

Finding a Good Fit

August 24th, 2021

Facilitators:

Alexus Roberts

(she|her|hers)

Katherine Corn

(she|her|hers)

Preview Day Organizers & Presenters



Alexis
Roberts



Danielle
De La Pascua



Darien
Satterfield



Claire
Murphy



Keira
Monuki



Katherine
Corn



Sivan
Yair



Elena
Suglia













Madison
Armstrong



Hannah
Nelson



Elise
Elwood

	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
Week 1	2	3  Nuts & Bolts of Grad School	4	5 Personal/Diversity Statement Workshop 	6
Week 2	9	10  How to Apply & Timeline	11	12 Office Hours 	12
Week 3	16	17  Funding & Grant Writing	18	19 Navigating Grad School Identity Panel 	20
Week 4	23	24  Find a Good Fit	25	26 Office Hours 	27
Week 5	30	31  Is this Right for Me?	1	2 Wrap-Up! 	<i>All sessions will be 5:00-6:30pm PST via Zoom</i>

Session Scope & Facilitator Roles

Scope

90 minute workshops are an introduction, with resources to dig deeper!

Roles

We are peer facilitators, here to help guide participants' discovery.

Session Norms



Please have video on, if possible



Stay muted unless speaking



Use the “raise your hand” feature or chat us if you have a question or comment



Be respectful, be curious

Session Goals

By the end of the session, participants will be able to:

1. Evaluate what major factors are most important to their graduate school experience
2. Understand faculty perspectives on finding a good fit

Warm-Up Activity

Identify one factor that you feel is important to choosing a good graduate program



Warm-Up Activity

Identify one factor that you feel is important to choosing a good graduate program

Introduce yourself and share your thoughts with your breakout group



Session Overview

- Our top 5 tips for finding a good fit
- What do current and recent graduate students think?
- Faculty flash talks
- Q&A with faculty in breakout rooms
- Concluding remarks

Session Overview

- **Our top 5 tips for finding a good fit**
- What do current and recent graduate students think?
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Our top 5 tips for finding a good fit

1. Advisor fit
2. Research interests fit
3. Financial support
4. Quality of community
5. Location



Advisor fit



Advisor fit

- Students have different needs + goals, and advisors have different mentoring strategies



Advisor fit - many ways that advising can vary!

Day to day
involvement
in your
research

Personal vs
professional
involvement

Schedule +
location
flexibility

Support for
your career
goals

Personality
type

Communication
style

Research
topic
flexibility

What mentoring or teaching styles have worked well for you?

Advisor fit

- Students have different needs and advisors have different mentoring strategies
- Generally, you want an advisor who...



Advisor fit

- Students have different needs and advisors have different mentoring strategies
- Generally, you want an advisor who...
 - ... is **excited** about you



Advisor fit

- Students have different needs and advisors have different mentoring strategies
- Generally, you want an advisor who...
 - ... is **excited** about you
 - ... is **interested** in the work



Advisor fit

- Students have different needs and advisors have different mentoring strategies
- Generally, you want an advisor who...
 - ... is **excited** about you
 - ... is **interested** in the work
 - ... will be an **advocate** for you



Research interest fit



Research interest fit

- If you aren't genuinely interested in the work, it will be harder to motivate yourself to keep going!



Research interest fit

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- Can the department support the research that you want to do?



Research interest fit

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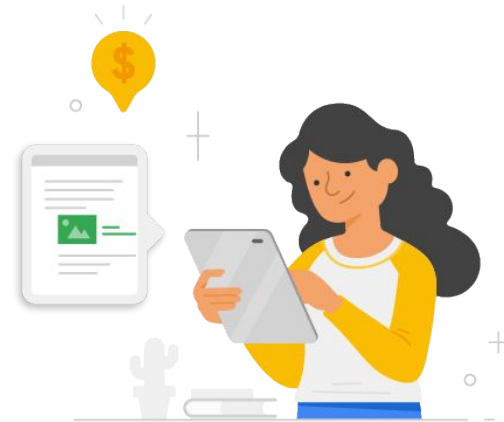
Infrastructure and supplies

