HOW TO GET INTO YOUR DREAM SCHOOL

TANVER HOSSAIN LECTURER DEPARTMENT OF ME BUET



1. Plan Ahead

- 2. Build your Academic Profile
- 3. Build your Research Profile
- 4. Take the Standardized Tests (GRE/TOEFL/IELTS)
- 5. Do your homework
- 6. Get your documents ready
- 7. Make your university list
- 8. SOP/ DIVERSITY STATEMENT/LOR/CV
- 9. The Application Process



1. Plan Ahead



1. Plan Ahead

Very crucial to have an aim in life! (preferably by your sophomore year!)

□What do you want to do after graduating?

□ Masters or PhD? Where?

Research your dream school

2. Build your academic profile



2. Build your academic profile

 If you messed up your first two years focus on your Major CGPA-(3rd and 4th year)

• Academic honors and awards

 Try to be on the Dean's list and merit list at least once!

3. Build Your Research Profile



3. Build Your Research Profile

- Can you beat someone with a higher CGPA??!
- <u>Graduate school is training in research</u>. When a graduate school looks at your application, their principal question is, <u>"Is this person going to be</u> good at research ?"
- So make sure you have publications before applying to schools- <u>at the</u> <u>very least</u> conference publications!
- Work with different research groups which will help you maximize publications!

4. Take the Standardized Tests (GRE/TOEFL/IELTS)



4. Take the Standardized Tests (GRE/TOEFL/IELTS)

Start studying EARLY.

Start studying before or during your <u>SENIOR YEAR.</u>



1)Start studying <u>AT LEAST</u> 3 months before your exam.

2)Make sure you have enough time to sit for 2 tests just incase you mess up in the first!

3)FOCUS ON THE QUANT SECTION- (Best Source-Manhattan and ETS)

4)Don't waste time memorizing 1000 words! 500 from magoosh will more than do the trick!

5)RC- Practice Practice (Source-All the ETS books and Big Book)

6)TRY TO AVOID BOOKS FROM KAPLAN, PRINCETON AND BARRONS and FOCUS ON MATERIAL FROM ETS.

7)SUBSCRIBE TO MAGOOSH-if you can't at the very least read Chris lele's blogs

8)Study materials- ETS, Big book, Manhattan (Quant), Magoosh

9)GIVE ALL FREE TESTS FROM KAPLAN, BARRON, MANHATTAN, CRUNCHPREP AND POWERPREP 1 AND 2 BEFORE YOUR EXAM.



- 1. Sit for it after the you have taken the GRE
- 2. If you aren't confident about your English skills study for at least 2 weeks
- 3. Speaking and listening section: Practice, Practice!
- 4. Notefull Videos for Speaking
- 5. Kmf.com for free practice tests
- 6. Reading Material: ETS.

5. Do your homework



5. Do your homework

□ Keep a diary

□ Make a list of the deadlines

□ Make a list of your usernames and passwords for each school

Give extra importance to overlapping deadlines- e.g. 15th Dec, 1st Jan, 15th Jan

Read up on the research interests and projects of the faculty in the schools/departments/programs.

□ Read publications from a faculty of interest.

6. Get your documents ready











□Ivy league schools?

• Princeton University, Harvard University, Yale University, Cornell University, Brown University, Columbia University, Dartmouth College and University of Pennsylvania.

Private or Public?

□ US News Ranking/Times Higher Education

 Take into consideration the materials Science and also the overall ranking

USNEWS RANKING of MECHANICAL ENGINEERING (2019):

- 1) Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- 2) Stanford University
- 3) University of California—Berkeley
- 4) California Institute of Technology
- 5) Georgia Institute of Technology
- 6) University of Michigan--Ann Arbor
- 7) University of Illinois--Urbana-Champaign
- 8) Princeton University
- 9) Purdue University--West Lafayette

10)Carnegie Mellon University

• Which schools match your credentials?

