

Tips for Choosing the Right Graduate Degree Program

Master's and doctoral degrees generally combine structured coursework, along with independent study or research. Studying at a graduate level mainly depends on the student's work rather than the offerings of the university. Students pursuing their Masters' degrees must distinguish between academic and professional master's programs where academic master's degrees are required for admission into a doctoral degree program, while professional master's degrees only prepare students for careers in specific fields and doesn't qualify them for future PhD degrees.

Below are some guidance tips for consideration:

- Look for universities that offer the specialization you are interested in. It is important to check the accreditation and ranking of the university and the program you are applying for because some universities rank higher in specific disciplines.
- Give yourself enough time to get everything done and apply 6-12 months before the deadline. You can explore the university's website for information about the university and, more specifically, the department. Pay particular attention to the reputation of the professors and their research. Communicate directly with the course supervisors and professors to ask them questions about the program, discuss potential areas that you would like to explore and get an insight to the course's structure. This will provide you with better input regarding the program and will introduce you to members in the department which could increase your chances of landing a place in the program, when applying.
- Allocate substantial time to take the TOEFL, the IELTS, and if required GRE or GMAT tests.
- If you wish to bring your dependents (spouse and children) to the U.S, you must check with the university to learn what information you need to submit to request a dependent I-20. Universities may require proof of funds to determine your ability to support yourself and your dependents. Make sure you bring their school report cards and vaccination record so they can be enrolled in the free public school's system in the United States.
- Graduate students must enroll themselves and their dependents in the health insurance coverage provided by their universities. The Omani Cultural division will pay the cost of the health insurance coverage according to the terms of their Scholarships. Graduate students with MOHERI scholarships, must contact the Cultural Division to get enrolled in the health insurance.

- Graduate students will receive monthly allowances and stipends according to the payment rates which are described on the Cultural' s Division website: www.omani.info
- It is important to communicate with the Cultural Division to get all the support offered to the Omani students in the US.