



# *Graduate School Guide*



Center for Academic Career and Experiential Advising (ACEA)  
The American University of Paris  
3rd floor Learning Commons 6 rue du Colonel Lombard  
75007 Paris France





My editorial experience makes me a strong fit for the Master's in Creative Arts program. As editor-in-chief of my university's student-led literary journal, I coordinated all aspects of the journal, including selecting the issue's theme. Last year, after brainstorming ideas for issues with members of our editorial team, we decided we wanted to attract new contributors from the visual arts. To do so, I established an interdisciplinary committee to develop a call for submissions with a theme that encouraged both literary and artistic submissions.

The interdisciplinary call for submissions was highly regarded by the university community and we received a record number of submissions. As a result, we printed a two-part series to feature more submissions and expanded the journal's readership to students beyond the literature department.

Your first draft is probably going to be WAY too long, and that's okay. It is important that you get your ideas out at first. Then, you can shorten and tailor your essay according to the guidelines and to highlight the most relevant information.

Focus on your strengths, not on your weaknesses. This is not a job application, it is an application to attend school – a place where you will learn and grow. You do not have to be perfect.

Graduate programs want to see that you have the academic ability to succeed (which will be evident on your transcript and in the letters of recommendation) and that you have an objective for your professional future that is relatively clear. They also want to see that you can articulate how their institution and the program in question fit within your goals.

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