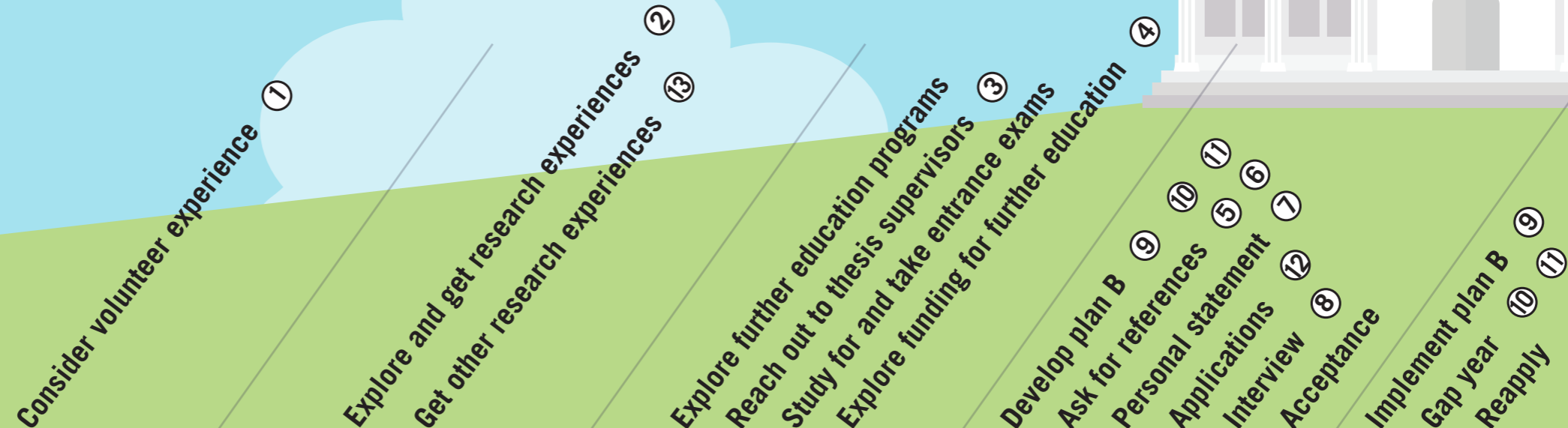


# Path To Further Education

What are the steps I can take to prepare for further education?



	1 <sup>ST</sup> YEAR	2 <sup>ND</sup> YEAR	3 <sup>RD</sup> YEAR	FINAL YEAR(S)	AFTER GRADUATION
DEVELOPING CAREER GOALS					
NETWORKING WITH PROFESSORS					
GAINING EXPERIENCE					
PROGRAM SELECTION					

Corresponding tipsheets available at the Career Centre (DV 3094) and [utm.utoronto.ca/careers/tip-sheets](http://utm.utoronto.ca/careers/tip-sheets)

- ① Volunteering: A Viable Option
- ② Research Experience
- ③ Effective Networking
- ④ Funding Grad School
- ⑤ Academic References
- ⑥ Employment References
- ⑦ Personal Statement
- ⑧ Effective Interviews
- ⑨ Post Grad Programs
- ⑩ Internships
- ⑪ Going Abroad
- ⑫ CV Worksheet
- ⑬ On Campus Opportunities



## CONSIDER YOUR CAREER INTEREST FIRST

The truth is that without a clearly thought out career goal that is a good fit for you and the right preparations at the right time, gaining entry to further education programs could be challenging. This tipsheet is designed to give you an idea of the steps you'll need to take to select the right program(s) for your career goals and make a strong application when the time arrives.

## FURTHER EDUCATION? YOU'VE GOT OPTIONS!

There are many types of further education programs strategic for specific career goals.

