted or in prep *so long as you are willing to provide a draft upon request*.
- You can give some info about your contributions to the paper.

- Reverse chronological order; **bold** info that is important

15. M. Carrasco Kind, **A. Drlica-Wagner**, A. M. G. Koziol, et al., "easyaccess: Enhanced SQL command line interpreter for astronomical surveys", *JOSS* **4**, 1022 (2019), [arXiv:1810.02721]. **Core Developer; DES Collaboration.**

16. N. Shipp*, **A. Drlica-Wagner**, E. Balbinot, et al., "Stellar Streams Discovered in the Dark Energy Survey", ApJ **862**, 114 (2018), [arXiv:1801.03097]. **Corresponding Author; DES Collaboration.**

17. **DES Collaboration**: T. M. C. Abbott et al., "The Dark Energy Survey Data Release 1", ApJS **239**, 18 (2018), [arXiv:1801.03181]. **Analysis Contributions; Paper Writing and Figures.**

18. **DES Collaboration**: E. Morganson et al., "The Dark Energy Survey Image Processing Pipeline", PASP **130**, 074501 (2018), [arXiv:1801.03177]. **Analysis Contributions; Paper Writing and Figures.**

19. **A. Drlica-Wagner**, I. Sevilla-Noarbe, E. S. Rykoff, et al., "Dark Energy Survey Year 1 Results: Photometric Data Set for Cosmology", ApJS **235**, 33 (2018), [arXiv:1708.01531]. **Corresponding Author; Analysis Lead; DES Collaboration.**

Curriculum Vitae- Presentations

- If you don’t have presentations, skip this section.
- Year, title of presentation, event name, location
- Feel free to think liberally about what constitutes a “presentation”. Presentations as part of course work probably don’t count, but presentations in group meetings can be included.

RECENT INVITED SEMINARS

2020	*“Small Galaxies, Big Science: Probing Fundamental Physics with Dwarf Galaxies”* HEPAP Seminar at Pennsylvania State University, State College, PA
2019	*“Small Galaxies, Big Science: Fundamental Physics from Near Field Cosmology”* LUPM Seminar at University of Montpellier, Montpellier, FR
2018	*“Small Galaxies, Big Science: Using Cosmic Surveys to Study the Fundamental Nature of Dark Matter”* Panofsky Seminar at SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory, Menlo Park, CA
2018	*“Using Cosmic Surveys to Understand the Fundamental Nature of Dark Matter”* Cosmology Seminar at the University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA
2018	*“Small Galaxies, Big Science: Using Cosmic Surveys to Study the Fundamental Nature of Dark Matter”* Astronomy Seminar at Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI

Curriculum Vitae – “Leadership Activities”

- This is a place to advertise leadership in “extra-curriculars”.
- If you invested a lot of time into an activity, it is worth listing it.
- Leadership in clubs, societies, or organizations (scientific or otherwise).
- Show that you are passionate, driven, multi-dimensional, and have time management skills.

Professional Service and Leadership

2020–present	Co-Convener, Snowmass CF3 “Dark Matter: Cosmic Probes”
2020–present	Member, LSST DESC Operations Committee
2020–present	Member, Brinson Prize Fellowship Committee, University of Chicago
2019–present	Working Group Leader, Fermilab Scientific Advisory Committee
2019–present	Co-Convener, LSST DESC Dark Matter Working Group
2019–present	Chair, Schramm Experimental Fellowship Committee, Fermilab
2019–present	Chair, A&A Graduate Admissions Committee, University of Chicago

Curriculum Vitae- Other Things to Consider

Some other things you can list (no order)

Outreach efforts	Equity, Diversity, Inclusion efforts	Observing experience (Which telescopes? How much time?)	Computing experience (Which languages? What level?)	Teaching experience (Which courses? What level?)

You are more than your transcript, and the CV gives you a chance to demonstrate this to the admissions committee.

