You Made It to Harvard! (Now What?)

HARVARD IS BIG, IN ALL SENSES OF THE WORD. As you begin to settle in, you’ll probably find yourself bouncing between excitement and worry, confidence and doubt. And you may wonder, secretly or aloud, whether your application was accidentally mixed up with someone else’s — whether your admission, in other words, was a huge mistake.

To combat these doubts, we asked a broad range of PhD students and faculty for their single best piece of advice to incoming GSAS students. We also asked them to think back to something they didn’t understand about Harvard when they arrived, and to tell us how they figured it out.

We present their words of wisdom below.

Keep an Open Mind
Did the thought of arriving at Harvard slightly overwhelm you when you first heard you were admitted? It was the case for me, and, I know, for countless others. I remember wanting to prepare well, both academically and personally. I read articles, looked through the available courses, exchanged an email or two with professors I considered working with, and even looked into the Official Handbook for Graduate Students (which, I imagine, makes me one of very few students to have done so). While I don’t want to discourage you from good preparation (you are a Harvard student, after all), it almost made me impermeable to one piece of good advice that I should have received: Chill out and keep an open mind!

When you first arrive here, you will notice one thing straight away: there is so much going on! There are more courses happening than you thought would exist, there are more interesting events taking place than you could ever attend, and there is far more free food hidden in corners that you will only find out about in your upper years.

All in all, it pays to remain open in your attitude and your mind. Use your talents, but don’t be afraid continued on page 12
This is GSAS

Established in 1872, GSAS is the ONLY school at Harvard that grants the PhD.

GSAS offers the PhD and a select number of terminal master’s degrees in 57 programs, departments, and divisions.

16 of those PhD programs are INTERFACULTY, which is Harvard-speak for “jointly run by GSAS and another Harvard graduate school.”

Together with Harvard College, GSAS is part of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, HARVARD’S LARGEST DIVISION. FAS also includes the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, the Division of Continuing Education, and libraries and museums.

Is your program based at the Medical School, or at SEAS? The Design School, or the Kennedy School? PHD STUDENTS ARE AMAZINGLY INTERDISCIPLINARY — YOU CROSS HARVARD BOUNDARIES WITH EASE!

GSAS received more than 12,000 APPLICATIONS last year. If you’re reading this, you’re talented, motivated, and intellectually curious — some of the qualities that make GSAS great.

At Harvard, GSAS has the largest population of INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS, representing at least 83 countries. GSAS students also come from each of the 50 US states.

As a GSAS student, you will play a significant role in shaping Harvard’s unrivaled undergraduate educational experience. 1,400 of you will be teaching fellows each term, and more than 100 of you will be resident tutors in the Houses or proctors in the freshman dorms each year. YOU HELP KEEP HARVARD’S ENGINES RUNNING!

Did you know that GSAS alumni contributed $1.2 million to the annual fund last year?

These annual gifts have an immediate impact on all GSAS students, providing for fellowships and supporting student-life activities.

You are not only starting a graduate career, you are joining an extraordinary community of leaders and scholars.

The Graduate School Fund welcomes you.
Did you know that there are more than 70 libraries at Harvard, with combined holdings of more than 16 million items? As a GSAS student, you have direct access to more than 11 million of those items, part of the collection of a centrally administered system referred to as the Harvard College Library (HCL).

Whether you are searching for research materials or teaching aids, the Harvard College Library has everything you’ll need, on any subject you can imagine. Here are five tips to get started:

1. Get to know your department’s Library Liaison. All FAS departments have one — a librarian who can help you identify resources in the libraries and devise research strategies for classes, term papers, theses, and dissertations.

2. Learn to use the two library websites: http://hcl.harvard.edu and http://lib.harvard.edu. You’ll find a wealth of information, including hours, locations, links to HOLLIS (the online catalog) and online databases (such as JSTOR and Web of Science), and applications for library services like Interlibrary Loan and requests from the Harvard Depository.

3. Apply for a study carrel. Make the library your research base.

4. Learn to use library research guides. HCL librarians create a variety of research guides to assist you in your work, ranging from guides for first-time library users to subject guides and course-specific guides.

5. Save time, get savvy. Learn to use research tools like Citation Linker, the LibX toolbar, and citation management tools. Learn to use the free scanners and the free Scan and Deliver service.

To learn more, check out the Library Grad Guide: http://guides.hcl.harvard.edu/gradguide

The GSC — Look What We Can Do For You!

The Harvard Graduate Student Council (GSC) is the voice of graduate students at the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. Through regular meetings and ongoing dialogue, the GSC brings the concerns of students to the attention of the deans and administrative staff of the Graduate School.

We also award grants to students for travel and research, sponsor GSAS student organizations, and host events throughout the year on topics of concern to graduate students.

Learn more: www.gsc.fas.harvard.edu
As you sharpen your pencils and launch your graduate school career, it’s worth remembering that there’s more to Harvard Square than simply Harvard. Below, a list of places you should try to visit at least once this semester — you’ll find plenty of other students (and professors!) there, too.

➡️ **Coffee/Tea**

An inexpensive coffee shop with plenty of pastries and power outlets for the busy student, **Peet’s Coffee & Tea** (100 Mount Auburn Street) is a great place to meet friends or simply take some time for yourself. A favorite among Harvard’s junior faculty, **Cafe Algiers** (40 Brattle Street) is the most historic of Harvard’s caffeinated communities. Go upstairs with your pile of books and order the mint tea.