**ACADEMIC MASTERS** – Research oriented and building on undergraduate studies, course work and thesis under the supervision of an established academic is typically required (e.g. M.Sc. in Molecular Biology)

**APPLIED MASTERS** – Focus is on an applied area of interest outside of academia. May combine course work, independent research, practicum placements (e.g. Master of Public Health)

**PROFESSIONAL SCHOOLS** – Provide educational requirements to register and practice in a regulated profession (e.g. medicine or teaching)

**POST-GRAD PROGRAMS** – One year or less, full time, intensive programs for graduates providing industry focused skills and knowledge and often a practicum placement (e.g. GIS Technology or Human Resources Management)

**CONTINUING EDUCATION** – Flexible, part-time, online for those who are working and want to develop marketable skills and advance in their career area (e.g. Project Management)

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COURSES** – Industry licensing bodies may provide strategic certifications such as the Canadian Securities Course or the Real Estate Sales License.

It's normal to not have a clear and fully researched career path, especially in your earlier years. Find out more about the career planning process by year of study on our website under 'Career Planning'. Even if you are uncertain where your career might go, you can simultaneously investigate potential careers while laying the groundwork to keep your further education options open. This is why Developing Career Goals is shown as happening from 1st year to after graduation on the front side of this tipsheet.

## 1<sup>ST</sup> YEAR

- Transition year to focus on academics, explore the services and opportunities available to you as a U of T student and connect with other students
- Consider getting involved beyond the classroom by volunteering or extra-curricular activities. See the tipsheet: Volunteering a Viable Option
- Learn how to be a better student at the Robert Gillespie Academic Skills Centre
- Be open to program changes look at careers associated with your preferred programs using Careers By Major on our website
- Have a career in mind? Start researching it on Career Cruising on the CLNx
- Book a Career Counselling appointment to get started with your career goals
- Check out the Program Plans for other ways to enhance your experience at UTM

Visit us in DV3094 for on-the-spot help navigating our resources and services

## 2<sup>ND</sup> YEAR

- Add some skill and experience building which will be manageable for you. Try the Fall Get Experience Fair and see the Experience 101 booklet on our website
- Get to know your TAs and Professors. See the Effective Networking tipsheet
- Continue developing career ideas and researching their entry requirements
- Consider work and student leadership consistent with your interests
- Explore your career ideas in more detail using the Job Shadowing Program
- Explore and gain research experiences by becoming a research volunteer, applying for the ROP program, the Work Study Program and / or an internship course if offered in your program

## 3<sup>RD</sup> YEAR

- Start researching programs and requirements and keep track of deadlines
- Network with professionals in your career interest areas and do information interviews; see our tipsheet on Effective Networking and Information Interviewing
- Talk to the program coordinators, attend any open houses, network with current students and alumni, visit campuses and departments if possible
- Continue to explore alternative career plans and / or alternatives to further ed programs you have in mind
- Look into doing an IRP (Independent Research Project) under professor's supervision
- Set aside time to prepare for and take any entrance exams

## FINAL YEAR(S)

- Ask professors and employment supervisors to act as academic references; see our tipsheets on Effective Networking, Academic and Employment References
- Start writing your personal statement or statement of research interest and get it critiqued. See our tipsheet on this topic to get started
- Explore funding at your programs' financial aid offices. Keep an eye on funding deadlines (may be prior to application deadlines!) and apply. See our Tipsheet on Funding Graduate School
- If interviews are part of the process, prepare for them well in advance. Our tipsheet on Effective Interviews and mock interviews by appointment may be helpful
- Apply to Plan B programs such as internships and experiences abroad or prepare for your job search with an Employment Strategy appointment

## AFTER GRADUATION (work for a year or more then apply):

- Some prefer to apply after graduation for the following or even subsequent years
- Review all of the steps outlined above, and pick up where you are in the process
- Discuss references with professors while you are still a student and stay in touch
- The time spent working, volunteering, doing an internship, engaging in continuing education or starting your own business can all strengthen your future application
- Gaining clarity on your career goals, and motivations to pursue further education is often key to a strong application
- Meet with a Career Counsellor to plan for and make the most of your time before reapplying or to develop a plan B