Personal Statement

The goal of the personal statement is to give the admissions committee a sense of who you are and how you will fit into their department.

You want to do this concisely and in a way that demonstrates your technical writing skills.

Your target length should be *2 pages* unless specified otherwise (remember, this is an exercise in scientific writing).

Some words that you'd like your readers to use to describe you after reading your statement: creative, independent, driven, prepared, gritty, mature, clear, good fit...

Your goals is to have them come to those conclusions *on their own* ("show don't tell").

Personal Statement- 2 Page Outline

This is a rough outline of a 2-page personal statement. Don’t feel constrained to this format; it is more of a jumping off point.

Paragraph 1: Summary and Goals

Paragraphs 2-5: Preparation for Research

Paragraph 6-7: Other Aspects of Your Application

Paragraph 8: Connection to the Institution

Personal Statement- Summary and Goals

It is always hard to start the personal statement.

In many cases, this ends up being a throw-away paragraph (“As long as I can remember, I’ve wanted to be an astrophysicist….”; I’m pretty sure I did this in my own personal statement.)

Rarely does this paragraph make or break the personal statement.

I think that the best you can do is to give a short summary of why you are excited about graduate school and what your goals are.

Your objective is that someone can get a sense of your application by just reading this first paragraph (this sometimes happens...)

Personal Statement- Preparation for Research

This is often where the main content of the personal statement goes.

If you have research experience, talk about it here.

You can also discuss relevant coursework and/or former employment experience.

Things that the committee will probably be asking when they read your statement:

- Were you the one driving the path of the work (independent, creative)?
- What challenges did you face, and how did you overcome them (driven, gritty)?
- Do you describe your work in a way that is clear, understandable, and professional (prepared, mature)? Remember, not everyone on the committee is an expert in your work (though there may be one person who is...)
- Do you know what you are getting yourself into in grad school (prepared, mature)?
- Are you excited about grad school?

Personal Statement- Other Aspects

What are you excited about beyond research? What past experience/leadership have you demonstrated in these areas?

Teaching?

Outreach?

Science Policy?

Equity, Diversity, Inclusion?

You'd like to give the committee a sense of how you would fit into the larger environment/culture of the department.

Personal Statement- Connection to the Institution

The final paragraph (roughly ½ to ⅓ of a page) should be focused on the school you are applying to.

This should be different for each application that you submit, but it can follow a similar general format for each school.

Your goal is to give the committee a sense for how your research interests fit into the research at the department. Do some research online!

It is ok to name specific faculty members, but name more than one faculty member; I usually recommend three names if you are listing names (you never know what any 1 faculty member is doing in the next few years).

Alternatively, you can list research areas (possibly followed by, “for example, work similar to that being done by Prof. X”).

Recommendation Letters

Choosing Recommenders:

Professors and Supervisors: Select individuals who know you well and can speak to your academic abilities, research skills, and potential for success in graduate school.

Relevance: Prefer recommenders who are familiar with your work in areas related to your intended field of study.

How to Ask for Them:

Timing: Request letters well in advance of application deadlines, ideally several months ahead. This gives your recommenders ample time to write a thoughtful and detailed letter.

Provide Material: Give your recommenders a copy of your resume, a draft of your personal statement, and details about the programs you are applying to.

Follow-Up: Send polite reminders and express gratitude for their assistance. After receive their letter, send a thank-you note to show your appreciation.

Finding Fellowship Opportunities

UNIVERSITY RESOURCES

ONLINE DATABASES

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

NETWORKING

SOCIAL MEDIA AND FORUMS

University Resources

Graduate School Office:	Many universities have dedicated offices that provide information on available fellowships and scholarships.	Regularly check announcements and bulletins from your graduate school office.
Career Services:	Career services often maintain lists of fellowship opportunities and can provide guidance on applications.	Attend workshops and information sessions hosted by career services.
Departmental Advising:	Advisors and faculty members within your department can be invaluable resources for finding fellowships specific to your field.	Establish relationships with professors and ask for their recommendations on fellowships.

