



Tips-1

2 messages

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Sat, 30 Jan, 2021 at 10:43 pm

Hello,

Take some time to read this email compendium. I hope I covered everything:

1. Select a date for GRE (general). Book for GRE subject test, if reqd

Places like stanford have early scholarship deadlines. Mid Sept, i think. And once you appear for GRE, it takes 10 days for the score to become reportable/ active. Once it becomes active and you start sending your scores to universities of your desired choices, it takes a time of 3-15 days for your scores to "reach" them, depending upon the country (Ex. it would take more than a week for your scores to reach an institute in Netherlands since ETS is a US agency). Certain universities are particular that your test scores (gre general, subject and toefl) should reach them before their application deadline. So, a lot of planning is reqd..

Note: as a first thing, please check which **university and dept** need a gre score anymore. Lot of good places don't need anymore.

2. Select a date for TOEFL iBT.

Again, as a first thing, please check which **university and dept** need toefl score anymore. Could be that they don't and your NIT rkl's language certf is enough

3. Start making the excel sheet or wherever you feel comfortable noting down the places you are applying to.

Following **columns** can be there in your excel sheet: Name of the institute/university, Deadline of application, Application fee, Whether funded (if yes, then how much), duration of PhD course, URL of that webpage and link to online portal of both university application and scholarship application (if applicable), Requirements/Remarks (cgpa/gre/toefl minimum requirement, whether you need to send your scores via ETS or a mere upload of the downloadable version is sufficient as in case of european applications, docx such as proof of residency which is reqd at times and "course completion certf" which is compulsory for all European applications and fortunately this is issued in Academics; research proposal reqd?, number of recos and deadline for their submission, whether you need to post any document before the deadline, restriction on number of words in SOP, etc); name of referees and whether each of them submitted on time, current status of application (date of interview, need for further docs, etc), Final outcome of the application

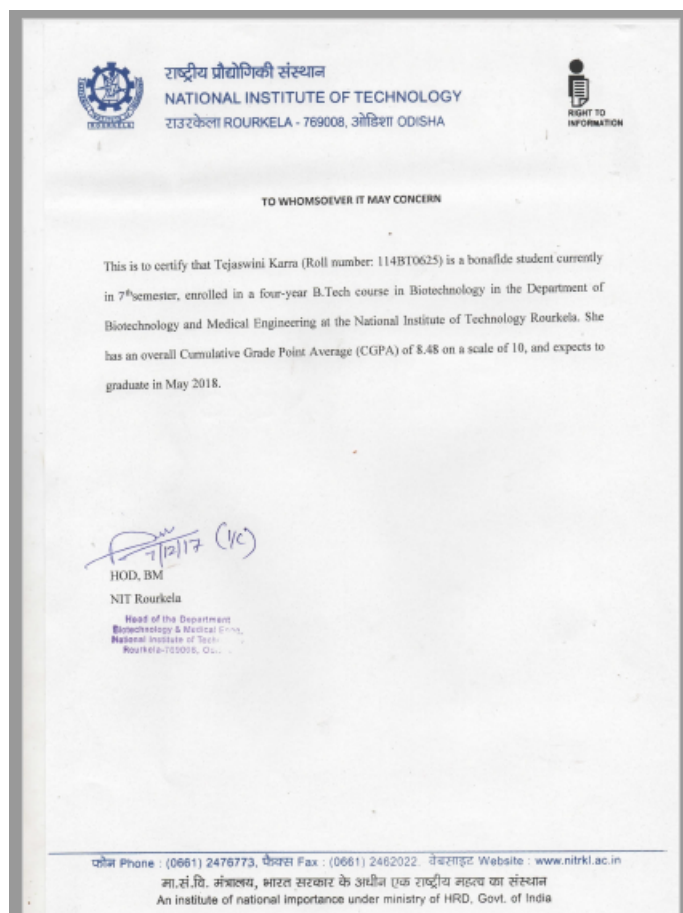
4. Normal checklist of docs required for applying to universities (University application + scholarship application):

