

# Preparing for Grad School

PRISM Winter 2023 Workshop #5

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Are you ready?



Make sure you know why you want to go to grad school.

# Three Pass Approach

- Choose the right programs
- Prepare your application
- Choose the right program



**Application for Graduate Admissions**

LAST/FAMILY NAME \_\_\_\_\_ FIRST/GIVEN NAME \_\_\_\_\_ MIDDLE NAME \_\_\_\_\_ SUFFIX \_\_\_\_\_

List any former names: \_\_\_\_\_

Social Security Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Providing your SSN is optional, but is required of enrolled students for federal tax reporting. If you intend to apply for financial aid and scholarships or be employed on-campus, your SSN must be submitted.

Student ID Number (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

U.S. Mailing Address, if available \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Current Daytime Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Home ☐ Office ☐ Mobile

Current Evening Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Home ☐ Office ☐ Mobile

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Permanent/Home Country Address (if different): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please list your primary phone and e-mail. We value your privacy and will not disclose your information.

# Part 1: Choosing the right programs

Most frequently asked questions:

1. How do I know what field to apply in?
2. PhD or Master's?
3. How do I know which program to apply in? There are so many? Categorise by priority and admissibility
4. I want to apply to <xyz> but I don't know if I'll get in?



## Things you might want to find out about programs beforehand!

App close	Feasibility	Preference	Result	Program	Institute	Engg/CS School	QS World Rank	Duration	Link
02/12/2021 10:20				Master of Science in Applied Computing (MSc)	UToronto		25	16 months	<a href="https://www.sgs.utoronto.ca/programs/applied-computing/">https://www.sgs.utoronto.ca/programs/applied-computing/</a>
Jan 15th 2022		see profs and decide which one		MMath CM	UWaterloo	38 (23 in CS)	149	12 months	<a href="https://uwaterloo.ca/computational-mathematics/">https://uwaterloo.ca/computational-mathematics/</a>

K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T
App open	Results ETA	Application Fee	# Rec Letters	Country	GRE req.	TOEFL/IELTS	Thesis	Comments	Misc
<a href="https://www.sgs.utoronto.ca/programs/applied-computing/">utoronto.ca/programs/applied-computing/</a>			3	Canada	Yes	Yes, give to avoid	No	Program good enough to cover up for lack of thesis but check labs.	<a href="#">Program info see</a>
<a href="https://uwaterloo.ca/computational-mathematics/">uwaterloo.ca/computational-mathematics/</a>			3		Yes	Exempted			

