



# The Path of a GEMS Match

You must fill out the pre-survey that was emailed to you in order to receive your match!

## Topic ideas: setting mutual expectations

**Ruby**

- What do you already know about research?
- Do you definitely want to go to grad school? Are you trying to figure that out?

**Both tracks**

- Have you heard of fellowships?
- Decide whether to use the [Meeting and Application tracker](#)
- What do you already know about grad school?
- What do you want to get out of this mentorship?

**Sapphire**

- Do you know the general timeline for grad school applications?
- Which parts of the grad school application process do you feel more/less comfortable with?
- Are you applying for fellowships?
- Do you know which research topics you're interested in?

I got my match! Now what?

[Join the GEMS Discord server!](#)

[Reach out to your mentor/mentee to set up your first meeting](#)

no response after 7 days → [Reach out again](#)

Set up your first meeting

**First meeting**

- Introduce yourself and your background
- Make a [mentor/mentee agreement](#)
- Schedule your next meetings!

I'm having an issue! What do I do?

[Report the issue here](#)

- My mentor/mentee isn't replying to my emails
- Someone is being [harassed](#)
- Someone has violated the [code of conduct](#)
- My mentor match is not a good fit
- Someone isn't following the [Discord guidelines](#)

no response after 7 days → [Reach out again](#)

no response after 7 days → [Report the issue here](#)

## Topic ideas: throughout the program

### Ruby track topic ideas

**Fall**

- [What grad school is and who it's for](#)
- [Career pathways in geosciences](#)
- [Pre-grad school research opportunities](#)
- [Summer opportunities\\*](#)
- [The CV](#)
- [NSF-REUs](#)

**Spring**

- [Gap years](#)
- [Grad school application timeline](#)
- [NSF GRFP](#)
- [Networking](#)

**Other topics:** Fellowships, Letters of recommendation, [Career paths after BS/BA vs. MS vs. PhD](#), [Grad school finances](#), [Sending professional emails](#), Finding research opportunities

### Sapphire track topic ideas

**Fall**

- [NSF GRFP](#)
- [Application timeline](#)
- [Searching for programs/advisors](#)
- [Reaching out to potential advisors](#)
- Deciding where to apply
- The GRE

**Winter**

- [MS vs. PhD](#)
- [The CV](#)
- [Interviews](#)
- [Networking/conferences](#)

**Spring**

- [Comparing offers](#)
- [Personal statements](#)
- [Questions to ask potential advisors](#)
- [Life as a grad student](#)

**Other topics:** Defining your research interests, Staying organized through the process, Looking for a "good fit", The summer before grad school, Letters of recommendation

You must fill out the post-survey emailed to you in the spring as part of your commitment to GEMS!

Your commitment to the GEMS program officially lasts one academic year, but discuss with your mentor if you want to continue the mentorship outside of GEMS. Also discuss if you want to end the mentorship early at a natural stopping point. Don't ghost your match!

\*link to an external resource