

Econ PhD Application Bootcamp

Economists for Equity at Berkeley
Graduate Admissions Group

November 6, 2021



Welcome!

Agenda

- Application Form
- Statement of Purpose
- GRE
- 10 min Break
- Personal History Statement
- Letters of recommendation
- Q&A
- Feedback survey (application fee waivers available)



Application Form

- You can apply to Econ OR ARE
- Make sure to submit on time (preferably a few days before!)
- There are no interviews
- You do not need to reach out to professors



Academic History

Academic History

Enter each educational institution attended **after high school**, regardless of the length of attendance or whether or not you received a degree. Please do not include any high schools or college preparatory schools.

Please make sure the uploaded transcript displays in the correct page orientation (i.e. landscape or portrait) and include the transcript legend (the back page in most cases). If you need to enter more than one degree certificate or transcript for the same institution, please add that institution again to upload the corresponding documents.

Institution	Degree	Dates Attended
<u>Add Institution</u>		



Waive Recommendation “Right of Access”

The Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 and its amendments guarantee you access to educational records concerning yourself. You also are permitted by those laws to voluntarily waive that right of access. Do you waive your right to examine this recommendation?

- I waive my right to access this report.
- I do not waive my right to access this report.

In place of your signature, please type your full legal name:

Upon sending this form to your recommender, you will no longer be able to change your decision about whether to waive your right.

Send To Recommender

Cancel



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Choose Concentrations Carefully

Study Emphasis/Research Concentration

Please tell us about your research interests or concentrations within your field of study.

Primary Research Interest/Study Emphasis:*

International Economics



Secondary Research Interest/Study Emphasis:*

Energy and Environmental Economics



If 'Other", briefly specify:*



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Match Concentrations to Proposed Advisers

Faculty Adviser

Please select the name of the faculty you wish to work with and whose research best reflects your interests. To learn more about our department's faculty members, please see our [website](#).

Faculty Preference #1*

Faculty Preference #2

Faculty Preference #3

Briefly tell us why you chose these faculty members and why you chose them in this rank order:



Resume Tips

Academic or Professional History

Please upload a recent version of your Resume or your Curriculum Vitae.

Resume/Curriculum Vitae:

[Choose File](#)

No se eligió archivo



Writing Sample

Sampling of Relevant Written Work

Please upload a sample of written work that is relevant to your application (e.g. seminar paper, report, magazine/newspaper article, book excerpt).

Writing Sample:

[Choose File](#)

No se eligió archivo



Honors and Awards

Honors and Awards

Enter honors and awards relevant to your application to graduate study.

Honors and Awards:



Statements of purpose - technical background

Technical background

- Are you qualified academically?
- Math, statistics, computer science and technical courses (graduate level courses)
- GPA
- Mention the academic excellences

Research Experience

- Research interest: why you interested in certain topics
- Don't just describe your experiences
- Show creativity, initiative or contribution



Statements of purpose

- Example 1: “At [US private college], I committed myself to serious research and rigorous coursework. I graduated in 2019 with a 3.98 GPA and received honors for my economics thesis. I received the [name] Medal, an award presented each year at the university-wide commencement ceremony to the undergraduate student “who has most distinguished him or herself in scholarship.” I was also awarded the [other] Award, which is given annually to the graduating economics major “determined by the faculty to be the most outstanding contributor to the department.””
- Example 2: “Apart from being highly motivated, I have experience to back my candidacy. I did my B.A. in Economics at [Latin American university], ending up in the top 1% of my class. While I was still a student I started working as a T.A. in Microeconomics I and Microeconomics II courses.”
- Example 3: “As an economics and mathematics double major at and a member of the [greek letters] International Economics Honor Society, my undergraduate education is well-suited for this program.”
- Example 4: “My academic and professional background is heavily focused on quantitative analysis and economic research. For my undergraduate career I earned a BA in economics and a BS in statistics with a computer science minor.”



Statements of purpose - Academic Excellence (1)

Example 1: “At [US private college], I committed myself to serious research and rigorous coursework. I graduated in 2019 with a 3.98 GPA and received honors for my economics thesis. I received the [name] Medal, an award presented each year at the university-wide commencement ceremony to the undergraduate student “who has most distinguished him or herself in scholarship.” I was also awarded the [other] Award, which is given annually to the graduating economics major “determined by the faculty to be the most outstanding contributor to the department.””

