

Tips for applying to Graduate School in the Department of English, University of Calgary

1. **General Tips from Purdue Online Writing Lab (OWL):**

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/1/48/>

2. **General does and don'ts for graduate school applications:**

<https://talentegg.ca/incubator/2012/10/22/8-dos-donts-applying-grad-school/>

3. **Reference letters:**

Your letters of reference must address your suitability for academic study in literature in our department. They should be detailed, addressing gaps, strengths, how you are unique, your grades, your research proposal, and any significant achievements.

If you are interested in our creative writing stream, your referees should also be aware that our degree programs emphasize and require in-depth literary study and a background in literature in English as well, and should address your research plans, your critical writing and your creative writing abilities and potential.

Useful tips for your referees also appear in : [Tips for Writing a Scholarship Reference](#)

4. **For PhD applicants:**

- CV outlines: Read the [Tip Sheet on creating an effective curriculum vitae](#) (CV) from the UTM Career Centre
- CS samples: See [sample templates](#) from the UBC Career Services

5. **Writing a Statement of Purpose / Letter of Intent/ Statement of Intent**

From UBC Department of English: Basically, it is your opportunity to tell the graduate program:

- Your specific area of academic interest (research topic you want to work on)
- How your past education and other experiences have prepared you to be successful in the graduate program
- What you hope to achieve in the graduate program
- Why this particular program is the best place for you to pursue your interests

The statement is generally in the form of a short essay. Be sure to carefully read the specific instructions given by the graduate program and ensure you provide them with what they are asking for.

Other tips for a strong Statement of Interest

- State any work you have done in this area already (mention specific skills/techniques you have picked up).
- Connect your area of interest to work being done in the program (mention specific faculty members and projects).
- Refer to academic publications that have informed your interest (use correct citation as footnote).
- Mention any publications, presentations or conferences you have been a part of."

Other resources:

<https://www.grad.ubc.ca/prospective-students/application-admission/statement-interest>

<https://uni.edu/~gotera/gradapp/stmpurpose.htm>

<http://writing.utoronto.ca/writing-centres/graduate-students/>