I review many applications for graduate study and have found the following criteria to be helpful in identifying students with a high degree of potential.

The successful applicant will typically have some sort of educational background. This could involve formal education like that commonly conducted in schools or at least in what could be recognized as a classroom format, though this is certainly not strictly required. Neither should any particular level or achievement of education or schooling, however formal or informal, be considered as anything approaching a requirement for admittance.

Admitted students typically possess some skills that fall under the heading of “literacy” (broadly defined), though I hesitate to specify any particular quantitative or qualitative skills or thresholds of literacy that are explicitly required.

Also, admitted students may have some prior grasp of the notion of research. That is, a familiarity with the definition of the word could potentially be considered beneficial. (If this is lacking, it can be remedied by spending some time in background preparation, for example, by looking up the word “research” in a dictionary. But if insufficient literacy skills prevent this, it certainly is not to be considered as anything approaching a critical qualificational deficiency.)

It may be desirable for the prospective student to maintain some sort of work ethic, though I hesitate to suggest any specifics as to the quality or degree thereof. Any particular capability within a broad range of work ethics should be considered possible. Relatedly, many successful applicants are found to exhibit some qualities related to a notion of independence of thought or action; however, whether this amounts to any capability that quantifiably exceeds that of rote instruction following is not a qualification that I feel it necessary to explicitly require.

Similarly, some intangible notion of “capability”, such that the individual is able to successfully navigate typical obstacles encountered in life up to the point of admittance, is potentially to be desired, though again not strictly a requirement.

In the past, all admitted students have been of the same humanoid species. I may even go so far as to suggest that being a human is, to use an excessively strong term, preferred. Nonetheless, I welcome applications from all, as I hesitate to make this condition approach anything that could be construed as a requirement for admission.