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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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