➡️ **Frozen Yogurt**

Knowing whether **BerryLine** (3 Arrow Street; 1668 Massachusetts Avenue) or **Pinkberry** (at the Harvard T entrance) is your favorite is central for start-of-semester debates. Both dispensaries allow you to pick your flavor and sprinkle it with a variety of toppings, but BerryLine rotates its flavors more frequently, while Pinkberry is cheaper. Grab the model of your choice and sit in the shade of the Yard with friends.

➡️ **Lunch**

**Darwin’s** has two locations (148 Mt Auburn Street, 1629 Cambridge Street), which means two opportunities to try their sandwiches. One sandwich may serve as lunch *and* dinner. Just around the corner from the Holyoke Center, **Clover Food Lab** (7 Holyoke Street) is the Holy Grail of all things fresh, cheap, and delicious. Enjoy the chickpea fritter, the eggplant plate, or even a glass (or in this case, a biodegradable cup) of beer. Running between labs near the Science Center? Head to **Oxford Street**: authentic Chinese food from a truck, with a menu that changes weekly. Ideal for students living in the GSAS dorms (it’s on your doorstep), it’s difficult to find a cheaper lunch on the Square. Finally, undergraduates will tell you to go to Pinocchio’s for a slice, but **Oggi Gourmet** is—hands down—better pizza. Conveniently located in the Holyoke Center arcade, you can grab a quick bite before returning to the library, heading to the gym, or jumping on the T.

➡️ **Off-Campus Work Space**

Speaking of the library, there is no need to stay on campus to get through your reading list. While it may not appeal to Dunkin Donuts–loving New Englanders, the big **Starbucks** overlooking the Harvard Square T entrance is pretty perfect for Harvard students addicted to caffeine. Plenty of tables and power outlets upstairs, it closes at a very reasonable 1am. If you need a library but want to get off campus, **Cambridge Public Library** is a short jaunt along Broadway. Its pleasant outdoor spaces are matched by giant and spacious tables inside.

➡️ **Arts and Music**

Feeling cinematic? Don’t forget to check out Harvard’s very own **Carpenter Center** (24 Quincy Street), which shows student work, periodically interspersed with classic movies. Want to let down your hair? The cheapest (and closest) dance floor is the **Hong Kong** (1238 Massachusetts Avenue), which is loud, drunk, and located so close to Lamont Library you could bring your books with you. If you prefer live music, quick-step down Mass Ave to Central Square and **The Middle East**, whose three-in-one venue provides all kinds of tunes, from upcoming local bands to big-name DJs.

➡️ **Drinks**

**Shay’s** (58 JFK Street) is a hidden gem. It has an excellent beer and wine selection and isn’t overrun with undergraduates. Brilliant for brainstorming over social inebriants. The busier beer garden behind **Charlie’s Kitchen** (10 Eliot Street) provides well-priced food and beverages under the stars.
Grab a table under the patio umbrellas, and then mosey upstairs for karaoke or trivia. Fancy something fancier? Russell House Tavern (14 JFK Street) offers the cool and sophisticated atmosphere of a pricey downtown bar. If your advisor offers to pay for drinks, suggest this place!

Beyond the Square
It is easy to think you don’t have the time, money, or energy to go beyond Harvard Square during semester, but this is a myth. Use your Harvard ID to take the bus from Lamont Library all the way over the Charles River to Boston’s Back Bay. Shop at the Prudential Center, and then locate the Boston Public Library, whose central courtyard is the perfect midday getaway. On a sunny day, head to the Rattlesnake Bar (384 Boylston Street), with its open roof deck, or stay cozy in Marlave (10 Bosworth Street), which serves graduate-student-friendly $1 oysters from 4–6 p.m. daily. Alternatively, take the T four stops to Park Street and laze around the Public Gardens or paddle in the swan boats. Go two stops further to South Station and walk along the waterfront to the Institute for Contemporary Art (it’s free on Thursday evenings!) or take a tour around the Harpoon Brewery (both on Northern Avenue). Finally, stop by Symphony Hall, where you can see the Boston Symphony Orchestra for under $20, simply by being younger than 40 years old!

At Longwood
A lot of you will spend a lot of time on the Medical Campus, and we don’t want to ignore your food and drink needs! The go-to Brigham Circle bets for graduate students are Penguin Pizza (735 Huntington Avenue), where one standout is the fig and prosciutto, and The Squealing Pig (134 Smith Street), an Irish pub with better-than-average pub food, including grilled sandwiches cozily called “toasties.” Nearby, don’t miss the ice cream at JP Licks (1618 Tremont Street), a local chain that also has a Harvard Square branch. Further inbound, down in the Fenway, students love Thailand (129 Jersey Street) and the restaurant row on Peterborough Street, especially El Pelon.

Early-Term Calendar

Friday, August 31 Discover Dudley: DudleyLand!
7 p.m.–midnight, Dudley House Get to know your graduate student center at this always-popular opening-of-the-year party.

Friday, August 31 Special Students and Visiting Fellows Reception
5:7 p.m., Faculty Club Reading Room

Tuesday, September 4
First day of classes

HILS Welcome Dinner
A gala dinner for new students in the Harvard Integrated Life Sciences program. 6:15 p.m., Radcliffe Gymnasium. Contact Matt Wallace (mwalace@fas.harvard.edu) for information.

Thursday, September 6 Dessert Welcome Party in the Rez Halls
7:30 p.m., GSAS Residence Halls

Saturday, September 8 GSAS Cookout
1-4 p.m., University Museum Lawn, Oxford Street

Tuesday, September 11 Study Card Day
Final study cards for GSAS and special students for the fall term are due in Dudley House between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Note: There is a late fee of $40 for each week that study cards are late. Cards filed after this date must bear the instructor’s signature for each course listed.

