

A photograph of two women standing on a paved walkway in front of a brick building with large windows. The woman on the left is wearing a white t-shirt, camouflage pants, and a large brown tote bag. The woman on the right is wearing a dark business suit and holding a red suitcase. They are facing each other and appear to be in conversation.

You're finishing your degree.
You're at a crossroad.

Where do you see yourself?

➤ Your road to success starts here

Information Session on Applying to Graduate School

- Overview of graduate studies: Purpose and structure
- Researching and choosing a program
- Application procedures and information
- Financial Aid
- Graduate Programs at Laurier
- Questions/Discussion

What is the purpose?

- To provide advanced study in an academic discipline or profession
- To allow more focused/in-depth study and more self-directed learning
- Professional development, advancement: adds value to your undergraduate degree

Work load?

- Smaller classes and seminars allow for more interaction
- Programs have a research component
- Typical program:
 - 3-5 courses plus a thesis or major research paper
 - OR
 - for course-only (Master's) programs, 7-9 courses
- In the professions:
 - 6-9 courses + practicum or work placement (1-2 year programs)

Why do it?

- An MA or MSc:
 - a basis for career advancement
 - a stepping stone to a PhD degree and a university teaching career
- A Master's degree in a professional or applied discipline (MSW, MBA, Master of Music Therapy, Master of International Public Policy):
 - provides preparation for work in the profession
 - necessary for professional accreditation
 - may also lead to doctoral level study

Research Potential Programs

- Talk to faculty members at Laurier
- Talk to current grad students
- Ask graduates working in your field
- Print and online resources
- Contact admission reps and faculty members at the prospective schools
- If possible, visit the schools and tour the departments

Career Cruising

- www.careercruising.com
- Username: wlu
- Password: laurier
- Click on Education and Search for Programs

Research Potential Programs

- Target programs that best meet your interests, goals, and abilities
- Find admission requirements, deadlines (range from Dec. - Feb. for September admission)
- Reputation of university, department, program
- Research interests of faculty

How to choose...

- Program options (course-only, thesis-based, full- or part-time)
- Average time to completion of degree
- Tuition and sources of financial aid
- Consider community: quality of life issues (e.g., cost of housing, transportation)
- Does it meet professional designation requirements?
- Apply to 4-5 programs – admission is competitive

Admission Criteria

- 4-year honours degree: minimum B average in last 1-2 years of study (but meeting the minimum does not guarantee admission)
- Many professional programs admit students from other fields of study, with certain prerequisites (or expect you to remain in program longer)
- No honours degree?
 - May be possible to do a “qualifying year”
- Other components of the application package

Application Package

- Letters of Reference
- Application Forms
- Transcripts
- Graduate Admissions Test (if applicable)
- Statement of Interest/Letter of Intent
- CV/Resumé
- Portfolio/Sample of Work

Letters of Reference

- How to best prepare for requesting a strong letter of reference?
- Who should you ask?
 - Asking for a supportive letter
- Importance?

Application Forms

- Apply online through the individual university's website
- For Laurier:
www.wlu.ca/gradstudies/apply
- Most Ontario universities utilize an online application

Transcripts

- For applications to most Ontario universities, transcripts for previous studies in Ontario may be requested via the online process
- For all standardized application centres, you can order your transcripts online through the OUAC
- For other applications, order transcripts through the Registrar's Office

Graduate Admissions Tests

- Graduate Record Exam (GRE)
- Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT)
- Medical Admissions Test (MCAT)
- Law School Admissions Test (LSAT)
- Veterinary College Admissions Test (VCAT)
- Dental Aptitude Test (DAT)

Statement of Interest/ Letter of Intent

- Introduction to the admissions committee
- Tailor each statement to the specific program
- Focus on accomplishments and experiences – be positive
- Discuss what value you will add to the program
- Make your statement stand out from the rest – make it “personal”

Statement of Interest/ Letter of Intent

- Questions to consider:
 - Why are you applying to this program?
 - Why is this school/program a good fit?
 - What are your career goals?
 - What are your research interests?
 - Are there any weaknesses in your application?

