

Suggested topics to ask about on your visitation weekends:

Ask graduate students: Remember current students will be your future coworkers!

- What is it like working for Professor X?
 - General lab culture
 - Funding availability/How often do people TA over the course of their graduate career?
 - What kind of mentor are they (i.e. hands-on/hands-off; hard or easy to get a hold of)?
- Ask students about their research!
 - You can learn about how passionate a student is for their project and see if that's the type of science you'd want to be involved with
- What are the departmental requirements for completing your Ph.D.?
 - Classes for your specific chemistry division
 - Candidacy requirements – written/oral exams?
- What's the department culture like?
 - Work/life balance
 - Departmental social events
 - Extracurricular groups/clubs/sports teams you could be involved in
 - Professional development opportunities and ease of access
- How is general living in the area/at the school?
 - Cost of living and housing
 - Transportation options – will you need a car? how is public transportation?
 - Health insurance: most places do not offer included dental/vision insurance packages
 - Mandatory student fees: Mental health services, recreation facilities, parking passes, mandatory student fees

Ask professors: This is one of the few chances in your life that you get to pick your own boss! Pick someone you want to work with.

- Current/future research directions?
 - What projects are they actively recruiting for and how many students are they planning to take in the coming year?
 - How are different projects funded?
 - Are there opportunities for collaboration with national labs or industry?
- How do they run their labs?
 - What are their expectations for graduate students?
 - How are new students trained/on-boarded?
 - Writing process: how are manuscripts drafted in the lab?

Get a feel for the area. Is this somewhere you could see yourself living and growing?

- Proximity of the school to your family/significant other
- Proximity of campus to city/country/mountains/beach/airport
- General weather conditions and whether you're up for living in them for at least 5 years