Grad School application breakdown:

1. Begin the research process/picking programs a year ahead of when you will actually apply.
   1. Be realistic, there is no such thing as a backup school when applying to graduate programs
2. Narrow down your schools to no more than 10 programs
   1. Email the school before to show interest, and you can possibly get a tour of the school (even in UK)
3. Research professors in the departments that you might want to work with, it is okay to email someone letting them know you are interested in applying and maybe working with them!
4. Check GRE score requirements
5. CHECK HOW MUCH APPLICATION FEES ARE, AND BUDGET. I SPENT $600.00 AND WAS TOTALLY UNPREPARED.
6. Make sure to research, and seriously get the nitty gritty on stipends, fellowships, TAships etc. Unless you are one of the few lucky individuals who can pay for graduate school, the rule of thumb is always to only do grad school if you’re getting paid.

After:

1. Choose 3 rec. letter writers. Make sure at least one of them is outside your department.
2. Contact these writers at least 4 months ahead of the deadline to make sure they a) will write it b) will write nice things about you c) can make the deadline.
   1. Email them a week before the due date to make sure everything is in order!
3. Write, re-write, edit, re-read like a crazy person, your personal statements and essays.
   1. High school stuff is no longer relevant; so don’t even talk about it.
4. Make sure you have an up to date academic CV. It’s like a resume, but for academia. If you need examples, google a professor + CV and you’ll get the one UT has on public record.
   1. Don’t worry if yours is smaller than one page. Almost all applicants to grad school are.
5. Brag. It’s annoying and horrible to ever admit you did, but you have to make yourself stand out on paper… Don’t pull a Legally Blonde style video submission, but try to represent yourself as an asset the department needs!
6. Take your GRE. If you bomb it, take it again, if you bomb it again… all of the above will pad your not so awesome scores. This is something to take seriously, but it’s not like the SAT or ACT, other things matter more!
7. **BEFORE YOU SUBMIT ANYTHING, HAVE A ROOMATE, FRIEND, OR PARENT LOOK OVER EVERYTHING TO MAKE SURE YOUDID NOT MISREAD ANYTHING, MAKE ANY CRAZY TYPOS, AND THAT YOU FEEL 100% CERTAIN ABOUT EVERYTHING.**
8. **SUBMIT THAT BAD BOY**, take a breath, maybe drink a little bubbly or have a fifteen second dance party.

Books Recommended:

* Getting What You Came For, Robert Peters
* Location of Culture, Homi K. Bhabha