Monday, September 17 21st Annual Minority Student Kickoff Reception and Dinner
5:30–8:30 p.m., Fire & Ice, 50 Church Street
RSVP to sparsons@fas.harvard.edu.

Friday, September 28
Fall (or full-year) enrollment deadline for dependent health coverage, and enrollment deadline for dental insurance.

Monday, October 8
Columbus Day: a holiday

Monday, October 22
Last day to register or add courses for the term. After this date students may add or register for TIME only.

Last day for graduate students to add or change SAT/UNS grading option for designated language courses. After this date a petition to add must be submitted to the GSAS Student Affairs office.

Tuesday, October 30
Last day to drop a course. After this date a petition to withdraw must be completed and returned to the GSAS Student Affairs office.

Columbus Day: a holiday
Modern History

THE PAST AS VIVID AS THE LATEST YOUTUBE CLIP? LET’S MAKE AN APP FOR THAT, SAYS ENTREPRENEURIAL PHD STUDENT RHAE LYNN BARNES

BY NICHOLAS NARDINI

For most graduate students, passing their oral examinations is satisfaction enough. The morning after hers, PhD candidate in history Rhae Lynn Barnes awoke with an adrenaline rush of purpose, and called her friend Jenni Ostwinkle, a fellow student in the department.

“Guess what?” she said. “I’m going to California to found a tech education company. I’m the CEO and you’re going to be the executive editor.”

One year later, the website they created, USHistoryscene.com, has received endorsements from the Smithsonian, the American Historical Association, and the National Council for History Education. A staff of fifteen writes for the site, producing posts that illuminate topics in American history with recorded lectures, video clips, scanned manuscripts, and otherwise inaccessible material from the archives. Plans are in the works for Europeanhistoryscene.com and Worldhistoryscene.com, as well as a smartphone app. “We make a lot of Social Network jokes,” Barnes says. “If we put on a backpack and run through campus at night, brilliant ideas will just come!”

In truth, though, the ideas behind US History Scene are all rooted in Barnes’s own life. Her dedication to sharing historical knowledge began in her freshman year at the University of California, Berkeley, during a lecture by slavery and Reconstruction scholar Leon Litwack on the historical background for the nation’s response to Hurricane Katrina. In mid-sentence, Litwack keeled over. “He had a history of heart issues, and it looked like he was having a heart attack. The TAs tried to help him down, but he grabbed the podium and shouted ‘No, I’m going to finish this lecture.’ He showed me how important it is to understand why things were what they were,” Barnes remembers.

Her own commitment to this pursuit was tested when a car accident left her with severe memory loss. Forced “to completely relearn how to learn,” she found an unlikely ally in YouTube: immediately after finishing a monograph, she would see whether she could find any online lectures by the author. The chance to peg abstract concepts to a scholar’s face and voice, Barnes says, “really allowed me to immerse myself in their perspective and methodology.”

Her first opportunity to share this technique came while working for the Du Bois Institute on a contest inviting high school students to research obscure figures in African American history. The task proved difficult for students working with limited resources, a challenge Barnes remembered from her own high school history classes, taught from 1950’s textbooks. “History could feel very detached, instead of what it should be—incredibly relevant.” She began reaching out to teachers with recommendations for online resources.

While preparing for orals, she realized what graduate students stood to contribute. “We all put together huge amounts of material, and most of it ends up in a drawer somewhere.” Instead, she reasoned, their access to libraries and databases could be used to open up the archives to larger audiences. Barnes already had ample experience doing just this. In 2008, researching an undergraduate thesis on the print culture of blackface, she noticed that libraries around the country were trying to sell off relevant material. “Obama was in the spotlight, so I think they thought it was time to get rid of this stuff.” Barnes began scooping it up, and since has amassed what she believes to be the world’s largest collection of blackface ephemera. She has been approached by a number of research libraries interested in acquiring it.

When she launched US History Scene in December of last year, Barnes joined the electronic wave of academic democratization that recently crested in edX (www.edx.org), the joint online learning venture of Harvard and MIT. What sets her website apart, she says, is that users can write directly to its staff of professional historians, and ask for more information on the material presented. With most OpenCourseWare offerings, “behind the online lectures there’s just a tech guy, and he can’t respond to questions.” In 2013, Barnes plans to move beyond indexing existing lectures, to producing an original lecture series aimed at debunking historical misconceptions.

For now, Barnes is reinvesting all the website’s revenue, and is modest about her success. “I went to Berkeley, I grew up in a Teamster family. I was experienced in protesting against companies, but founding one was never a plan.” Nevertheless, she does admit to some personal benefit, as she plots her own career as an historian. “With Google Analytics, I can see exactly what students and teachers are googling every day. I have my finger on the pulse.”

In this sense, US History Scene may not only be opening up the academy, but also helping to direct it.

History PhD candidate, Rhae Lynn Barnes
Welcome to Dudley House, now entering its 21st year as the graduate student center at GSAS. Dudley House offers dozens of intellectual, social, and recreational events every year — planned by GSAS students for GSAS students. ◆ We invite you to get to know Dudley at these early-fall events, arranged by program area. Is there a specific area you’re interested in? Subscribe to Dudley’s program-specific email lists at www.dudley.harvard.edu. ◆ In each edition of the GSAS Bulletin, we’ll present a sampling of that month’s offerings. See the complete lineup each month at www.gsas.harvard.edu/dudley.

Opening Party
Discover Dudley
FRIDAY, AUGUST 31: OPEN HOUSE 7–9 P.M.; PARTY 9 P.M.–MIDNIGHT. Start the academic year off right with an evening of noshing, drinking, dancing, and acquainting yourself with Harvard’s center for graduate life.

