

Graduate Schools

Below are the typical components required for graduate school applications, although each graduate program may have slightly different requirements. Most graduate school applications are due in December or January.

Components

1. Personal statement
 - a. Personal and research statement outlining research background and plans.
2. Physics GRE (www.ets.org/gre/subject/about/content/physics/)
 - a. Subject test in undergraduate physics that is offered 3 times a year in September, October and November. Register as soon as you decide to take the PGRE as test centers tend to fill up. Studying early and intensely for the PGRE is necessary to do well.
3. General GRE (www.ets.org/gre/revised_general/about)
 - a. General test with verbal, quantitative, and writing sections. Offered throughout the year.
4. Letters of recommendation (2-3)
 - a. Ideally from professors who know you well such as your advisor, a professor with whom you have conducted research or collaborated, or a professor with whom you have taken multiple classes.
5. CV
 - a. Including research experience, education, publications, talks and posters, outreach, skills, and teaching.
6. Transcript

Programs

- Grad School Shopper (www.gradschoolshopper.com)
 - Online database of graduate schools in physics and astronomy managed by the American Institute of Physics (AIP).
 - Search for graduate programs based on subfield, degree type, admissions requirements, etc.

Fellowships

This list is not exhaustive. A few universities have fairly comprehensive lists of external fellowships posted online. For instance see the list put together by Caltech at gradoffice.caltech.edu/financialsupport/external. You are only eligible to apply for many fellowships in your first year(s) of graduate school. It is to your advantage to start looking at fellowship eligibility and deadlines before entering graduate school.

Components

1. Research statement
2. Letters of recommendation (1-4)
3. CV
4. Transcript

Common graduate fellowships in physics and astronomy

1. National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP) ([link](#))
2. NASA Earth and Space Science Fellowship (NESSF) ([link1](#), [link2](#))
3. NASA Space and Technology Research Fellowship (NSTRF) ([link](#))
4. Hertz Foundation Fellowship ([link](#))
5. Ford Foundation Fellowship ([link](#))
6. Gates Millennium Scholars Programs ([link](#))
7. DOE Office of Science Graduate Student Research (SCGSR) ([link](#))