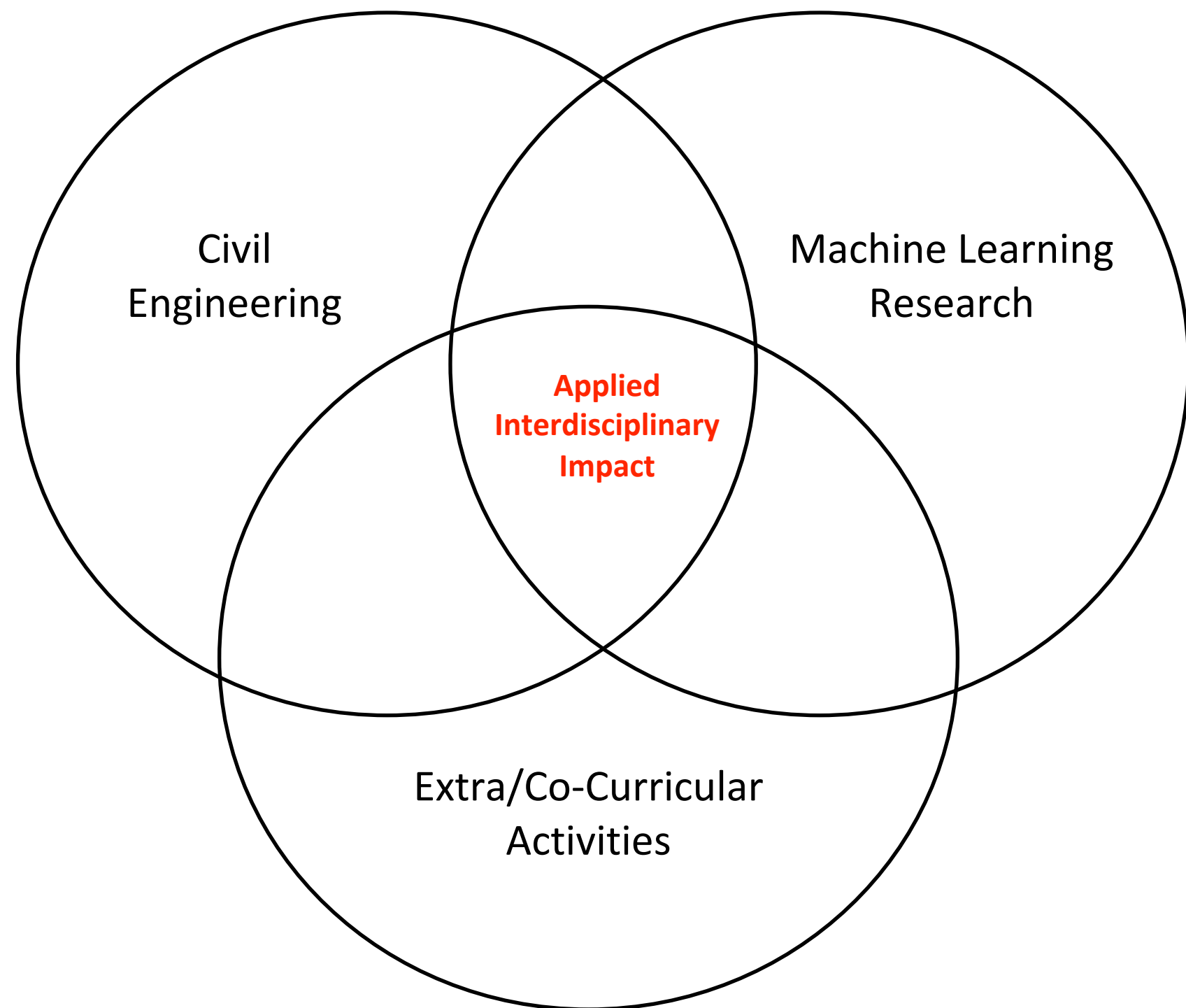
# Part 2: The Application

The Typical Process...

1. Statement of Purpose
2. References
3. Resume
4. Research Proposal (PhD only, not required everywhere)
5. Test Scores: GRE/TOEFL/IELTS
6. Miscellaneous: diversity-related questions, interview, etc.

# Part 2: The Application

SOP - How do I build my story?



- Why are you interested in this field? Supplement with relevant experience.
- Why do you want to go to this program? Expectations?
- Why is this school right for you?
- What are you right for this school?
- Professors/Organisations you want to be affiliated with.

*SOP should reflect depth of thought and clarity of choice!*

# Part 2: The Application

## References

- Prepare your referees well in advance!
- Do not assume that a professor will write you a letter! Ask them if they're comfortable/willing to recommend you.
- Keep handy a document of important information (experience with them, grades in their course, etc.) about you that the professor can refer to while writing the letter.
- Send regular reminders.

For this part of the application, you are dependent on someone who is expected to be VERY BUSY - exercise caution and punctuality!



# Part 3: Choose the Right Program

This time when you're in.

1. Priority
2. Finance
3. Geography
4. Reputation
5. Prior (someone else's) Experience

Understand all the tradeoffs involved  
in these choices!



## Recommended References

- <https://martiansideofthemoon.github.io/2018/05/29/grad-resources.html>
- <https://github.com/shaily99/advice>
- <https://github.com/jbhuang0604/awesome-tips>
- <https://www.amazon.ca/Field-Guide-Grad-School-Uncovering-ebook/dp/B0859PDXVX>





A photograph of two jellyfish in deep blue water. The jellyfish are illuminated from below, giving them a bright, ethereal glow. The word "Questions?" is written in a white, sans-serif font across the center of the image, partially overlapping the jellyfish.

Questions?