Arts
Fundamentals of Drawing
SATURDAYS, SEPTEMBER 22–OCTOBER 28. A five-week drawing class exploring a variety of styles and techniques. Cost: $30, plus materials. Number of students: 15. Contact Tina Liu (tyliu@fas.harvard.edu).

Athletics
Sports Pub
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 7:30–9 P.M. Hustle up to the Dudley House game room to learn about athletic opportunities for graduate students, sign up for IM teams, and enjoy pub-style food and drink.

Bike Ride to Walden Pond
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 10 A.M. Remember your Thoreau: “From exertion come wisdom and purity; from sloth ignorance and sensuality.” Stave off sloth and join our annual ride to the storied pond and back along the country roads northwest of Boston.

Intellectual/Cultural
Language Table Mixer
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 7 P.M. Find your fellow polyglots amid light refreshments in the Fireside Room, join an existing conversation group or start your own, and learn a dozen different ways to ask “Which department are you in?”

Senior Common Room Reception and Dinner
MONDAY, OCTOBER 1: RECEPTION 5:30 P.M.; DINNER 6 P.M. Join us for dinner and a conversation with noted classicist and former GSAS Dean Richard Tarrant, Pope Professor of the Latin Language and Literature.

Literary
Wine and Cheese Party
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 6–10 P.M., Fireside Room. Just because you have a million articles to get through doesn’t mean you can’t still read for pleasure. Meet other bookworms and learn about Dudley House’s literary offerings while enjoying the most belletristic of refreshments.

Writing Workshop
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 7–9 P.M. Fireside Room. Bring copies of whatever you’re writing (poetry, essay, fiction, drama . . .) for a discussion and some in-session writing.

Music
Dudley students direct four musical groups for GSAS students: the Dudley Orchestra (contact Aaron Kuan, akuan@fas.harvard.edu); the Dudley Chorus (contact Elizabeth Craft, craft@fas.harvard.edu); the Dudley World Music Ensemble (contact Rujing Huang, rujing-huang@fas.harvard.edu); and the Dudley Jazz Band (contact Sarah Politz, sarah.politz@gmail.com). Rehearsals begin in September. Contact us to find out more!

Public Service
Public Service Fair
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 6-7:30 P.M. Meet representatives from local community organizations over ice cream sundaes in the Dudley Common Room.

Outings
Whale Watch
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, LEAVE DUDLEY HOUSE AT 12:45 P.M. The whales are getting out this weekend — shouldn’t you? Tickets are $25.

New England Pirate Museum
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, LEAVE DUDLEY HOUSE AT 10 A.M. Their Caribbean colleagues got more press, but a vibrant pirate community once plundered the Massachusetts coast for cod and pharmaceutical patents. Join us for a ferry ride to Salem and learn more!

Moosilauke Lodge Retreat
SEPTEMBER 28–30. Take your leaf peeping seriously and join our two-night hiking retreat to New Hampshire’s White Mountains. Tickets ($160) on sale at Dudley House starting Thursday, September 13.
GSAS Welcomes
ORIENTATION + DUDLEYFEST, AUGUST 29, 2012

Welcoming Speeches
10:30 A.M. | SANDERS THEATER

Margot Gill
ADMINISTRATIVE DEAN (MODERATOR)
Drew Gilpin Faust
PRESIDENT OF HARVARD UNIVERSITY
Michael Smith
DEAN OF THE FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
Xiao-Li Meng
DEAN OF THE GRADUATE SCHOOL
James Hogle
MASTER OF DUDLEY HOUSE
Oliver Hauser
DUDLEY FELLOW
Cammi Valdez
PRESIDENT OF THE GRADUATE STUDENT COUNCIL
Garth McCavana
DEAN FOR STUDENT AFFAIRS

DudleyFest
12:30 P.M.-3:30 P.M. | DUDLEY HOUSE

Information fair including: Offices serving GSAS students (athletics, careers, parking, etc.), student organizations, Dudley House fellows and activities, free food and raffle drawings, distribution of stipend checks

- **ID Cards and Photos**
  Boylston Hall

- **Distribution of Stipend Checks**
  Graduate Student Lounge, 2nd floor, Dudley House

- **Workshops**
  Harvard Libraries
  Common Room, 2nd Floor, Dudley House
  1 p.m.-2 p.m., 2:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m.

  **Harvard Health Services**
  Game Room, 3rd Floor, Dudley House
  1 p.m.-2 p.m., 2:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m.

  **Student Survival Guide:**
  Getting to Know Harvard, Cambridge, and Beyond
  Offered by the Graduate Student Council
  Fireside Room, 1st Floor, Dudley House
  1 p.m.-2 p.m., 2:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m.

  **Staying Fit and Healthy at Harvard**
  Offered by the Dudley Athletic Fellows
  Library, 3rd floor, Dudley House
  1 p.m.-2 p.m., 2:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m.

- **DudleyFest Social Hour**
  3:30–5 p.m. Your wristband will give you access to drinks and food on the courtyard. Sponsored by the Graduate School Alumni Association.
DUDLEYFEST
TO-DO LIST AUGUST 29, 2012

❏ PICK UP ID OR HAVE ID PHOTO TAKEN
(Boylston Hall for G1s, Dudley House Private Dining Room for Special Students and Visiting Fellows)

❏ LEARN ABOUT AND JOIN STUDENT GROUPS
(Dudley House Courtyard)

❏ GET FREE FOOD (with wrist band) (Dudley House Courtyard)

❏ WIN FREE STUFF Enter the Dudley-House raffle! (Dudley House Lobby)

❏ BRUSH UP AT WORKSHOPS OFFERED BY THE LIBRARIES, HEALTH SERVICES, THE GRADUATE STUDENT COUNCIL, AND DUDLEY FELLOWS

❏ HAVE A DRINK (with wrist band) (Dudley House Courtyard, courtesy Graduate School Alumni Association.

