

CPCB 1 page guide to graduate school

Work hard... duh ...and seek advice of others.

Strive to become an expert in something.

[10 Simple Rules for Reproducible Computational Research](#)

[Other 10 Simple Rules from PLoS Comp Bio](#)

Perspectives from previous/senior graduate students:

<http://pgbovine.net/PhD-memoir.htm>

<http://www.cs.unc.edu/~azuma/hitch4.html>

<http://www.myscizzle.com/blog/how-to-survive-your-phd/>

An oldie, but a goodie: [The Final Exam –Don Coffey](#)

Be an active member of the science community and start networking (it's not a dirty word).

Go to seminars/events (in the program/your department & elsewhere) and meet with visiting speakers.

Actively listen at talks (stay off your phone and computer, unless you're taking notes).

Present your work locally and at regional/national conferences – can get additional perspectives on your work.

Get involved with Grad Student Association and/or CPCB Government.

Create a LinkedIn profile, connect to people, and join groups – they are a great source of info (jobs, etc.).

Look for mentors who will help guide you along your career path.

Look for opportunities to get teaching experience and to be a mentor for a nascent scientist.

Summer undergrad and high school programs have opportunities for both (great to build your CV).

Be an active TA – do more than just the minimum.

What do you want to be when you grow up?

Consider job prospects and paths early in your career (some useful blogs/websites/info below)

Highlight and keep track of all of your accomplishments and academic activities in an updated CV.

Be active in your professional development – keep up to date on career options, fields, and trends.

Consult the following links for job postings, info on career paths, and career development advice:

<http://blogs.nature.com/naturejobs/>

<http://biocareers.com/bio-careers-blog>

<http://versatilephd.com/>

<http://www.academic360.com/>

<http://www.biospace.com/>

<http://serialmentor.com/>

<http://jobs.newscientist.com/>

<http://www.hercjobs.org/>

<http://whatareallthephds.tumblr.com/>

<http://www.pathwaysreport.org/>

<http://www.sciencemag.org/content/337/6099/1149.full>

<http://myidp.sciencecareers.org/>

Show me the Money!

Establish a track record of funding early – money begets money in science.

Seek grad student fellowships ([NIH F31](#), [NSF GFRP](#)), internal university awards, conference travel awards, etc.

Put your best words forward.

Become an effective communicator – this is incredibly important in science today!

Seek out assistance in writing and presenting.

Writing Centers: CMU – <http://www.cmu.edu/gcc/>

Pitt – <http://www.writingcenter.pitt.edu/>

Prepare and practice for all talks you will give

You never know who is going to show up.

Talks/presentations are a great opportunity to make a good (or bad) impression.

Useful Links: [Gopen and Swan on Science Writing](#)

[Zuckerman on writing](#)

[Zhang on writing](#)

[Erren and Bourne on poster presentations](#)

[Bourne on oral presentations](#)

[JCA Presentations Pointers](#)

Don't be afraid of the F-word – Failure is an important part of success.

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/ekaterinawalter/2013/12/30/30-powerful-quotes-on-failure/>

Get a life!

Seek a work-life balance.

Make sure you have an outlet(s) and have fun!