Online Databases

Grants.gov:

Comprehensive source for federal funding opportunities, including fellowships.

Fastweb:

A database of scholarships and fellowships, useful for students across various fields.

Pivot:

A funding database that includes fellowships, grants, and other financial support for students and researchers.

Scholarship Portal:

An international database of scholarships and fellowships for students worldwide.

National Science Foundation (NSF) FastLane:

Specific to NSF fellowships and funding opportunities for STEM students.

Professional Organizations

Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE), Association for Computing Machinery (ACM), American Physical Society (APS), etc.

Many professional organizations offer fellowships and scholarships to their members.

Membership often provides access to exclusive funding opportunities.

Conferences and Workshops

Attend conferences and workshops hosted by professional organizations, as they often provide information on available fellowships.

Newsletters and Journals

Subscribe to newsletters and journals from professional organizations to stay informed about new fellowship opportunities.

Networking

Professors and Mentors

Discuss your goals and seek advice from your professors and mentors who may know of fellowship opportunities.

Alumni Networks

Reach out to alumni from your program or university who have successfully obtained fellowships. They can provide insights and recommendations.

Peer Networks

Engage with your peers who are also searching for fellowships. Sharing information can lead to discovering new opportunities.

Social Media and Forums

LinkedIn:

Follow organizations, join groups, and connect with professionals in your field who may share fellowship opportunities.

Reddit:

Subreddits such as r/gradadmissions and r/scholarships are valuable resources for finding fellowship opportunities and getting advice.

Facebook Groups:

Join groups related to your field of study or graduate school applications where members frequently share information on fellowships.

X:

Follow hashtags related to fellowships and scholarships (e.g., #Fellowship, #Scholarships) and organizations that offer fellowships.

Application Process for Fellowships

Research and Identify Fellowships

Prepare Application Materials

Request Letters of Recommendation

Follow Submission Guidelines

Review and Submit

Follow Up

Research and Identify Fellowships

Identify Relevant Fellowships:

Use the resources discussed in the previous slide (university resources, online databases, professional organizations, networking, social media) to identify fellowships that match your academic and research interests.

Make a list of fellowships that you are eligible for and interested in applying to.

Understand Requirements:

Carefully read the eligibility criteria, required materials, deadlines, and application process for each fellowship.

Note any specific requirements such as citizenship, academic level, field of study, and research focus.

Prepare Application Materials

Personal Statement:

Write a compelling personal statement that outlines your background, achievements, career goals, and why you are applying for the fellowship.

Tailor your statement to align with the goals and values of the fellowship program.

Research Proposal:

Develop a clear and concise research proposal that outlines your research objectives, methodology, expected outcomes, and significance.

Ensure that your proposal demonstrates the relevance of your research to the fellowship's focus.

Curriculum Vitae (CV) or Resume:

Prepare an updated CV or resume that highlights your academic achievements, research experience, publications, and relevant skills.

Transcripts:

Obtain official transcripts from your academic institutions.

Some fellowships may require both undergraduate and graduate transcripts.

Request Recommendation Letters

Choosing Recommenders:

Professors and Supervisors: Select individuals who know you well and can speak to your academic abilities, research skills, and potential for success in graduate school.

Relevance: Prefer recommenders who are familiar with your work in areas related to your intended field of study.

How to Ask for Them:

Timing: Request letters well in advance of application deadlines, ideally several months ahead. This gives your recommenders ample time to write a thoughtful and detailed letter.

Provide Material: Give your recommenders a copy of your resume, a draft of your personal statement, and details about the programs you are applying to.

Follow-Up: Send polite reminders and express gratitude for their assistance. After receive their letter, send a thank-you note to show your appreciation.

Follow Submission Guidelines

Read Instructions Carefully

Follow the application instructions precisely. Failure to adhere to guidelines can result in disqualification.