Resumé or CV

- CV = Academic Resumé
- Highlight academic achievements, awards, related courses, research (including undergraduate thesis or directed studies) and teaching experience
- Leadership experience is also important

Portfolio/Sample of Written Work

- For programs such as design, journalism, etc., a portfolio may be required
- Many academic programs ask for a sample of written work

Applying to Graduate School Video

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yHYz4wKSIMA&feature=relmfu>

How much does it cost?

- Most research intensive programs cost about the same per term as an undergraduate degree. At Laurier:
 - MA/MSc/PhD: \$2515/term
 - MMT/MSW: \$3315/term
 - MBA: \$8398/term
- Remember: you will be enrolled all year (3 terms) for at least one year for a master's; 3 or 4 for a PhD

Financial Aid

- Laurier *guarantees* a minimum level of support for students in certain types of programs:
 - in research intensive master's programs: average of \$13,000 per year (up to two years depending on the program)
 - in doctoral programs: \$19,000 (average=\$23,000+)
- Check guarantees of other universities carefully and get funding commitment in writing: wide variation

Components of Financial Aid

- Teaching Assistantships (TAs)
 - helping professors with undergraduate teaching and grading
 - maximum of 10 hours/week (on average) up to 130 hours total/term on campus work
 - at Laurier, \$5122 per term
- Scholarships (internal university & external: SSHRC, NSERC, CIHR, OGS)
- Research Assistantships (RAs)
 - professors pay from a research grant for help with research project

Think about Laurier: Graduate Programs

Apply here?

– Absolutely! We have great programs & it may give you a leg up if you are already involved in some research.

- Biology MSc
- Business Administration MBA
- Chemistry MSc
- Communication Studies MA
- Criminology MA
- Cultural Analysis and Social Theory MA
- Divinity/Ministry MDiv, DMin
- Economics MA Business
- Education MEd
- English MA, PhD
- Finance MFin
- Geography MA, MES, MSc, PhD

And more....

- Global Governance PhD
 - History MA, PhD
 - International Public Policy MIPP
 - Kinesiology MSc
 - Management MSc, PhD
 - Mathematics MSc
 - Music Therapy MMT
 - Philosophy MA
 - Political Science MA
 - Psychology MA, MSc, PhD
 - Religion & Culture MA, PhD
 - Social Work MSW, PhD
 - Sociology MA
 - Theology MA
- (Spiritual Care & Psychotherapy)

Other Types of Programs

- Teacher Education: www.ouac.on.ca/teas
- Law School: www.ouac.on.ca/olsas
- Rehabilitation Sciences:
www.ouac.on.ca/orpas
- The Career Centre offers appointments and workshops on applying to further education programs.

Graduate and Professional Education Fair - Waterloo

Wednesday, October 17, 2012

3 – 6 p.m.

**Paul Martin Centre, Senate & Board
Chamber and Concourse**

- Grad Studies, Teacher Education, College Programs, Study Abroad, Business, Law
- List of participating institutions on Career Centre event calendar at wlu.ca/career

Further Education Fair - Brantford

Thursday, October 11, 2012

11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Research & Academic Building

- Grad Studies, Teacher Education, College Programs, Study Abroad, Business, Law
- List of participating institutions on Career Centre event calendar at wlu.ca/career

Questions?

Faculty of Graduate and
Postdoctoral Studies
519.884.1970 x3127
gradstudies@wlu.ca
www.wlu.ca/gradstudies

Career Development Centre
192 King St. N., Waterloo
519.884.0710 x4495
SC Johnson Building, Brantford
519.756.8228 x5726
www.wlu.ca/career

**GRADUATE EDUCATION IN CANADA:
FAST TRACK TO THE TOP**

