

ARTS EMERGENCY

The Postgrad Question

Are you unsure about doing a masters?

This is a writing exercise to gauge your motivations behind doing a masters. You don't need to have perfect answers, but your stream of consciousness will reveal where you are in your journey.

All you need is to either have a word document up, or to have pen and paper ready.

1. Spend 2 minutes on each of these questions which focus on joy:

- What really caught your interest and imagination at uni?
- Which modules did you enjoy the most? Why?
- What are the questions you still want to answer about your subject? (What did you find yourself passionate about and found endless rabbit holes of research?)
- Who is inspirational in your field? Whose work do you admire and what do they do? Do you know where/what they study? Do they currently teach?
- What did I enjoy about my university and what would I like to find more of?

2. Spend 3 minutes answering these question on what you want out of your future:

- What have you learned about the parts of the world your field of study can be useful in? e.g. if you did a history degree are you curious about museums, international relations, publishing, academia? What skills/training are in demand in these areas?
- What do you want to get out of doing a master's/doctorate and do you have a clear sense of how to make that happen? If not, who do you need to talk to for advice?
- Are you only going for a master's directly after undergrad because you're unsure of the job market?

From doing this activity, you might find that

- You're really happy with your choice and that you want to go ahead! So don't forget to save your answers to these questions because when you're studying for your postgrad, it helps to have it written down what your many motivations are
- There are areas you don't know about or are uncertain about. Those would be points of further research and reflection. [As a starting point, here's our handy webpage](#)
- You might not actually want to do a masters and you'd prefer to do something else instead. And that's totally fine because everyone's journey is different! Do what makes sense for you.