

1 page guide to graduate school

Work hard... duh ...and seek advice of others.

Strive to become an expert in something.

Perspectives from previous graduate students:

[Geet Duggal – CPCB 2014](#)

[Ronald Azuma](#)

[Staying Afloat by Donnell White, III](#)

An oldie, but a goodie: [The Final Exam – Don Coffey](#)

Be an active member of the science community and start networking (it's not a dirty word).

Go to seminars/events (in the program/your department & elsewhere) and meet with visiting speakers.

Actively listen at talks (stay off your phone and computer, unless you're taking notes).

Present your work locally and at regional/national conferences – can get additional perspectives on your work.

Get involved with Grad Student Association and/or your program's government (...or start one).

Create a LinkedIn profile, connect to people, and join groups – they are a great source of info (jobs, etc.).

Look for mentors (aside from your research advisor) who will help guide you along your career path.

Look for opportunities to get teaching experience and to be a mentor for nascent scientists.

- Summer undergrad and high school programs have opportunities for both (great to build your CV).

- Be an active TA – do more than just the minimum.

What do you want to be when you grow up?

Consider job prospects and paths early in your career (some useful blogs/websites/info below)

Highlight and keep track of all of your accomplishments and academic activities in an updated CV.

Be active in your professional development – keep up to date on career options, fields, and trends.

Consult the following links for job postings, info on career paths, and career development advice:

<http://blogs.nature.com/naturejobs/>

<http://biocareers.com/bio-careers-blog>

<http://versatilephd.com/>

<https://cheekyscientist.com/>

<http://www.biospace.com/>

<http://jobs.newscientist.com/>

<http://whatareallthephds.tumblr.com/>

<http://www.hercjobs.org/>

<http://www.sciencemag.org/content/337/6099/1149.full>

<http://myidp.sciencecareers.org/>

Show me the Money!

Establish a track record of funding early – money begets money in science.

Seek grad student fellowships ([NIH F31](#), [NSF GFRP](#)), internal university awards, conference travel awards, etc.

Put your best words forward.

Become an effective communicator – this is incredibly important in science today!

Seek out assistance in writing and presenting. School writing centers can offer help.

Prepare and practice for all talks you will give

You never know who is going to show up.

Talks/presentations are a great opportunity to make a good (or bad) impression.

Useful Links: [10 Simple Rules for Slides](#)

[Bourne on oral presentations](#)

[Gopen and Swan on Science Writing](#)

[Zuckerman on writing](#)

[Zhang on writing](#)

[Erren and Bourne on poster presentations](#)

[JCA Presentations Pointers](#)

Give credit where it's due. Prior work, plus acknowledge any assistance, ideas, materials, & guidance received.

Don't be afraid of the F-word – Failure is an important part of success.

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/ekaterinawalter/2013/12/30/30-powerful-quotes-on-failure/>

Get a life!

Seek a work-life balance – Don't forget to take care of yourself!

Make sure you have an outlet(s) and have fun!