For students and post-graduates interested in applying to graduate school, it is very important that you have research and/or industry experience in the sciences. For matriculation in the fall, the application process begins the previous fall/winter. If you are interested but have limited experience, please talk with your current or former advisor before starting the application process. If you are unsure whether you would like to apply to graduate school, please check out “Worksheet 1 General Overview.”

**Timeline for Applying to Graduate School:** The timelines and requirements of graduate school programs vary, and students and post-graduates may be navigating various personal situations. This sheet is intended to help students and post-graduates make initial plans for the application process.

**Summer: July-August**
- Read “Worksheet 1 General Overview”
- Explore different research interests: talk with professors, students, and alumni, search department/program websites, read journal articles, etc.
- Take the General GRE and/or register for the fall subject GRE, if applicable*
  *Programs vary in GRE requirements. Please check the individual programs. The GRE is offered regularly; however, the subject GREs are offered only at select times of the year. For current students on financial aid, the Student Deans Office may offer funds to take these exams. The scores are typically reportable for 5 years.

**Fall: August/September**
- Read “Worksheet 2 Applications to Graduate School”
- Create a CV: schedule an appointment with the CXD
- Connect with your major and/or research advisors if you are interested in applying*
  *If you have graduated, do not hesitate to reach out to your former advisors.
- Create initial list of graduate programs that interest you

**Fall: September/October**
- Contact research professors/groups that interest you
  *Optional but encouraged: Your advisors can help you craft an intro. e-mail
- Determine which graduate programs match your interest and which you would like to apply*
  *You can always add/remove graduate programs; some programs have application fees. If you cannot afford the fees, contact the program director or talk with your advisor for help navigating the situation.
- Start a graduate application to learn the different components
  *Helpful to get online application started; some programs may also require a diversity statement
  *Opening an application does not mean that you will have to apply to the program
- **Write a personal and/or research statement** (most important part of your application)
  *Ask your advisor for examples and/or advice. This process takes time.
- Contact your letter writers
- Determine whether you would like to apply for an external fellowship*
  *NOT required. Almost all Ph. D. programs in the sciences offer stipends to accepted students. Fellowship applications are typically due in October. The process takes time so designate a month to work on the application.
- If applicable, take the subject GRE.

**Fall/Winter: November-December-January**
- Many graduate program applications are due.

**Winter/Spring: January-April**
- Notifications from graduate programs on acceptance
- Read “Worksheet 3 Choosing a graduate school once you have been accepted”
- Talk to your advisor about expectations for visit weekends
  *The visit weekends are highly recommended
- Decide which program is best suited for your personal and scientific growth 😊