Graduate School

Opportunities, Scholarships & Application Strategies

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RMU Summer School (August 5-10, 2019)
Graduate School

✓ MS / MPhil and PhD or similar degree titles

✓ It’s mainly for training in research

✓ Typically not for people who simply want more undergraduate courses

✓ Typically not for people who are in a hurry to get a “real” job.

✓ Career path is mainly in academia, industrial or government research.
Graduate School

✓ Program length: typically 2 – 7 Years

✓ Year 1: classes, defining research area, forming thesis/dissertation committees

✓ Year 2 and beyond: research, proposal exams, comprehensive exams, publications, defense
Undergraduate Preparations

✓ seek advice early

✓ a good blend of basic sciences

✓ quantitative and analytical classes very helpful

✓ work on writing skills

✓ engage in research: field work, lab analysis, data analysis, publications, workshop, conferences
Destinations

✓ Home country
✓ Europe
✓ Asia & Australia
✓ US & Canada
Destinations

✓ Home country:
  • Best for localized research topics
  • Often cheaper
  • MSc, MPhil & PhD
  • PhD, often no course work (exceptions UG, etc.)
  • Usually a strong lower class and above needed
  • Funding from University, Grants, and some international agencies
Destinations

✓ Europe
  • Tuition free in some countries (e.g. Germany, Norway, Sweden, Iceland, and the Czech Republic)
  • Relatively low tuition (e.g. Austria - €750 per semester, France)
  • Several countries teach in English

✓ Asia & Australia
  • 2 years MS, 3-5 years PhD
  • Scholarships: Chinese Govt, Confucius Institute Scholarship, JICA
US: School selection

✓ decide on the area you want to focus on for grad school
✓ research on schools and produce a shortlist
  • Google
  • usnews.com
  • phds.org
US: School selection

✓ school choice based on potential advisor, reputation of program, funding availability, etc.

✓ typically consider applying to 4-8 schools

✓ be realistic with school choices: GPA, research experiences, test scores, etc.

✓ what are the schools’ requirements’? For e.g. will they waive TOEFL exams?

✓ typically 3.0 GPA; final GPA, major courses GPA. Other factors considered (GRE scores, recommendation letters, research experiences, essays, etc.)
**Application process**

- start early !!!!
- usually 2 semesters; Fall (Aug/Sept) and Spring (Jan)
- deadlines typically December- January for Fall Semester entry
- email potential advisors, introducing yourself and asking about openings in their labs
- applications online; including reference submissions
Application process

✓ tests: GRE, TOEFL??

✓ statement of purpose: introducing you, your research interests, reasons for grad school and the program

✓ SOP should be specific to the school and program

✓ reference letters: should be personal not generic, can address shortcomings, mentions your capabilities and potential for rigorous grad school work
Funding

✓ Fellowships: school, departments, national and international

✓ Research assistantship

✓ Teaching assistantship