❏ G1s: BE SURE TO PICK UP YOUR STIPEND CHECK
(Dudley House Graduate Student Lounge, 2nd floor)

❏ SPECIAL STUDENTS AND VISITING FELLOWS
Ask questions about billing, registration, your visa, health insurance, and more at the Special Students and Visiting Fellows table (Dudley House Private Dining Room, 1st floor)

About ID Photos

If you...

Have never been a student at Harvard and never had your picture taken for a Harvard ID

Then

Go to Fong Auditorium in Boylston Hall for a photo, then follow the signs to DudleyFest

Have been a student at Harvard and have had a picture taken but do not have a GSAS ID

Go to Ticknor Lounge in Boylston Hall to pick up your ID

Have submitted your photo online

Go to Ticknor Lounge in Boylston Hall to pick up your ID

Are a Special Student or Visiting Fellow

Go to the Dudley House Private Dining Room; if your ID is not ready, then go to Fong Auditorium in Boylston Hall to have your photo taken.

Note: to obtain a GSAS ID, all students will need a government-issued photo ID.

Questions?
Stop by the Info Table at DudleyFest (at the foot of the Dudley House stairs)!

Haven’t registered yet?
Computer terminals are available in the Dudley House Dining Room. Go to my.harvard.edu and click on “campus resources”

Study cards!
Study cards must be submitted in person at Dudley House between 9 a.m.- 5 p.m. on September 11

Email trouble?
See Computer Services in the Dudley Dining Hall or visit the help desk in the basement of the Science Center

If your registration has been blocked you may need to:

- Visit Financial Aid
  (Dudley House Graduate Student Lounge)

- Visit the Admissions Office
  (Holyoke Center 350)

- Visit the International Office
  (Dudley House Main Dining Room)

- Visit Harvard University Health Services
  (Dudley House Main Dining Room)
GSAS Welcomes

ORIENTATION + DUDLEYFEST LOCATIONS, AUGUST 29, 2012

1 **Orientation**
   Sanders Theatre, Memorial Hall

2 **Lunch**
   Center of Harvard Yard

3 **DudleyFest**
   (Information Fair, Workshops, Stipend Checks, Social Hour)
   Dudley House

4 **ID cards and photos**
   Boylston Hall
Launching Your Scholarly Career

DON’T WAIT TO EXPLORE FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES.
START NOW AND BOLSTER YOUR CV!

There are a number of post-baccalaureate fellowships specifically focused on students in the early stages of graduate study. Deadlines come soon for these fellowships — for complete details, visit the Graduate Guide to Grants, available online at www.gsas.harvard.edu/fellowships. You can make an appointment to receive advice on how to write a winning proposal by calling the GSAS Office of Fellowships, and its director, Cynthia Verba, at 617-495-1814.

National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowships
Application deadline is in early November.
Web: www.nsfgrfp.org

Ford Foundation Diversity Fellowships
Application deadline is early to mid-November.
Web: http://sites.nationalacademies.org/PGA/FordFellowships/index.htm

United States Department of Education Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowships (FLAS)
Application deadline is anticipated to be in mid-December.
Web: www.gsas.harvard.edu/current_students/graduate_flas.php

The Fannie and John Hertz Foundation Graduate Fellowship Program
Application deadline is around October 30.
Web: www.hertzfoundation.org/dx/fellowships/fellowshipaward.aspx

The National Defense Science and Engineering Graduate Fellowship Program (NDSEG)
Application deadline is anticipated to be in mid-December.
Web: http://ndseg.asee.org

American Association of University Women (AAUW) International Fellowships
Application deadline is anticipated to be around the first of December.
Web: www.aauw.org/learn/fellows_directory/international.cfm

The Paul & Daisy Soros Fellowships For New Americans
Application deadline is around November 1.
Web: www.pdsoros.org/competition/

Struggling? Call Us!

In Common 617-384-TALK (4-TALK)
Available Sunday through Thursday, 8 p.m.–midnight (excluding Harvard holidays)
In Common is the peer counseling hotline for Harvard’s graduate and professional schools. Volunteer graduate-student staffers offer support and refer students to resources on a variety of issues, such as loneliness and alienation, uncertainty about careers, academic or financial problems, or difficulties in relationships.
Whenever you want to talk, we are here to listen and provide support.

Play it Safe

The Harvard University Police Department (www.hupd.harvard.edu) publishes an annual security report called “Playing it Safe,” prepared in compliance with The Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act (the “Clery Act”). The report includes information about the HUPD, how to report a crime, HUPD’s crime prevention programs, substance abuse, sensitive crimes, emergency notifications, and other important information about security and HUPD services on campus. Find it on the HUPD website.

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Boston, Cambridge, Somerville: 911
Harvard University Police (HUPD)
Cambridge Urgent: 617-495-1212
Longwood Urgent: 617-432-1212

Harvard University Health Services
Urgent Care: 617-495-5711
Hearing Impaired
TTY (TDD): 617-495-1211

MessageMe: Emergency Notification System
A Harvard text-messaging service to alert you in the event of a campus emergency. Register at: https://messageme.harvard.edu. Registration must be renewed annually.

Walking Escort Program – Cambridge Campus
Seven nights a week during the academic year. Hours: Sunday-Wednesday 10:30 p.m. - 2:00 a.m.; Thursday-Saturday 10:30 p.m. - 3:00 a.m. Call 617-384-8237.

