RECAP: MAHG Colloquium Series: Ph.D. Applications

8 March 2021

How do I find the "right" program?

1.

      i.   What are they known for?
     ii.   What kind of projects are they doing?
    iii.   Look at the FAQ page
    iv.   Most programs have a page on current students. Reach out to those who are already program.
1. Christina Morus: Ask them about the culture of the program. What are the prof/student relationships like? What are the peer relationships like? etc. You need to see if you will get appropriate attention from the professors and if the peer culture suits you. In some program's students are very competitive and in others they are more supportive.
     v.   Look at the faculty page and get to know the faculty. Reach out to them via e-mail and ask them questions (research related)

b. Look at length of program vs. length of funding   (r)3 (e)10 (t2.77(h of)3 (f)3 (undi)-2 (n)-10 (g4

        i.   Pick people that you know well, personally and academically.

       ii.   Ask a professor who you have had multiple courses with and build relationships with your professors!!

     iii.   Provide them with a personal statement, resume or CV. This makes their job easier. Make sure they know what the letter should include.

6. GRE
   a. Many programs are phasing out GRE.
   b. GRE scores usually expire after 5 years
   c. If you are not a good test taker and a program you are looking at requires the GRE, go back to your needs and reevaluate whether this program is right/compatible.

7. Language requirement:
   a. Some programs are going to require fluency (usually reading proficiency), but not all.
      i. Again, be honest with where you are in your language proficiency.
      ii. Christina Morus: More often than not the it's a reading requirement, not a speaking requirement. They want to ensure you will be able to do archival research.
      iii. Raz Segal: Most often the language test asks applicants to read three pages and translate it.
      iv. Michael Hayse: History programs take the language requirement seriously. You have to be able to read the original sources.
   b. Some programs don't require a second language but encourage it. These programs may have other options such as language training or immersion programs.
   c. You may have to do this work on your own prior to applying.
      i. The MAHG program can help you with this. The MAHG program will recognize one advanced language course as a 3-

3. Get organized with application materials/deadlines.
4. Build and maintain relationships with advisors and professors.
5. Do not wait until the last minute to research programs or applying
   a. Tiara: Plan a full year in advance. I spent a few months preparing to do applications and the rest actually completing the application materials.
6. Learn to say "no"—prioritize your time and your needs.
7. Get comfortable talking about yourself, your strengths and weaknesses. Remember that it will sometimes be an uncomfortable process.
8. Listen to your advisors. They've all been through this process and can offer essential advice and guidance
9. Prepare yourself for rejection