

# Grad applications expensive

## It can cost a small fortune to apply for grad school

(CUP)

STUDENTS SAY THE HIGH application fees for graduate schools are prohibiting them from pursuing their education.

But the dean of the University of Toronto's School of Graduate Studies says the fees are unavoidable.

"I've never heard that it's had any impact on a student's range of choice," said Jon Cohen.

Applying to graduate and professional faculties can cost between \$15 and \$100 for each application. Students say the fees can limit their educational options by prohibiting them from applying to more than a few schools each year.

Larry Innes, a graduate student in environmental studies at the University of Toronto, was working as a volunteer with Canadian Crossroads in Africa when he attempted to get into medical school.

"I only applied to one medical school, which cost me \$230. That kind of money was enough to live on for a month," said Innes.

Arts and Science graduate programs charge, on average, between \$15 and

\$50 each.

It costs even more to apply to professional programs. The standard fee for Masters of Business

Administration programs is \$100 a pop. Almost every law school asks for \$40 to \$50.

If a student were to apply to every law school in Canada, it would cost \$635. Doing the same in psychology would cost \$838. Even astrophysics (offered at only 10 universities) would cost \$420.

Universities rarely waive application fees, so students strapped for cash sometimes find their choices limited. Some students say this affected their decision to apply to only three or four

schools.

Steven Wald, a graduate student in economics, chose to apply to four universities.

### Here's what it would cost

you:

McGill	\$28
Queens'	35
Toronto	50
UBC	40
Calgary	45
Dalhousie	25
Ottawa	25
Alberta	50
Western	28
Manitoba	40
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$366</b>

"I figured that if I didn't get in those four then I wouldn't get in anywhere."

U of T's Cohen said the costs are unavoidable.

"It's used to defray the cost of handling the application. We've tried to cost it out and we guess that we break even." Cohen said students generally apply to only four or five graduate programs, so the impact of the cost is minimal.

"Generally a student is not going to apply to a dozen graduate schools."

Cohen also said that, compared to the cost of grad school, upwards of \$2,800 not including the cost of living, application costs were minimal.

"When you take it as a part of the cost of going to graduate school, I don't think it really has any impact at all."

These costs are in addition to the amount a student may pay to train for graduate and professional entrance exams, like the LSAT law application test, and the GMAT.

Preparatory courses for these exams can cost well over \$200.

Mike Mayo, head of admissions at U of T's school of business administration, did not strongly support the preparatory courses.

"Whether people should take the course really depends on how they personally can best enhance their performance," he said.


How much could applying to graduate school put you back? Well, say you're a fourth-year history student, who wishes to apply to ten of the anglophone Canadian schools rated in McLean's magazine's large university category (schools with doctoral programs).



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