Access to lab space and field sites

Research and travel grants

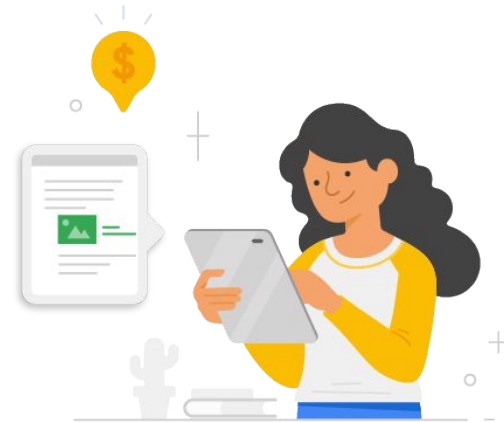


Financial support



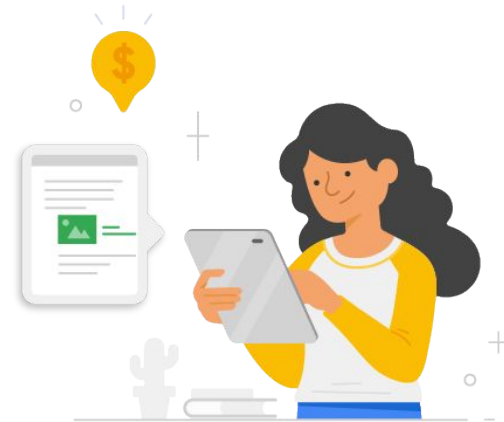
Financial support

- This has a big effect on your quality of life...



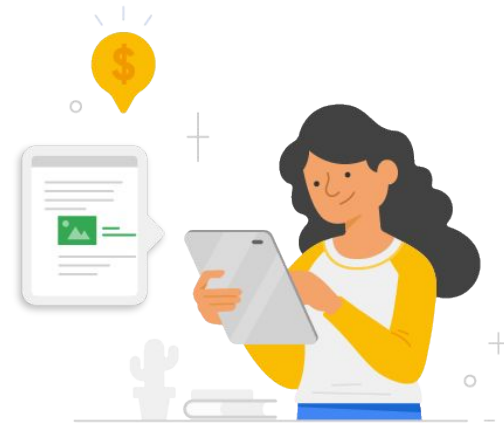
Financial support

- This has a big effect on your quality of life...
 - Stipend relative to local cost of living



Financial support

- This has a big effect on your quality of life...
 - Stipend relative to local cost of living
 - How much you will TA vs. be funded by a fellowship vs. have a research assistantship



Good lab & department community



Good lab & department community

- Is it a supportive and collaborative environment?



Good lab & department community

- Is it a supportive and collaborative environment?

Competition  Collaboration



Good lab & department community

- Is it a supportive and collaborative environment?



Good lab & department community

- Is it a supportive and collaborative environment?



- Are there resources to support personal growth as much as there are for academic development?



Good lab & department community

- Is it a supportive and collaborative environment?



- Are there resources to support personal growth as much as there are for academic development?

Social events and retreats

DEI, admissions, curriculum,
steering committees

Mentoring programs



Living in an area where you feel safe and happy



Living in an area where you feel safe and happy

- This is the place you are going to be for 4-7 years



Living in an area where you feel safe and happy

- This is the place you are going to be for 4-7 years
- Make sure it is a place where you can thrive and build a life outside of the lab!



Living in an area where you feel safe and happy

- This is the place you are going to be for 4-7 years
- Make sure it is a place where you can thrive and build a life outside of the lab!

**Access to
outdoor spaces**

**Socio-political
climate**

**Proximity to
family**

**Communities
you identify with**

**Size of the
city/town**

Transportation



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- Our top 5 tips for finding a good fit
- **What do current and recent graduate students think?**
- Faculty flash talks
- Q&A with faculty
- Concluding remarks

Which factor is most important to you?

- A. Advisor fit
- B. Research fit
- C. Financial support
- D. Quality of community
- E. Location



Which factor is most important to you?