Walking Escort Service – Longwood Campus
Available 24 hours a day. A security guard will escort you to your vehicle on campus or to the nearest MBTA stop. Harvard Medical/Dental: 617-432-1379; Public Health: 617-432-1040.

Evening Van Service (Fully Accessible)
Safe transportation throughout the Cambridge and Allston campuses as a supplement to the Shuttle Bus. Rides are free and available on demand. Hours: Nightly, 7 p.m.–3 a.m. Call 617-495-0400. See www.uos.harvard.edu/transportation/passenger_transport_services for daytime and evening shuttle services and to download the ShuttleTracker app.

Rape Aggression Defense (RAD) Program
Taught by HUPD officers, RAD empowers female students, faculty, and staff to combat various types of assaults by providing them with realistic self-defense tactics and techniques. Learn more at www.hupd.harvard.edu/RAD.php.
of venturing outside your academic boundaries. Take an art class if you are a scientist, and vice versa. Be creative when everyone else only works by the protocol. And so on.

But this piece of advice also extends to your personal life. Go for a drink with your fellow students, instead of only working. Harvard students are allowed to enjoy life. And you might just discover that you hit the jackpot with your research idea when you explain it to someone on the back of a napkin in Queen’s Head Pub.

— Oliver Hauser, PhD candidate, organismic and evolutionary biology

Becoming a Scholar
Research is bit like fishing. Focus on learning the process first, not on what you might catch. Big fish come with a lot of practice and a bit of luck.

— Xiao-Li Meng, PhD ’90, Dean of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences

You May Not Need Advice
My advice for PhD students is that you don’t have to wait for advice; you can figure out what you need to do by imitating people who have already done it. If you want to publish an article in a particular journal, then look at the articles already published there, compare them to the draft you’ve got, and identify the revisions you need to make. If you want to get a certain kind of job, then look at the people who were recently hired for jobs like that, see what kinds of teaching experience and publications they had, and then go get the same for yourself. Of course, you’ll want to consult with your advisors as you do these things, but too many grad students think of their advisors as the Keepers of the Secret Knowledge, to be doled out as the advisors see fit, when actually what grad students need to do is not at all mysterious. Difficult, yes, very difficult, but not mysterious.

— Amanda Claybaugh, professor of English, PhD ’01

You Belong Here
The faster you realize that you were chosen to come to Harvard for a reason, the more you will relax and become better able to learn. It took me a whole semester to get over the “imposter syndrome.” I kept asking myself, “Why am I here? Why me? Do I have what it takes to cut it?” What if I fooled them on paper?” I was so concerned about this that I didn’t sit back and just enjoy the ride. I didn’t smell the roses, making it impossible to learn because I was stressing out so much. In fact, in a self-fulfilling prophecy, I failed my first exam in microeconomics. I cried for days. Luckily, the professor (who was also my advisor and boss — oh no, how embarrassing!) reassured me that it would be ok and that I just needed a little tweaking in my study habits. He also reminded me that Harvard’s been in the business of picking the best and brightest for a long time and that they know what they are looking for.

And he was right. I stopped worrying about failing and started focusing my energy on studying hard and going to office hours. In the end, I earned a B. During my second semester, I rolled with the punches. Some wins, some losses. But I survived. I learned. I grew. And most importantly, I realized that I belonged — that I am an integral part of the Harvard family.

So, the best thing I can suggest is this: go into this knowing you will get your butt kicked by your courses. But that is a great thing. If it were easy, everyone would get a degree from here. It would be a disappointment if you got here and didn’t feel challenged.

The hardest part was getting in. Now you’re here, and an entire team of people — from professors to mentors to classmates — will not let you fail. But most importantly, you will not let yourself fail. You never have.

— Dahianna Lopez, PhD candidate, health policy

Live What You Love
The best piece of advice I can offer to an incoming student is to figure out what lifestyle you like best (independent of graduate school) and endeavor to make it that way while you are a graduate student. Imagine whatever daily routine, hobbies, food, travel, leisure, family, etc., you would ideally like to have. Then figure out how to do as much of it as possible while you’re a graduate student. Sure, you won’t be able to do all of it. But I bet you can fit more of them into your life as a graduate student than you think. It will take a little time to figure out, and you may need to reassess every few months, but it’s definitely doable. Graduate work is all about trying to figure stuff out and then reassessing every few months anyway, so why not do it for the other parts of your life?

The worst assumption to make is the assumption that something can’t be done. I think there is sometimes an assumption that graduate school by default involves...
I didn’t realize how hard
when I came to graduate
who aspires to be their peer!
behind and become a grad student
simply, leave your undergrad years
you are just around for a chat. Put
that you want to discuss with them.
with a clear agenda (I always like
new ideas from them. But this feed-
tions, and it’s great to be around
smart and has great, big-time ambi-
life in GSAS. Everyone is really
are one of their priorities. In fact, the
good news is that they usually spend
problems that I wanted to work on.
problems in GSAS. Everyone is really
are not the people who make
because they are at Harvard
is its people: nothing more, nothing
what makes Harvard special
is its people: nothing more, nothing

---

I find someone new whose interests
in some way overlap with mine.
Sometimes they’re sitting right un-
der my nose in my own department
they’re in another
don’t admire their work

---

Those people that think they’re
great because they are at Harvard
are not the people who make
Harvard great. It takes time to rec-
ize this distinction! At any given
opportunity, the former bray about
their supposed superiority; at any
given opportunity, the latter quietly
demonstrate their actual superior-
iness. Never be intimidated by the
former; be inspired by the latter.

