

## Hints and suggestions from previous students to all CSD PostBacs and Canadian PostBacs

Welcome to the program! Now here are a few tips to help you along your way.

### All CSD PostBacs

It would be a good idea to meet and get to know each other in your first quarter and begin sitting with each other ... you will be spending the next whole year with the same dozen or so people

- I would also recommend that you get each others' email addresses at the beginning of your first quarter to open up the lines of communication

Schedule and appointment to see the CSD faculty members in your first quarter

- Meeting with faculty members will ensure that they know who you are ...
  - Dr. Mathers-Schmidt – Chair of CSD Department, SLP professor
  - Dr. Zeine – Graduate/Postbac Advisor, SLP professor
  - Dr. Seilo – Interim Graduate/Postbac Advisor, SLP professor
  - Dr. Baharav – Undergraduate Advisor, SLP professor
  - Dr. Darling – Transfer Student Advisor, Audiology professor
  - Dr. Peters – Undergraduate Advisor, Audiology professor
- This will be advantageous when it comes time to apply for grad school and you are asking them for letters of recommendations

Use first year grad students as a resource for any questions you may have about the program, your classes, or the field in general. But always check with Dr Zeine for information accuracy!!

Start volunteering now!

- It is advisable to begin volunteering in a related field (i.e. day care, elementary school, literacy programs, elderly care facility, hospital, speech pathology clinic, etc) as soon as possible as you'll need a well rounded resume come grad school application time

Teaching Assistantships:

Post Baccalaureate students do not qualify for Departmental TAs.

### Canadian CSD PostBacs

If you have received a "Post-Baccalaureate General University Requirement (GUR) Credit/Transfer Credit Evaluation" form from the Admissions office which evaluates your previous degree & states which GURs Western Washington University is requiring you take...

- DISREGARD this form!! → YOU DON'T NEED TO TAKE **ANY** GURs as an incoming PostBac → you are completing a Post-Baccalaureate Preparation Program. There is NO Certificate nor an *undergraduate degree* associated with this program.
  - \* This program simply represents the completion of preparatory courses in order to apply to a graduate program. There is no formal paper diploma that is issued (unless your particular PostBac class requests them from Lois Longwood)
  - This certificate also does NOT qualify you to work as an SLP. To work as an SLP you must complete a Master's degree.
- If the Admissions office continues to insist that you complete their GURs → go visit a credit evaluator to clear this up. It is simply a misunderstanding on their part regarding which program you are in: Post-Bac Preparatory Program (1 year program ... leading to apply to a Masters Degree Program) vs. Post-Bac Degree (2<sup>nd</sup> Bachelor's Degree ... another 2-4 years)

You will need to arrange getting health insurance through a Canadian insurance company (i.e. BCAA)

As a Canadian, you are not eligible for financial aid via the U.S.

- You must apply for financial aid through your home province's Student Assistance Program (i.e. BC Student Assistance Program – BCSAP).
- You can get this package easily mailed to you by submitting an online request (<http://www.aved.gov.bc.ca/studentservices/forms/welcome.htm>).
- You will fill out the package yourself; however, you must submit Appendix 3 to the financial aid office at Western which they will complete.
  - IMPORTANT! Ensure that they don't mark you down as attending a correspondence/distance education program.
  - IMPORTANT! Check the tuition costs that they've projected to make sure they are correct and that they are indeed in Canadian funds (I would ask to talk to the person who completed your form ... these things can often be wrong and it will end up affecting how much financial aid you receive.).

You will need to apply for a Social Security Number (SSN) if you are offered a position as a Teacher's Assistant. This is the American version of the Canadian Social Insurance Number (SIN). Confused yet?

- This is necessary in order to complete Teacher's Assistantship paperwork (if you have been offered a position – applications are submitted in Jan ... postings go up in April/May) and US taxes required by the IRS (paperwork not too involved, they're just a way of telling the government that you're a Canadian attending school in the US)
  - All information & forms relating to getting a SSN and completing US taxes will be sent to you via a representative from Western's International Programs & Exchanges Department (i.e. Richard Bruce)
  - Keep in mind that the office in Bellingham where you apply for a SSN won't let you apply for your number until about a month before you begin your TA

If you have received financial aid, you are required to fill out a "Schedule 2" and a "Certificate 2" (forms to 'Maintain Interest-Free Status' on your student loan) around June/July both at the end of your Post-Bac year and 1<sup>st</sup> year of Grad School to let them know that you're still going to school and that you won't begin paying your student loan yet.

- Schedule 2s are mailed to your home province's student financial assistance office.
  - Example: For British Columbia, send Schedule 2s to:
  - BCSL Service Bureau  
PO Box 4878, Station Terminal  
Vancouver, BC V6B 4A4
- Certificate 2s are mailed to the same place for all Canadians:
  - National Student Loans Service Centre  
Public Institutions Division  
P.O. Box 4030  
Mississauga ON L5A 4M4

Also at the beginning of every school year, as a precaution you may want to send both of these offices a confirmation of enrolment once you've registered for Fall quarter (get from Registrar's Office)

You need to take the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) about 6-8 weeks before you intend on applying to grad school. Don't know what this is? Well, it's kind of like the SATs which are what American high school students take in order to get into university as undergraduates. If you want to know what to expect with the GRE, just ask one of the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> year CSD grad students and they'll explain all the lovely details.

- Application for grad schools → Jan/Feb

- GRE needs to be taken by early Dec

Additional info for Canadian CSD PostBacs (living in Canada, commuting to WWU)

Car insurance → ensure that you change your car insurance to allow driving to the US if you commute to school each day

NOTE: Always keep your I-20 in your vehicle because you never know when the border officials will ask for it

Additional info for Canadian CSD PostBacs (living in Bellingham)

Must open a checking account both in Canada and in the US

- Canada account → used to receive your student loans
- In US → used to pay for rent & bills