Format Documents

Ensure that all documents are formatted according to the guidelines provided (e.g., font size, margins, file format).

Label Files

Label your files clearly with your name and the type of document (e.g., JaneDoe_CV.pdf).

Review and Submit

Proofread

Carefully proofread all application materials for errors and clarity.

Consider asking a trusted mentor or advisor to review your application.

Submit Early

Aim to submit your application well before the deadline to avoid last-minute issues.

Follow Up

Confirmation

Ensure that you receive a confirmation of receipt for your application.

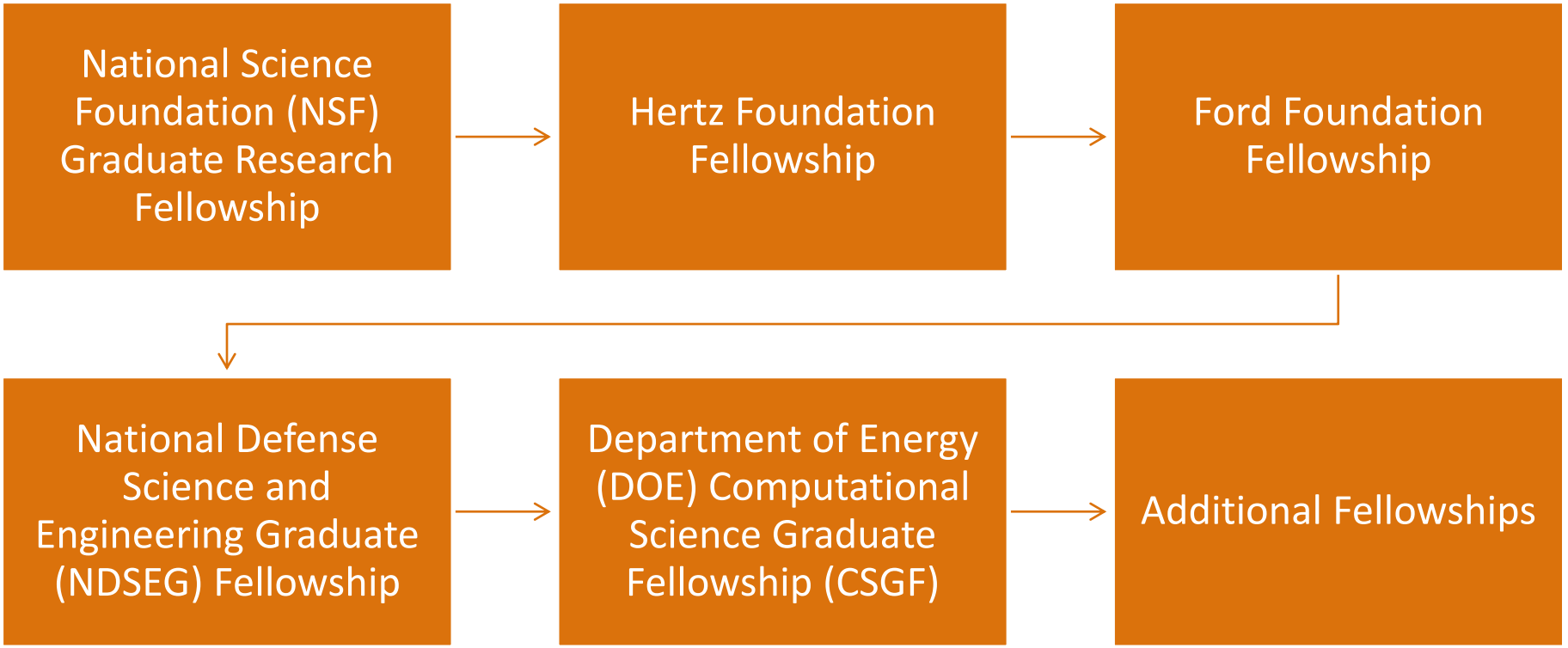
Interview Preparation

If the fellowship includes an interview, prepare thoroughly by reviewing your application, practicing common interview questions, and discussing your research.