---

I didn’t know how many
resources Harvard has. Harvard
has already considered every part
of student life for us, so no matter
what kind of problems you have,
Harvard can solve them for you.
And no matter how many dreams
you have, Harvard can try its best
to help you to realize them.

---

the process in between can be very
different. I came to understand
this by talking to students and fac-
ulty in a broad range of the degree
programs. It’s fun, enlightening,
helps you understand what other
students are doing during their
time at Harvard, and gives you a
better understanding of how the
University works.

---

In research and in my profes-
sional career post-graduation, my
path rarely followed an easily pre-
dicted route from A to B. In hind-
sight, the best way to be prepared
for this fact is, 1) excel at whatever it
is you are currently engaged in, and
2) be open to new possibilities and
new experiences.

---

YOU WANT TO HELP THE PUB?
WANT TO WRITE THE PUB?
WANT TO HELP THE PUB?
WANT TO WRITE THE PUB?
WANT TO HELP THE PUB?
WANT TO WRITE THE PUB?
WANT TO HELP THE PUB?
WANT TO WRITE THE PUB?
WANT TO HELP THE PUB?
many involuntary and inconvenient lifestyle changes. In reality, most of the changes can and should be really positive. And if you’re looking for examples, there are oodles of students who take control of these changes and make their years in GSAS really enjoyable and fulfilling. Find them, learn from them, and then pass your skills on.

Failure vs. Weakness

Never confuse failure for weakness, or weakness for failure.

Failure is an important and natural part of the PhD and research process. Papers don’t work out, experiments go wrong, data doesn’t show what you thought it would, projects have to be abandoned. You cannot fail unless you are trying to do something ambitious, and doing something ambitious is the key to any successful career. Every scholar has failed at some point: you, me, your advisor, your advisor’s advisor, your colleagues, the chair of the search committee. Everyone. The way you respond to that failure, the lessons you learn from it and the way you persevere, are much more important than the failure itself.

Weakness is a different beast. It is an unwillingness to take the bull by the horns, to never challenge oneself, to work urgently on non-urgent tasks, to be busy on easy things undeserving of attention. Weakness is a lack of effort, a refusal to see your own agency, to shy away from the big problems, a fear of failure. It has no place in a graduate career.

Rise with the Tides

Graduate school will be a series of professional highs and lows. One week, you’ll get your submission rejected from a journal, run a terrible discussion section, and slip on a banana peel. The next week, you’ll have a breakthrough on your dissertation, read a fantastic paper by one of your students, and get a paper accepted by a prestigious conference somewhere tropical. If you’re in one of the rough periods, remember that morale-raising things are probably around the corner.

See the World

Make friends with people from different parts of the world, and don’t just confine yourself to a friend circle of your own country. One reason is, it’s really great to make friends from all over the world and experience different cultural traditions. The number of festivals you have on your calendar will increase a lot!

Finding the Right Advisor

Finding an advisor is like dating. Not everyone is going to be the right match, and the right advisor for your classmate may not be the right advisor for you. Understand the kind of relationship you need to succeed as a graduate student and look for that fit. That means some self-reflection, and it means having conversations with a lot of faculty, program administrators, and upper-level students.

Learning from Risking

Take risks. It may mean that you fail sometimes, but that’s okay. You learn the most when you fail, and learning how to deal with failure is probably more important than learning how to deal with success.

Rise with the Tides

Graduate school will be a series of professional highs and lows. One week, you’ll get your submission rejected from a journal, run a terrible discussion section, and slip on a banana peel. The next week, you’ll have a breakthrough on your dissertation, read a fantastic paper by one of your students, and get a paper accepted by a prestigious conference somewhere tropical. If you’re in one of the rough periods, remember that morale-raising things are probably around the corner.

You’ve Earned It

First, be confident that you do belong here. The imposter syndrome is surprisingly common, even among the elite group of students we bring into our programs, but our degree programs do a good job of evaluating applications, and you are here because you have earned it.

Second, relax a little. We all know that the pursuit of a graduate degree involves focus and hard work, but each of you has had other activities that have enriched your life, and I believe that students are both happier and more productive when they occasionally make time to do some of the things that they have always enjoyed.

Be Social

Yes, we’re all here to learn and do amazing research. But if you publish a paper, and no one is there to listen to you talk about it, does the tree make any sound at all? So, take advantage of your first few months here — socially. The closest thing to having a basket of friends delivered to your front door are events that Dudley House plans the first few weeks of school. I made some of my closest graduate student friends in those weeks.

Finding the Right Advisor

Finding an advisor is like dating. Not everyone is going to be the right match, and the right advisor for your classmate may not be the right advisor for you. Understand the kind of relationship you need to succeed as a graduate student and look for that fit. That means some self-reflection, and it means having conversations with a lot of faculty, program administrators, and upper-level students.

Learning from Risking

Take risks. It may mean that you fail sometimes, but that’s okay. You learn the most when you fail, and learning how to deal with failure is probably more important than learning how to deal with success.

Rise with the Tides

Graduate school will be a series of professional highs and lows. One week, you’ll get your submission rejected from a journal, run a terrible discussion section, and slip on a banana peel. The next week, you’ll have a breakthrough on your dissertation, read a fantastic paper by one of your students, and get a paper accepted by a prestigious conference somewhere tropical. If you’re in one of the rough periods, remember that morale-raising things are probably around the corner.

You’ve Earned It

First, be confident that you do belong here. The imposter syndrome is surprisingly common, even among the elite group of students we bring into our programs, but our degree programs do a good job of evaluating applications, and you are here because you have earned it.

