

Why Go to Grad School?

Grad school is a pretty hefty investment of time, energy, and yes, money. So why might you consider it as an option? Some of the answers to this question you've likely heard before: to stand out from the crowd of job applicants, to earn more in your chosen field, to demonstrate mastery of a subject or skill, because a specific profession requires the credential. These are all very good reasons, of course. But why else might you want to go to grad school?

- **Because you love to learn.** And, unlike your undergraduate degree, when you were required to take a certain number of general education credits, graduate education is an environment in which you can specialize much more on your chosen subject, issues of interest, and research topics.
- **Because you want to switch careers.** By earning your Masters degree, you are demonstrating the seriousness with which you are pursuing this new path by seeking to develop a holistic understanding of the field from an academic and historical perspective.
- **Because you want to give research a try.** You may have completed a research project as an undergraduate but it likely wasn't anything like what you'll do as a grad student. Whether you complete a traditional thesis or something more akin to IPSL's applied project option, grad school offers ample opportunities to learn about research, including how to design and implement it.
- **Because it's fun.** No, really. It's hard work, yes, but it's also fun to discover new things, to grow personally and professionally, to explore new topics, to challenge yourself, and to learn from and with your peers.
- **Because you can learn, serve, and thrive in another culture and country.** This one is admittedly pretty specific to IPSL graduate programs. In our Master of Arts in International Development & Service (IDS) and Community Organizing and Social Activism (COSA) programs, students earn their MA degree PLUS live and learn in a global community. Our students spend three semesters in international locations, studying in classrooms abroad, developing practical skills as volunteers with community organizations, getting to know local people – and learning new languages – through service and homestays, fostering greater cultural competency, utilizing and honing transferable skills like flexibility, patience, and adaptability – all while living, serving, and studying in amazing places like Colombia, Greece, Tanzania, and Vietnam.

Ready to learn more about a graduate degree with IPSL? Visit our website at <https://www.ipsl.org/graduate-education-abroad>.