Thank You Notes

Send thank you notes to your recommenders and anyone who assisted you with your application.

STEM Fellowships to Consider



National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowship

Overview:

Prestigious fellowship providing three years of financial support.

Open to U.S. citizens, nationals, and permanent residents.

Benefits:

Annual stipend of $37,000.

$12,000 cost of education allowance for tuition and fees.

Access to opportunities for international research and professional development.

Eligibility:

Early-career graduate students in STEM fields.

Applicants must have completed no more than twelve months of full-time graduate study.

Application Components:

Personal statement.

Previous research experience.

Proposed research plan.

Reference letters.

Hertz Foundation Fellowship

Overview:

Highly competitive fellowship supporting applied physical, biological, and engineering sciences.

Open to U.S. citizens and permanent residents.

Benefits:

Up to five years of funding.

$34,000 stipend per year.

Full tuition equivalent.

Additional stipend for fellows with dependent children.

Eligibility:

Graduate students pursuing PhD programs.

Strong academic record and research potential.

Application Components:

Application form.

Personal statement.

Research proposal.

Reference letters.

Ford Foundation Fellowship

Overview:

Fellowship promoting diversity in education and academia.

Open to U.S. citizens, nationals, and permanent residents.

Benefits:

Predoctoral fellowship: $27,00 per year for three years.

Dissertation and postdoctoral fellowships: varied financial support.

Opportunities for networking and professional development.

Eligibility:

Graduate students committed to a career in teaching and research.

Underrepresented minorities in STEM fields.

Application Components:

Personal statement.

Statement of previous research.

Proposed research plan.

Reference letters.

National Defense Science and Engineering Graduate (NDSEG) Fellowship

Overview:

Fellowship sponsored by the Department of Defense.
Open to U.S. citizens and nationals.

Benefits:

Full tuition and mandatory fees.
Annual stipend of $38,400.
$5,000 travel budget over three years.

Eligibility:

Pursuing doctoral degrees in STEM disciplines of interest to the Department of Defense.

Application Components:

Application form.
Personal statement.
Academic records.
Reference letters.

Department of Energy (DOE) Computational Science Graduate Fellowship (CSGF)

Overview:

Fellowship supporting students pursuing computational sciences and engineering.

Open to U.S. citizens and permanent residents.

Benefits:

Up to four years of funding.

$38,000 stipend per year.

Full tuition and required fees.

Annual professional development allowance.

Opportunity to participate in a DOE laboratory practicum.

Eligibility:

Graduate students focusing on computational science and engineering

Application Components:

Application form.

Personal statement.

Research statement.

Reference letters.

Additional Fellowships

AAUW Fellowships:

Fellowships for women in STEM fields.

NSF S-STEM Program:

Scholarships for students with demonstrated financial need.

Google PhD Fellowship:

Fellowship for students pursuing computer science and related fields.

NASA Fellowships:

Fellowships for students pursuing research in aerospace and related fields.

Managing Rejections and Acceptances

1. Dealing with Rejections
2. Handling Acceptances
3. Negotiating Offers
4. Planning Next Steps

Dealing with Rejection

Stay Positive:

Understand that rejection is a normal part of the application process.

Recognize that many successful professionals faced multiple rejections before finding success.

Seek Feedback:

If possible, request feedback from the selection committee to understand areas for improvement.

Use the feedback to strengthen future applications.

Reflect and Learn:

Reflect on your application and identify any weaknesses or areas for improvement.

Consider ways to enhance your profile, such as gaining more research experience or improving your personal statement.

Stay Persistent:

Keep applying to other fellowships and opportunities.

Maintain a positive attitude and stay motivated.

Handling Acceptances

Evaluate Offers:

Carefully review the terms and conditions of each fellowship offer.

Consider factors such as stipend amount, duration, benefits, and any obligations or requirements.

Seek Advice:

Discuss the offers with mentors, advisors, and peers to get their input and guidance.

Consider how each fellowship aligns with your career goals and research interests.

Express Gratitude:

Send a thank-you note to the fellowship committee expressing your appreciation for the opportunity.

Make a Decision:

Once you have all the information, make an informed decision about which fellowship to accept.

Notify the fellowship providers of your decision in a timely and professional manner.

Negotiating Offers

Understand the Terms:

Be clear about the terms of the fellowship, including financial support, research opportunities, and any obligations.

Identify Your Needs:

Determine if there are any aspects of the offer that need negotiation, such as additional funding, resources, or flexibility.

Prepare Your Case:

Gather evidence to support your negotiation, such as competing offers, personal circumstances, or additional needs for your research.

Communicate Professionally:

Approach the fellowship provider with a professional and respectful tone.

Clearly articulate your requests and provide justifications.

Be Open to Compromise:

Be prepared to discuss and negotiate terms. Show flexibility and willingness to find a mutually beneficial solution.

Planning Next Steps

Create a Timeline:

Develop a timeline for your fellowship, including start dates, key milestones, and deadlines.

Set Goals:

Define clear goals and objectives for what you hope to achieve during the fellowship.

Consider both short-term and long-term goals.

Prepare for Transition:

If the fellowship requires relocation or a change in routine, start preparing early.

Organize any necessary paperwork, housing arrangements, and travel plans.

Stay Connected:

Maintain communication with your fellowship provider and any mentors or advisors.

Seek regular feedback and support to ensure you are on track to meet your goals.

Prep Work for Graduate School and Fellowships

What to Do After Acceptance

Building a Support Network

Balancing Academics, Research, and Personal Life

What to Do After Acceptance

Building a Support Network

Academic Support

Faculty Advisors:

- Establish a strong relationship with your faculty advisor for guidance on academic and research matters.

Peer Mentors:

- Connect with more advanced students in your program who can offer advice and support.

Study Groups:

- Join or form study groups to collaborate on coursework and research projects.

Professional Support

Professional Organizations:

- Join relevant professional organizations and attend their events to build your professional network.

Networking Events:

- Participate in seminars, workshops, and conferences to meet professionals in your field.

Personal Support

Family and Friends:

- Keep in touch with family and friends to maintain a strong personal support system.

Counseling Services:

- Utilize university counseling services if needed for mental health support and stress management.

Social Groups:

- Join campus clubs, sports teams, or interest groups to build a social network and maintain a healthy work-life balance.

Balancing Academics, Research, and Personal Life

Recap

Choosing the Right Graduate Program:

Importance of aligning your research interests and career goals with the program.

Consider program reputation, faculty, resources, and location.

Application Components:

Focus on crafting a strong personal statement, securing strong letters of recommendation, and highlighting relevant experience.

Importance of standardized tests and maintaining a high GPA.

Funding Your Graduate Studies:

Explore scholarships, fellowships, assistantships, and other funding opportunities.

Understand the application process and requirements for each funding source.

Preparing for Graduate School:

Complete necessary paperwork, secure housing, and attend orientations.

Build a support network and develop time management skills to balance academics, research, and personal life.

Encouragement and Final Tips

Stay Positive and Persistent:

The application process can be challenging, but persistence is key.

Learn from rejections and use feedback to improve future applications.

Be Proactive:

Start early with your preparations and stay organized.

Seek advice from mentors, peers, and professionals in your field.

Leverage Resources:

Utilize campus resources, such as writing centers, career services, and academic advisors.

Take advantage of online resources, workshops, and webinars related to graduate school applications.

Stay Balanced:

Maintain a healthy work-life balance to prevent burnout.

Incorporate self-care practices and leisure activities into your routine.

Stay Connected:

Keep in touch with your support network and build new connections in your field.

Attend networking events and join professional organizations.

Thank You!

- Questions?
- Connect with me by scanning the QR Code!