Second, relax a little. We all know that the pursuit of a graduate degree involves focus and hard work, but each of you has had other activities that have enriched your life, and I believe that students are both happier and more productive when they occasionally make time to do some of the things that they have always enjoyed.

Be Social

Yes, we’re all here to learn and do amazing research. But if you publish a paper, and no one is there to listen to you talk about it, does the tree make any sound at all? So, take advantage of your first few months here — socially. The closest thing to having a basket of friends delivered to your front door are events that Dudley House plans the first few weeks of school. I made some of my closest graduate student friends in those weeks.

Finding the Right Advisor

Finding an advisor is like dating. Not everyone is going to be the right match, and the right advisor for your classmate may not be the right advisor for you. Understand the kind of relationship you need to succeed as a graduate student and look for that fit. That means some self-reflection, and it means having conversations with a lot of faculty, program administrators, and upper-level students.

Learning from Risking

Take risks. It may mean that you fail sometimes, but that’s okay. You learn the most when you fail, and learning how to deal with failure is probably more important than learning how to deal with success.

Rise with the Tides

Graduate school will be a series of professional highs and lows. One week, you’ll get your submission rejected from a journal, run a terrible discussion section, and slip on a banana peel. The next week, you’ll have a breakthrough on your dissertation, read a fantastic paper by one of your students, and get a paper accepted by a prestigious conference somewhere tropical. If you’re in one of the rough periods, remember that morale-raising things are probably around the corner.

You’ve Earned It

First, be confident that you do belong here. The imposter syndrome is surprisingly common, even among the elite group of students we bring into our programs, but our degree programs do a good job of evaluating applications, and you are here because you have earned it.

Second, relax a little. We all know that the pursuit of a graduate degree involves focus and hard work, but each of you has had other activities that have enriched your life, and I believe that students are both happier and more productive when they occasionally make time to do some of the things that they have always enjoyed.
A Holistic Approach to Succeeding at Harvard

The Bureau of Study Counsel
5 Linden Street
www.bsc.harvard.edu; bsc@harvard.edu

The Bureau of Study Counsel is a resource center for students' academic and personal development. These fall offerings are particularly relevant to incoming GSAS students:

Harvard Course in Reading and Study Strategies
Through readings, films, and classroom exercises, you’ll learn to read more purposefully, selectively, and with greater speed and comprehension. A 10-day course, for one hour a day over a period of two weeks. Cost: $25 for GSAS students. Fall sessions: September 24 to October 5, Monday–Friday, at 8-9 a.m. or 4-5 p.m. To register, please come to the Bureau at 5 Linden Street, or call 617-495-2581.

The Harvard Salon
Occasions for meaningful reflection and open conversation can be in short supply in this intense environment. The BSC wants to create a venue, in the spirit of a salon, where students can gather to talk about ideas and experiences, perhaps with no agenda, or perhaps in response to some low-key programming that they themselves determine (such as viewing a TED talk together, discussing a newspaper article, or having a cross-generational conversation with a guest professor or other member of our community). If you are interested in helping to develop the programming, branding, and marketing of our salon, contact SungLim Shin (slshin@bsc.harvard.edu) or Sheila Reindl (sreindl@bsc.harvard.edu).

ADD Peer Coaching Group
weekly meetings; dates to be determined.
This group provides a supportive space for students with attention regulation concerns to learn coping skills in three core areas: organization/planning, reducing distractibility, and developing adaptive thinking. To register, contact jpage@bsc.harvard.edu.

Making the Grade in a Harvard Classroom
one session: Monday, September 24, 2–4 p.m.
This is an opportunity for international students to reflect informally, over coffee and cookies, on their classroom experiences and discuss strategies to enhance their adjustment. To register, contact asanfeliz@bsc.harvard.edu or slshin@bsc.harvard.edu.

What Are You Doing with Your Life?
weekly meetings; dates to be determined, beginning in October.
This group provides opportunities to explore purpose, passion, and potential, along with the conflicts and challenges students feel in defining who they are. Pre-group consultation required, call 617-495-2581.

Speaking Up in Class
three sessions: Wednesdays, October 3, 10, and 17, 1–2:30 p.m.
Strategies for students who wish to have more of a voice in their classes. Through discussion in a supportive context, you’ll focus on increasing self-confidence and managing anxiety in academic settings. Pre-group consultation required, call 617-495-2581.

Time Management Workshop
one session: Wednesday, October 10, 1–2:30 p.m. or Friday, October 26, 1–2:30 p.m.
Through exercises and discussion, you’ll identify your priorities and strategize about how to make time for everything you want to do. To register, contact cshindler@bsc.harvard.edu.

Perfectionism: A Double-Edged Sword
one session: Friday, October 12, 1–2:30 p.m.
Learn to distinguish motivation for healthy achievement from perfectionism, and overcome the pitfalls of perfectionism. To register, contact jpage@bsc.harvard.edu.
Welcome to graduate school, and welcome to Harvard. As you move through your degree, you will grow in strength, skills, confidence, and knowledge. And you will confront great challenges that will test your endurance, your time management skills, and your sense of your own academic and emotional abilities.

When you need help — with any academic or personal problem, however big or small — I am available to talk. I serve in an advisory role, providing support and making referrals to other sources of assistance, as necessary. Conversations with me are confidential. I invite you to make an appointment to talk.

Contact Ellen Fox Director of GSAS Student Services
E-mail: efox@fas.harvard.edu 617-495-5005

A Source of Support at GSAS

All Linked Up

A handy list of important websites connecting you with resources and services for Harvard graduate students:

›› www.gsas.harvard.edu/quicklinks

Follow HarvardGSAS on Twitter and Facebook.

Read the latest news:
›› www.gsas.harvard.edu/news