

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
- ✓ Its 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.
- ✓ Carrer 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



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Programs (Required) School name (optional)



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Home

Find the Graduate School That's Right for You

Welcome to PhDs.org!

We created profiles of over 4900 doctoral programs across 59 fields to help you evaluate and decide on a school to attend.

Our site breaks down into three sections:

Rankings: We allow students to rank programs based on their own preferences. Students can select from over 20 department characteristics, weigh them individually, and weRank™ then generate a unique ranking report for you. All of the available data is based from the National Research Council's most recent assessment of doctoral programs. Beyond our custom rankings, we also present the NRC's rankings for the same programs, which acts as a useful reference.

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