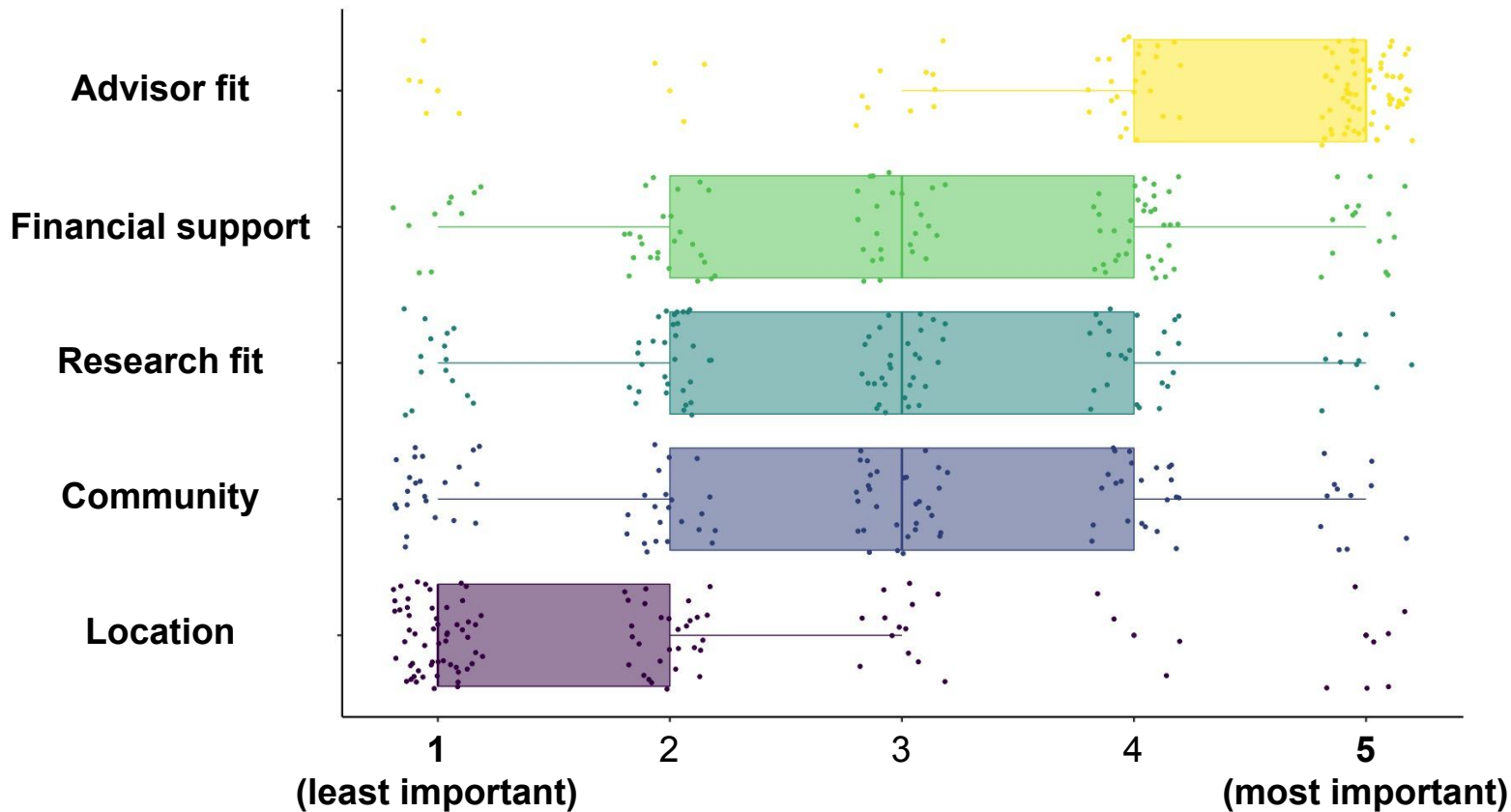
**Did any other factors come up in
the opening breakout rooms?**



Ranking from 110 UCD grad students



Ranking from 110 UCD grad students



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- **Faculty flash talks**
- **Q&A with faculty**
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UC Davis Faculty Flash Talks

- Dr. Rachael Bay
- Dr. Louie Yang
- Dr. Carole Hom
- Dr. Peter Wainwright



Q&A with UC Davis Faculty - Recommended Qs!

- What is your number one piece of advice for a student applying to graduate school?
- What are questions that you expect applicants to ask you during meetings and interviews?
- What questions can applicants expect from potential advisors during an interview?
- What are some qualities that you look for in an applicant?



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Prioritize fit!



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- Put yourself in the best possible position to grow professionally AND personally!
 - It's not all about prestige!
 - Will this program support you towards your future goals?



Prioritize fit!

- Put yourself in the best possible position to grow professionally AND personally!
 - It's not all about prestige!
 - Will this program support you towards your future goals?
- Do not be afraid to ask questions!
 - Get all the information **you need** to make an informed decision that's right for you!













Workshop Feedback

Your feedback is important to us. Please take a few minutes to complete evaluations for this session.



Finding a Good Fit

tinyurl.com/preview21feedback

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Dig Deeper with Us



Chat with your **mentor**



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Contact us by **email**: eegradpreview@gmail.com