Types of schools you should be applying to:

- 1) Dream schools: 3
- 2) Safety schools: 3
- 3) Low ranked in your perspective: 2/3

Apply to a total of at least 8 schools!

8. SOP/ DIVERSITY STATEMENT/LOR/CV





8. SOP

1) Why did you choose your undergraduate major?

2) Why did you choose your research topic(s)?

3) What are your career goals?

- 4) Where do you see yourself in 10 years?
- a) What do you hope to accomplish?
- b) What drives you? What motivates you?

5) Why did you choose the graduate school you are applying to?

8. My SOP

1st Para- HOOK

Two forms of minuteness, material dimension and microprocessor runtime, intrigue me profoundly. While confining the materials to lower dimensions can help us achieve superior device performance, a properly designed processor architecture can exploit these devices in the best way. Breaking the seemingly daunting barriers and unlocking the next level of minuteness, be it reaching a single atomic layer thickness or designing a processor with the lowest possible runtime, I desire to be a part of this incredible journey overcoming the challenges as I face them.

2nd para- Why I choose ME

3rd para : Academic honors and awards

4th para: Research interests- discuss undergrad/ postgraduate research/thesis/ papers you wrote, work experience /other experiences/ECA

8. My SOP

5th para- Why I choose this University?

6th para- which professors are you interested to work with? Why?

The Ph.D. program offered by the Mechanical Engineering on Mechanics of Solids of Brown University, with state-of-the-art research facilities and renowned faculties, is a perfect match for my aim. I have sought to keep abreast of the latest trends in computational mechanics and mechanical properties at the nanoscale through my undergraduate courses and online courses from prominent universities. Following the works from Dr. David Henann on theoretical as well as computational mechanics and Dr. Shreyas Mandre on fluid-structure interaction, I have found their research interests to be closely aligned with mine. Dr. Allan Bower's works on microscale modeling of materials and Dr. Huajian Gao's works on mechanics of thin films fascinates me highly. In addition, I am inspired by the experimental works of Dr. Pradeep Guduru on nanoscale mechanics.

8. My SOP

7th Para- Where I see myself in coming years? Compelling conclusion!

I believe I can tackle any perplexing problem in mechanics with an innovative perspective and solve it with determination. However, to attain true excellence, I require an atmosphere that stimulates excellence. In my journey from an artist learning scientific tunes to the maestro creating great symphonies of knowledge, Mechanics of Solids Program of Brown University is the orchestra I wish to be part of. This institution's impeccable record of producing leaders in Mechanics and Material's Science, inspires me to join this exciting scientific community, which will propel me towards my career goal of becoming a leading researcher and educator in the field of Mechanics.

8. SOP Do's and Don'ts

- DO NOT COPY LINES FROM OTHERS SOPS.
- A statement of purpose is not a narrative of your accomplishments.
- Make absolutely sure that your statement contains no misspellings, grammatical or factual errors, and that your prose is as lucid as you can possibly make it.
- Your statement should be tailored to the particular institution to which you are applying.
- Have strong opening and closing paragraph.
- Stay within the page/word limit. One and half page should be the limit.
- The best SOP is an SOP that is written with enough time, so keep at least a months time to plan what you want to write.
- Ask for critique, revise and edit.

8. Letter of Recommendation (LOR)

- □ The Important attributes your Professor should stress on:
- 1) Hard work
- 2) Independence
- 3) Creativity, problem solving ability
- 4) Ability to get along with people/ Interpersonal skills

8. Letter of Recommendation (LOR)

Mediocre letter

In truth, mediocre letters are actually bad letters. Since nobody every writes an **outright bad letter**, everyone experienced in reading letters of recommendation know that a mediocre letter is the worst thing that could be said about an applicant.

Good letter

Contains examples of personal experiences with you. Shorter than an outstanding letter

Outstanding letter

long/more detailed

9. The Application Process



10.Pray





THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION DO YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS?