

## Phone Calls with PIs

*The whole process is mostly just you asking them questions, it's a really chill conversation and you're gonna do fantastic!*

### Research into them

You don't have to do as much research into them as you think – they're not gonna drill you on the details of any papers or anything. But you should poke around on their website and maybe get an idea of:

- How many grad students they have
- If they have post docs (how big the lab is)
- What methods they use
  - If this isn't clear from their lab website, maybe get an idea from their recent papers.

### Questions for you to prepare to answer:

These may not be asked, but it's good to have something prepared!

- What you're interested in (3-4 sentence elevator speech)
- Why you want to go to grad school
- What you've done in the past (jobs/projects/volunteering)
- What you hope to do after grad school

### Things to ask them during the phone call:

For each phone call, I spaced these out on a google doc so there was room to write underneath, then I printed it out and wrote on it during the call. This was SUPER helpful to look back on while I wrote personal statements and when I made my decision.

- What are you currently working on? What are you planning on working on in the upcoming years?
  - **Asking about upcoming projects and taking notes on their answer was probably the most important thing for me to write down during the phone call, I relied heavily on it when I personalized my personal statements. Make sure you ask this and take notes!!!**
- What methods do you usually use (if this wasn't super clear from website/papers)
- What's the set up of your lab usually like? What does it look like in COVID times?
- What is your mentoring style?
- Expectations for incoming grad students?
  - For example, will I start on project right away? Will I do secondary analysis of current data and/or jump in on an existing project?
- What have some past grad students gone on to do?
- What is the department like? Opportunities for collaboration?
- Do your students often have opportunities to publish and go to conferences?
- What is the timeline for the admissions process?

## Sending the Initial Email

### If you don't know if they're taking students or not:

Potential PhD Student Inbox x



Mon, Aug 5, 2019, 1:29 PM ☆ ↶ ⋮

Dear Dr. [REDACTED]

My name is [REDACTED] and I'm interested in applying to the Developmental Psychology PhD program for the 2020 cycle.

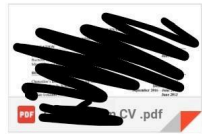
I currently work as Dr. [REDACTED]'s lab manager at [REDACTED] University, studying implicit category learning and infant exploration. I am also a clinical research assistant in Dr. [REDACTED]'s lab, working on a project related to early intervention measures. As an undergraduate at [REDACTED], I worked with Dr. [REDACTED] to study sex differences and joint attention in an ASD Diagnosis. I've attached my CV with more details on my background.

Are you accepting grad students for 2020?

Thank you for your time, and I look forward to your response.

Best,

[REDACTED]



### If you know that they're taking students (you should still reach out!):

Potential PhD Student Inbox x



Mon, Aug 5, 2019, 2:23 PM ☆ ↶ ⋮

Dear Dr. [REDACTED]

My name is [REDACTED], and I saw on the department website that you're taking students for the 2020 cycle. I'm interested in applying to the Developmental Psychology PhD program and wanted to introduce myself.

I currently work as Dr. [REDACTED]'s lab manager at [REDACTED] University, studying implicit category learning and infant exploration. I am also a clinical research assistant in Dr. [REDACTED]'s lab, working on a project related to early intervention measures. As an undergraduate at [REDACTED], I worked with Dr. [REDACTED] to study sex differences and joint attention in an ASD Diagnosis. I've attached my CV with more details on my background.

Would you have time to talk about the direction of your research?

Thank you for your time, and I look forward to your response.

Best,

[REDACTED]

