

Dear Admissions Committee ,

I am Junran Lu, and I am writing to express my sincere interest in applying to the PhD in Economics at Princeton University in pursuit of a career in academic research. My passion for economics stems from my fascination with using mathematical models to explain complex social and economic phenomena. Through my undergraduate studies at Renmin University of China and extensive research experiences, I have developed a strong interest in economic theory, particularly in fields that bridge theoretical insights with empirical applications, such as game theory and mechanism design.

My academic journey has been marked by outstanding performance in quantitative and theoretical courses, including Microeconomics, Macroeconomics, Econometrics, and Game Theory, ranking among the top students in my cohort. However, beyond excelling in coursework, my research experiences have shaped my understanding of economics as a rigorous discipline that combines mathematical reasoning with empirical validation.

During my undergraduate years, I actively engaged in multiple research assistantships. One of my most formative experiences was working on a project that analyzed labor market dynamics using large-scale datasets and structural modeling. This research honed my ability to apply advanced econometric techniques and deepened my appreciation for theory-driven empirical work. In another project, I explored optimal contract design, which required deriving closed-form solutions and proving theoretical properties. This experience reinforced my passion for economic theory and its practical implications. These projects have solidified my interest in fields where mathematical insights contribute to real-world applications.

My aspiration to join Princeton University stems from its rigorous training, distinguished faculty, and strong research environment in economic theory and applied microeconomics. I am particularly drawn to the work in environmental economics, as it aligns closely with my research interests. I believe that the program's emphasis on formal modeling and empirical analysis will provide the ideal foundation for my academic and professional aspirations.

I am confident that my strong academic background, research experience, and enthusiasm for economic inquiry make me a compelling candidate for your program. I would be honored to contribute to Princeton University's research community and further develop my expertise in economic theory. Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to the opportunity to engage with and learn from esteemed faculty and peers.

Sincerely,  
Junran Lu