

Post-graduation options – going to graduate school

❖ Decisions

- Deciding to go to graduate school (or not)
 - Clearly thought out plan or purpose
 - exploration of financial options
 - fellowships and scholarships
 - ◆ know criteria, deadlines, statistics
 - TA and RA-ships
 - loans
- Picking the right program – a qualitative/quantitative research project
 - Statistics
 - reputation of program
 - time to degree and post-degree success
 - faculty there who will want to work with you, and who you will want to work with
 - their papers and other available published work (including websites, blogs, etc.)
 - communicating with them
 - communicating with their current and former students
 - Location and cost of living considerations

❖ The application process

- Making a good impression – what makes you a high quality applicant
 - Preparing yourself
 - independent research, presentations and publications
 - volunteer or internship experience
 - having already applied for scholarships and fellowships
 - Presenting yourself – thinking out your Letter of Intent
 - getting your application in well ahead of the deadline
 - high quality writing – you **MUST** sound professional
 - Develop a coherent narrative that tells the reader:
 - ◆ Who are you, in a scholarly sense?
 - ◆ Why are you right for their program?
 - accomplishments and skills
 - ◆ Why is their program right for you?
 - your research on their program
- Generating letters of reference – enlisting troops in your campaign
 - Select referees thoughtfully
 - can they talk about you in positive ways?
 - will what they have to talk about fit the narrative you have developed?
 - What weight will their recommendation carry?
 - Give the referees tools to work with
 - be sure the referee knows your answers to
 - ◆ Why this program?
 - ◆ What will I be doing?