-Copy of your passport, CV, Motivation letter/ SOP, University Transcripts (mostly you can upload the one signed by Assistant registrar and may skip getting the costly official sealed-in-an-envelope-then-breaking-open-it one), 2-3 LORs, TOEFL Score certificate (for europe, downloadable version works), GRE Score report (although considered unofficial, the downloadable version works at the time of application, but you may need to send them before the mentioned deadline for it), Research proposal for which must get in touch with prospective advisor much ahead of the deadline (for non-USA and non-canadian applications), your awards or internships' certificates, a recent passport size photograph, your signature, course completion certificate/ expected date of degree conferral certificate (you can personally go and request Assistant registrar to issue you that), the print out of the email page when you received an auto email from the academics saying that you have registered for following subjects for upcoming semester (this was required only for one application of mine, but i thought i should tell you so that you keep that email), studentship certf, high school diploma certf, DIVERSITY essay (reqd only for US applications as far as i know), JEE MAINS scorecard (reqd RARELY).

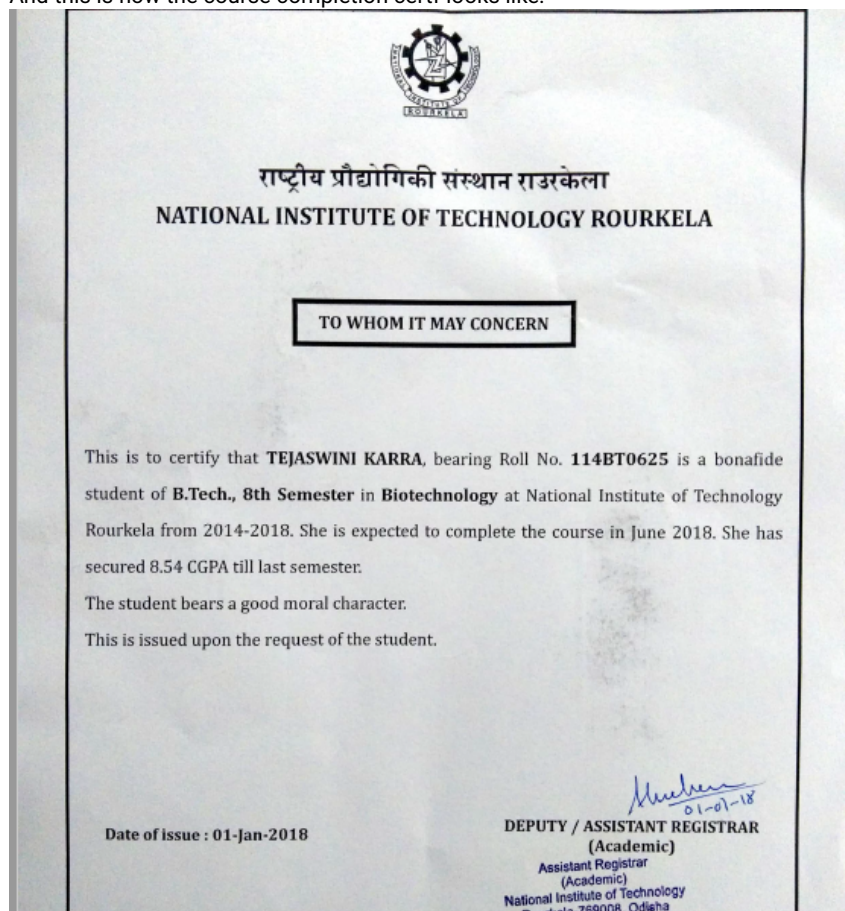
5. Talk to your B.Tech. dissertation advisor about your project and develop a clear goal with a timeline. What work-which month. <I had to submit abstract of my thesis for Charite's 2nd round of selection process around february>

6. List of exams (with their deadlines) you will be appearing in India (CSIR-NET/ GATE/TIFR entrance test, etc), if applicable

7. **apply** for Transcripts (your call if you want to apply for 'official' transcripts now itself or once you have made your excel sheet ready since Academics issue you 2 for a cost of Rs. 500), studentship certf and language certf. Having these docx with you from the **very start** of semester (7th and 8th) is a bliss and saves last minute tension ahead of a deadline. Also, ask for Course Completion Certificate to assistant registrar. If he says that this document is normally issued in final semester only, then get in written from your **HOD** the following:



And this is how the course completion certf looks like:



European applications (even NUS, NTU singapore) ask for this Course completion certf which states when your degree would be conferred to you. This is uploaded in lieu of 'Degree certificate'.

8. Process and sequence of emailing:

This is based on the deadlines and your choice of places where you wish to apply. Emailing before helps if you are applying for PhD position.

<Remember, once you start this process, you will be required to give Skype interviews> No point in wasting your time in emailing multiple people & investing time in skype sessions IF you think chances of getting through are less and especially if application fee is involved (+gre+toefl fee), then you ought to be choosy.

In case of **USA and Canada**, getting in touch with the professor helps but he can't guarantee you a PhD position until you clear the GRE/ TOEFL minimum requirement filter round. In case you clear that filter round and are being considered for further selection, then you may have an interview with the Decision board committee consisting of more than one professor. In certain cases, if the profile of candidate and his scores are exceptional (maybe GRE subject score percentile above 95), no interview is held.

for the USA and Canada and Australia, consider the cost of applications.

European applications (Eg. DAAD that funds PhD in Germany)- Get acceptance from German prof by sending an email. Attach CV, SOP. He may then invite you over a skype chat to discuss further prospects, the most important being the PhD research proposal. Over the course of next few days, you guys would come up with the proposal, he sends you the acceptance letter, etc. Then you fill DAAD's application form. However there is no guarantee of getting through DAAD at this point.

<Email well before the deadline as developing the proposal takes few days.>

Other scholarships: hertie foundation, or university-specific or you may ask the prof he can fund you from one of his ongoing projects that you will be involved in (for example the grant he took for this: DFG grant etc)

Switzerland (same process). Nov 15 every year is the scholarship (ESKAS) deadline.

Else, again, you may ask the prof he can fund you from one of his ongoing projects that you will be involved in.

UK- email and see if the prof is interested in hiring you. apply on the portal. Mention his name as a prospective supervisor, sometimes research proposal needs to be written. Additionally, apply to Commonwealth scholarship or any university-specific one.

Note: lot of UK's good universities have application fee and a sectional cut off in IELTS/TOEFL. pls check all of that

Cambridge has its own funding deadlines: GATES Cambridge scholarship

Few pointers on how to choose which lab is best for you:

- Quality of research papers, number of citations of that prof, collaborations
- number of phd students/ post-docs in his lab (find out how many first-author papers have they come up with during their PhDs)
- nature of his work/ type of instruments he uses/infrastructure, etc (how updated his methodology or approach to the problem statement is)
- where he gets funds from/ resources to support your research
- few not-so-good indicators: world ranking of that university/ dept, number of students enrolled, size of campus
- scope for future (india or abroad; as a post-doc/academician/ independent researcher, etc) & quality of your PhD degree that you will get

9. How you name and save your files does matter. Eg. 'CV_Karra' is good enough, i think (But, recheck the rules on internet again).

-----Lastly,

One thing at a time. Don't get too worked up. take ample rest. Health is very important as much the deadlines. Remember, you only need to succeed in one application.

All my best. Don't hesitate to ask any kind of doubts.

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To: Tejaswini Karra <tejaswinikarra96@gmail.com>

Sat, 30 Jan, 2021 at 10:49 pm

Thank you so much mam
It will be very useful for all of us
I will share this with others
Thanks and Regards
Ghanshyam
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