



One Last Time talk
series

Graduate School Applications



Rakshith G

About Me

- Final year IT
- CGPA - 9.74/10.00 (#2/103)
- Areas of Interest - Systems and Security
- GRE - 323/340 (153V + 170Q) AWA - 5.0/6.0
- TOEFL - 108/120
- Publications - 1
- Internships
 - Second Year - DoSelect, Bangalore (Start-up)
 - Third Year - Technische Universität Berlin, Germany (DAAD)
 - 6 month Internship in 7th Sem - Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore

Admits

- UCSB (MS+PhD)
- UW - Madison (MS+PhD)
- CMU (MCDS)
- UT Austin (MS+PhD)
- U Washington (MS+PhD)
- UIUC (MS)
- GaTech (MS)
- UCSD (MS)
- UCLA (MS)

The admissions process

- Decide whether you want to attend grad school or not.
- GRE
 - Verbal section requires practise.
 - Magoosh app.
 - Don't make silly mistakes in Quant section
 - Practise essays. Don't ignore AWA section.
- TOEFL
 - Practise speaking
- Applications
 - SoP
 - LoR
 - Documents - Transcripts

LoRs

- Try to get diverse recommenders.
- Get recommenders who will write a strong recommendation.
- Highlight things that you want them to talk about (eg. rank, your abilities).
- Back the adjectives by facts.
- Let the facts speak for themselves.
- Paper with recommender adds weight.
- Manage the number of LoRs properly.

Where to apply?

- Look at the rankings, popularity, courses and the professors.
- For PhD
 - Ranking usually doesn't matter unless its the top 4.
 - Advisor is really really important
- Number of colleges may be limited by the LoRs.
- Divide the colleges into ambitious - moderate - safe (4-4-2).
- Talk to people

MS vs PhD

- Industry oriented
 - Go for MS.
- Research oriented
 - Practically no scope for research after MS.
 - PhD gives you the freedom to work on things of your (and your advisor's) choice.
 - More importantly, gives you a sandboxed environment where its okay to fail.
 - PhD is funded. MS - depends on the college.
- How do you know whether you're industry oriented or research oriented?
 - Internships

Winning the admissions game

- Figure out your area of interest
 - Try out all fields. Go with the field you're most okay working with.
 - Early birds catch the worm.
- Immerse yourself in your field - know as much as possible.
- Papers - try to publish as many as you can.
 - Proof of technical writing skills
 - Your ideas validated by the experts in the field - more credibility.
 - Don't submit to random conferences.
 - Network as much as possible in conferences.
- Choose the right advisor
 - Interests
 - Where do they publish?
 - Student track record



Thank you

+91-94820-86849
in.rakshith.g@gmail.com

