

## **Academic Secret Menu**

The purpose of this document is to compile links, advice, questions, and answers on how to navigate academic environments. Here we will collectively demystify the “hidden curriculum” of academia by providing a central location for advice on this topic. Please feel free to add your thoughts!

## **General Advice**

Hello Bio

[Hellobio.com](http://Hellobio.com)

Curated lists of advice

<http://www.indiana.edu/~halllab/grad-student-resources.html>

<http://www.des.ucdavis.edu/faculty/baskett/links.html>

<http://www.cs.unc.edu/~azuma/hitch4.html>

<https://sites.google.com/a/d.umn.edu/professional-skills/home>

<https://github.com/gwisk/gradguide>

Science Careers

<https://www.sciencemag.org/careers>

<https://info.addgene.org/sign-up-to-receive-addgenes-science-career-guide>

Hidden curriculum Twitter thread

<https://twitter.com/thehauer/status/1021179403680862218>

Q: I'm falling behind in this class. What should I do?

<https://www.theclassroom.com/fall-behind-grad-school-19505.html>

Q: How do I tackle office hours? What if I'm afraid to go? What if I feel too lost in class to have questions to ask?

<https://learningcenter.unc.edu/tips-and-tools/using-office-hours-effectively/>

<https://www.wm.edu/sites/neurodiversity/documents/hidden-rules-for-office%20hours.pdf>

## **Finding a Research Position and Joining a Lab**

Twitter thread on choosing a mentor from @Dr.Oligo

[https://twitter.com/Dr\\_Oligo/status/1165666561480220672](https://twitter.com/Dr_Oligo/status/1165666561480220672)

Twitter thread by @AmyCharkowski on what to ask when interviewing PIs (Principal Investigators, aka the professor/scientist who'll advise/fund you).

<https://twitter.com/AmyCharkowski/status/1223682402079260672?s=20>

### **Lab Culture and Social Interactions**

List of lab manuals (expectations etc.) from @RemiGau

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1kn4A0nR4IoUOSDn9Qysd3MqFJ9cGU91dCDM6x9aga-8/edit?usp=sharing>

Ten simple rules towards healthier research labs

<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pcbi.1006914>

Dealing with sexism in the workplace + an awesome episode on imposter syndrome

<https://www.kuow.org/podcasts/battle-tactics>

Emailing Professors

<https://learningcenter.unc.edu/tips-and-tools/emailing-professors/>

### **Acquiring Research Skills**

Q: How can I start doing research?

Q: How should I contact a professor I'm interested in doing research with? Are there any email templates or scripts I can use? How should I prepare for talking with them?

Email templates for undergrad research experience: <https://ugr.ue.ucsc.edu/email>

Applying for field jobs: <http://aurielfournier.github.io/field-tech-applications/>

### **Presentation Tricks and Tips**

<https://betterposters.blogspot.com/>

<https://www.activatedocaptivate.com/blog>

## **Writing and Building a CV**

Q: What is the difference between a resume and a CV?

Twitter thread of people sharing CV examples

<https://twitter.com/CaballeroGill/status/1145753930640453632?s=20>

## **Applying for Fellowships**

### **NSF GRFP**

<http://www.christineliuart.com/writing/2018/8/31/advice-for-applying-to-the-nsf-grfp>

<https://www.alexhunterlang.com/nsf-fellowship>

[https://twitter.com/\\_katrinarenee/status/1026129135175905280?s=20](https://twitter.com/_katrinarenee/status/1026129135175905280?s=20)

<http://www.malloryladd.com/nsf-grfp-advice.html>

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/0BxTJoMOw\\_GADcU1tcTIsQTNpNGs/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/0BxTJoMOw_GADcU1tcTIsQTNpNGs/view)

<https://scientistamaggs.wordpress.com/2018/08/21/yes-you-should-apply-to-these-fellowships-heres-what-you-need-to-know/>

Asking for a letter of rec:

<https://twitter.com/christinaludema/status/1171523623200256001?s=19>

## **Writing a Research Thesis**

<https://twitter.com/WriteThatPhD>

<https://thesiswhisperer.com/>

Josh Schimel's *Writing Science* (great for scientific writing in general) (Site is gone, not archived in Internet Archive)

Josh Schimel's book is ISBN: 9780199760244

A presentation is available on Vimeo "Josh Schimel - Writing Science: Framing the story: structure": <https://vimeo.com/17432903>

## **Applying to Grad School**

[Getting into Graduate School in the Sciences : a step-by-step guide for students by S Kersey Sturdivant and Noelle J Relles](#) ISBN: 1107420679