Example 2: “As an economics and mathematics double major at and a member of the [greek letters] International Economics Honor Society, my undergraduate education is well-suited for this program.”

Example 3: “My academic and professional background is heavily focused on quantitative analysis and economic research. For my undergraduate career I earned a BA in economics and a BS in statistics with a computer science minor.”

Example 4: In preparation for serious economics research, I completed coursework at ____ in topics such as real analysis, abstract algebra, linear algebra, probability, statistics, advanced microeconomics, and time series econometrics. I also took graduate-level courses in ____’s Computational Operations Research master’s program on computing in operations research and the statistical analysis of simulation models. To further hone my coding abilities, I took two Python-based courses in the computer science department.



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Statements of purpose - Academic Excellence

At ___, I committed myself to serious research and rigorous coursework. I graduated in 2019 with a 3.98 GPA and received honors for my economics thesis. I received the ___ Medal, an award presented each year at the university-wide commencement ceremony to the undergraduate student “who has most distinguished him or herself in scholarship.” I was also awarded the ___ Award, which is given annually to the graduating economics major “determined by the faculty to be the most outstanding contributor to the department.”

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Academic excellence (2)

Independent courses taken while working

To further enhance my skills, I also utilized many opportunities outside of work. I took the Real Analysis course at __, expanding my skills in proof-based mathematics. I also took five economics and programming courses online from the MIT Data Economic Development Policy MicroMasters program. Through these rigorous courses, I added R my programming skills and gained tremendous knowledge and new expertise on development economics and its policy implications.

Graduate courses taken while in undergrad

Apart from being highly motivated, I have experience to back my candidacy. I did my B.A. in Economics at __, ending up in the top 1% of my class. While I was still a student I started working as a T.A. in Microeconomics I and Microeconomics II courses. This allowed me to gain deeper insights on the roles of incentives and to strengthen my knowledge of how to model situations with rational agents. In the middle of my B.A. I was granted a scholarship to participate in an Academic Exchange at __, where I took graduate level courses on Experimental Economics and on Consumer Neuroscience. This introduced me to fields that challenge the traditional assumptions of rationality and provided me with tools to approach economic problems from a different perspective. Furthermore, this was when I got really passionate about economics, as I got to see how much progress can be achieved when we produce reliable evidence of causal relationships and when insights from other sciences are introduced into economics.



Academic excellence (3)

MA, International

After finishing my B.A. I was certain that I needed to deepen my knowledge of economic theory and of the tools required to conduct quality empirical work. I decided to do an M.A. in Economics at ___ because of its academic excellence and its international projection, and I was awarded a full scholarship. Again, I excelled, and ended being the top ranked student from my class and the third one in the program's historic ranking. At ___ I was able to expand my knowledge in the core areas of economics, but I was also introduced to courses dealing with issues I had not formally studied before. I would like to highlight three of those courses: Applied Economics, Economic History and Political Economy. In Applied Economics I learnt about different methodologies currently used to identify causal relationships. The Economic History and Political Economy courses got me excited about the literature of institutions and the contributions that can be made from economics to the political discussions. These courses motivated me to explore the impact of fake news, one of the things usually pinpointed as being responsible for the degradation of our democracies. For my M.A. thesis I designed an experiment to evaluate the effect of fake news and correction articles on beliefs and pro-environmental preferences and behaviors. I am attaching this study as my writing sample, so you can check my work by yourselves.



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Statements of purpose - research experience

Technical background

- Are you qualified academically?
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Research Experience

- Research interest: why you are interested in certain topics
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Statements of purpose

This can also mean: showing off your research skills/understanding of research!

- Sharing your comprehension of the research process
- Highlighting contributions to the research process
- Mastery of the econometric tools and methods

Example 1 (ARE): "Since that project, I have helped lead an effort to use government survey data to construct a representative cohort of the U.S. population for the purpose of estimating the increased mortality risk associated with long-term exposure to elevated air pollution levels. Although this type of cross-sectional study is not novel, the policy implications of these estimates create a sustained demand for independent cohorts. My work on this project has given me an appreciation for the benefits and challenges of regulatory policy. It has also helped me better understand the difficulties involved in causal identification."

