**Questions to Ask during Grad School Interviews**

ACADEMIC PROGRAM RELATED

* What's the program structure like? How many classes are you required to take (and what might they be), and how many classes do students tend to take per semester?
* Are there teaching requirements? Are there opportunities to TA?
* How is the statistics training?
* Does the program bring in outside researchers/people to talk about their work on a regular basis? Or even internally, does it host talks/presentations where you can learn about people's research in the department or related departments?
* Is the PhD guaranteed funding for 5 or 6 years?
* Do students collaborate with other faculty? Is that encouraged or less common?
* Is there internal funding (e.g., through grad division or training grants)?

LAB/ADVISOR RELATED

* How often do you meet with your primary advisor? Are they hands on or hands off in terms of advising style?
* Is the advisor helpful and responsive (via e-mail and/or meetings)?
* Are people in the lab able to help when the advisor is not available?
* How many studies do students normally work on (both ones they are fully in charge of and ones where they are just helping)?
* You might want to ask about authorship culture in your lab.  Do they tend to put everyone on or just those who lead?
* Where have your graduate students placed after completing their Ph.D.?
* How much freedom is given in choosing research projects.  For example, will you be expected to help with a major grant?  Can you think up your own study and run it (and be funded)?
* Does the PI help develop your career and line of research?
* Is there a first year project or masters project requirement? What’s your mentor’s approach to that? Would you collect your own data or use existing data?
* What is your lab currently working on?  I have idea x what do you think about it?  Is it feasible?  Is it something you can get behind?  Are you open to collaborations with other professors?
* How do you treat authorship in your lab?  What's your lab culture like?  [ask that question of both grad students and the faculty: make sure they match up!]
* Do you have a lab manager / who handles the day-to-day of the lab?
* [Lastly, something that's really important to know about but tricky to ask about is funding.  You want to know how you're being funded.  Whether you're funded by a grant / fellowship / university scholarship / teaching / RAship will dramatically affect your life in the lab.  Ask the Prof near the end of the meeting or ask from other grad students.  You'll also want to know about their situation for funding neuro, because it's expensive.  Even if you have a fab idea, you want to make sure that it can actually be carried out!]

FOR GRAD STUDENTS

* Is there anything you wish were different about this program?
* Is there anything you wish you had known before deciding to come?
* Do you collaborate with other graduate students here? Or from other schools?
* How's the housing situation? Do most grad students live in a certain area? How much are living expenses/rent?
* What's the social atmosphere like? Do labs go out together? Or do people find their own way? What do people do for fun?
* Which faculty do people like?  Which don't they like?  What is funding like (both for your stipend and your research)?
* How's the IRB?  How hard is it to recruit participants?
* What's the curriculum like?  Is the faculty open to changing things if the current structure isn't working?
* Has everyone been able to place into internships?  Is it common for people to finish in 5/6 years, or do they tend to stay longer?
* What's the scanner like here, and are there any other nifty gadgets that people can play with?
* What's the teaching requirement like?
* Are there any special tracks or fellowships I should know about?
* What's the city/town like?
* What parts of the program would you change?
* Are you happy that you came here?
* What's the statistics class like?
* Is the program open to feedback, or do they not really change when people have problems?
* Do people come into the lab or does everyone tend to work from home?  What's the lab culture like - do people hang out with each other?