Everything You’ve Wanted to Know About Physics Grad School (But Were Afraid to Ask!)

Tuesday, June 12, 3:00 – 4:00 pm EDT

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• What is involved in the grad school application process? How early should one start preparing?
• What factors do you take into account when looking for graduate schools?
• How can I make my grad school application look more attractive to recruiters/set myself apart from the competition?
• Once I have my acceptance letters, how do I choose which program to attend?
FINANCIAL SUPPORT THROUGH THE PROGRAM

- What options do I have in terms of funding? Do I need to work while I’m in school, or will there be funding opportunities through the department?
- If I’m on a research grant, when will I need to start working full-time in the lab?
COURSE WORK AND QUALIFYING EXAMS

• Which courses are typical for first year physics grads? Is there any way I can get a “head start” on these courses?
• What exactly is a qualifying/comprehensive exam? Do all programs expect their students to pass them? When do most students take their quals?
• What happens if I don’t pass my qualifying exam?
• Are there any resources available to help students prepare for their comprehensive exams?
Research and Advising

• What advice would you give for choosing a research advisor?
• About when do most students in experimental research begin to work on their thesis project? Do students usually dive right in, or does a student typically work on smaller projects first?
• About when do most students begin writing their thesis?
• Do you have advice for dealing with problems with your research advisor?
• Any advice on writing your thesis?
QUESTIONS?