A+ Application: Tips for Applying

November 28, 2016
2:00-3:00 PM PST
Disclaimer

• These tips are targeted to the application process for the UC Davis Department of History.

• Following these suggestions is no guarantee of admission, but when implemented successfully, should help increase your chances of admission to our program.
Agenda

• Nuts and Bolts
  – Professor Ellen Hartigan-O’Connor, Graduate Program Committee Chair
• How to Approach a Faculty Mentor
  – Professor Lorena Oropeza
• Selecting a Writing Sample
  – Professor Justin Leroy
• Crafting a Personal Statement and Personal History and Diversity Statement
  – Professor Andrés Reséndez
• Q & A
Nuts and Bolts

• **Deadline:** January 5, 2017

• **What you need to apply:**
  – Unofficial transcripts
  – Letters of Recommendation (3)
  – Recent GRE Scores (within the last five years)
  – Writing Sample
  – Statement of Purpose/Personal History and Diversity Statement

• **What it costs to apply:**
  – Domestic Students ($105)
  – International Students ($125)
  – Apply for fee waivers through the Office of Graduate Studies (gradadmit@ucdavis.edu)
Approaching a Faculty Mentor

Lorena Oropeza
Associate Professor
20th Century US History
Holistic Approach

Culture

Funding

Geography
Working with Advisor(s)

• You will work with more than just one person.
Put Your Research Skills to the Test!

• Employ your research hunting skills at this stage of the process.
  – Read.
  – Contact.
  – Ask for graduate student recommendations.
Selecting a Writing Sample

Justin Leroy
Assistant Professor
19th Century US History
What is the purpose of a writing sample?

• Measures your ability to write at the graduate level.
• Demonstrates your ability to construct an argument.
• Shows your ability to engage with sources and do research.
How to Choose Your Best Sample

• Best length is 15-20 pages.
• Usually a seminar paper or part of a thesis, but can be original work.
• Ideally it would be a historical paper related to your proposed area of study…
• …But you should use your strongest work in any humanities or social science discipline as long as it showcases your ability to make a clear, strong argument and analyze evidence.
Revising Your Writing Sample

• Don’t just submit a paper you wrote previously without editing it, even if you got an “A.”

• See if you can strengthen your argument or make the structure more clear.

• Ask the professor you wrote it for how you could improve.
Writing the Statement of Purpose and Personal History & Diversity Statement

Andrés Reséndez
Professor
Latin American History
#1 Tip for Statements

Clear Writing!
Statement of Purpose

1. Preparation

2. Research Interests

3. Fit
Personal History & Diversity Statement

• Personal Background
  – Do not duplicate but add to what is already in the Statement of Purpose
  – Davis is a public university that supports the diversity of its graduate students. Provide any information that may be relevant to achieve this goal.
Questions?
Send your questions in the chat feature.

Further questions? Want to ask an individual question?
Email:
Grace Woods
gawoods@ucdavis.edu