[Getting What You Came For: The Smart Student's Guide to Earning an M.A. or a Ph.D. by Robert Peters](#) ISBN: 9780374524777

Inquiry Email

<https://contemplativemammoth.com/2013/04/08/so-you-want-to-go-to-grad-school-nail-the-inquiry-email/>

Twitter thread from @itatiVCS on spotting red flags when looking for an advisor:

<https://twitter.com/itatiVCS/status/1191399225235406848>

FreeApp to apply for fee waiver to apply for PhD or MFA programs at Big Ten schools:

<https://www.btaa.org/resources-for/students/freeapp/introduction>

Twitter thread for grad school application tips

<https://twitter.com/suchinarayanan/status/1134113769980923909>

A list of funded biology MS programs

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1f34fVzPkKviz0732mU8YtkTnLVaNNUjK\\_SKC TSglD0o/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1f34fVzPkKviz0732mU8YtkTnLVaNNUjK_SKC TSglD0o/edit?usp=sharing)

PhD application process from the National Research Mentoring Network

<https://youtu.be/IMb4Mc2M67g>

[https://youtu.be/O\\_k-zGf4xLY](https://youtu.be/O_k-zGf4xLY)

<https://youtu.be/SoeYDr3t81U>

Tips

<https://dynamicceology.wordpress.com/2013/02/05/thoughts-on-applying-to-grad-school-for-prospective-students-and-their-mentors/>

STEMCulture Podcast Part 1 “How to Apply to Grad School” (link is for Apple Podcasts, but you can find STEMCulture Podcast wherever you find podcasts).

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/stemculture-podcast/id1444712122>

Or STEMCulture posts on YouTube [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qDA-aF\\_VRH8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qDA-aF_VRH8)

The Taproot Podcast interviews plant scientists, usually on how a given study/article came about. These two episodes focus on applying to grad school and how to interview:

Grad school applications: [https://plantae.org/blog/taproot\\_s4e3/](https://plantae.org/blog/taproot_s4e3/)

Interviewing for Grad School: [https://plantae.org/blog/taproot\\_s4e4/](https://plantae.org/blog/taproot_s4e4/)

Olivia H. Wilkin's one-stop page for the Astronomy and Astrophysics, Bio/Biomed, Chemistry and Physics #GREExit lists: <http://theskyisnotthelimit.org/student-resources>

One-stop spreadsheet of #GREExit spreadsheets. Astronomy, Bio/Biomed/, Chem, Geography/Geology, Plant Science, Botany, Horticulture, Agronomy, Plant-Associated Fields, Public Health, Clinical/Counseling Psychology: [Master List of GREExit Lists - Megan Lynch](#)

Apply early for GRE fee waivers if you're eligible. ETS is a monopoly and does not grant fee waivers to everyone eligible, but to a limited number on a first come-first served basis: <https://www.prepscholar.com/gre/blog/gre-fee-waiver/>

***If you are disabled and need accommodation, apply super-early*** as it's done by snail mail on top of the usual medical proofs hurdles: [https://www.ets.org/gre/revised\\_general/register/disabilities/](https://www.ets.org/gre/revised_general/register/disabilities/)

## TAing

Hannah Brazeau thread on managing your students' and your own expectations when working as a TA: <https://twitter.com/HABrazeau/status/1205254546743799808?s=20>

## Preventing Burnout

Taking leave is an option. Not all schools make this easy to do, though. If you decide to take leave part-way through a quarter/semester, they may not reimburse you for your tuition, so be aware of what the cutoffs are. And returning can be difficult, depending on the institution. READ UP as much as you can on the process, and don't assume that administrators know all the answers!

Asking for homework extensions is an option. Just be careful - assignments can pile up really quickly.

Work fewer, more efficient hours, time management advice <https://asngrads.com/2018/11/27/work-smarter-not-harder-resources-for-time-management-in-graduate-school/>

## **Financial Advice**

Personal Finances for PhD's:

<http://pfforphds.com/>

[How to Prepare Your Grad Student Tax Return \(written in 2019\)](#)

## **Conferences**

How to pack for a conference

<https://contemplativemammoth.com/2011/07/21/inqua-2011-part-1-packing-for-a-conference/>

## **Comic Relief**

<https://twitter.com/AcademiaObscura>

<https://twitter.com/AcademicPain>

<https://twitter.com/PHDcomics>

<https://twitter.com/YourPaperSucks>

<https://twitter.com/redpenblackpen>

<https://twitter.com/AcademicsSay>