Example 2 (econ): ""

Example 3 (ARE): "I have also worked on the campus with Professor to create a new dataset from existing web sources. Using Python, I scraped data from the web on the names of individual judges involved in thousands of different court cases. I also used Stata to assist with data cleaning procedures like renaming variables and checking for outliers for Professor X's dataset about a nutrition RCT in X. Working on multiple parts of the empirical research process has inspired me with many ideas and research questions"



What research experience to include?

- Independent Research
- Undergrad/Master's thesis
- Predoc
- RAships
- Any published article or paper
- Summer training programs (AEASP, etc)

→ Anything goes as long as you write about it effectively!



How to incorporate research experience?

How to write effectively about your research experience?

- Describe the project
- Emphasize datasets
- Show your coding skills
- Methods used in the research
- Mention interesting results

Illustrate the challenges and how you tackled them

- + Have you done anything creative?
- + Be specific, details are important
- + Show passion, perseverance, persistence, intellectual curiosity



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Statements of purpose - How to incorporate research experience?

- Independent Research
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How to write them effectively:

- Describe the project
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- Be specific, details are important
- Methods used in the research
- Show passion, perseverance, persistence, intellectual curiosity
-



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Prior research experience (1)

RAship

"My research experience earned me a two-year RAship at the ___. There, I switched gears and worked in the Financial Intermediation function, investigating the effects of banking regulations on banking activities. I worked extensively with large regulatory financial datasets like FR-Y9C, FR-Y10, and US organizational databases, which track the comprehensive structure and evolution of bank holding companies. One of the major projects I have worked on while at ___ has been using synthetic controls to study the effect of change in the cost of capital requirements on firms with Dr. ___. We faced a great challenge of creating the most similar synthetic group to the treatment because the treatment group included the inherently large firm that affected by the living will policy. To deal with that, I wrote a series of code in STATA that deals with matrices in synth package effectively and simulated the results to obtain the best representative combinations of covariates for our donor group. Ultimately, my work with Dr. ___ taught me about overcoming the challenges to the analysis and looking at the obstacles in different angles to implement creative solutions."

Independent Research

"Complementing my supervised work as a research assistant, I undertook two independent research projects as an undergraduate. The first focused on how support for public spending on three programs that promote equality of opportunity for children—childcare, education, and the Children's Health Insurance Program—varied with age. I performed age-period-cohort analysis on General Social Survey data and logistic regression analysis on proprietary Kaiser Health Tracking Poll data, finding that support for public spending decreased with age at different rates across programs. For my honor's thesis, I used an instrumental variables approach to find evidence against the claim of an earlier study that state-run lotteries increase income concentration. I discovered measurement error in the study's dataset and implemented its empirical strategy with higher-quality data. I then executed my own instrumental variables strategy and also explored channels through which lottery adoption could mitigate income concentration. I found that adoption led to increases in education spending and decreases in regressive sales taxation, and also ran a placebo test. Overall, these research experiences provided me with training at each step of the research process and sealed any gaps remaining from my academic preparation."



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Prior research experience (2)

Undergrad thesis

"Inspired by those courses, I decided to conduct an experiment for my B.A. thesis. Exploiting known biases from the literature of behavioral economics I designed messages warning of the potential negative consequences of meat consumption on the environment and on personal health, and I later measured food consumption choices. One of the most interesting findings from that work is that the messages could be an effective tool to reduce the non-vegetarian food choices made by women, but they seem to be ineffective at influencing men's choices. The results are relevant to inform about the potential impacts of front-of -package labels being currently discussed in many countries, and to signal at an alternative path to deal with environmental problems, which are characteristically difficult to tackle because they involve global public goods."

Predoc

"Over the past two years, I have worked as a predoc for Prof. ___. We have worked on a variety of projects at the intersection of urban and development economics. My work has centered around (i) quantitative modeling and (ii) large datasets using spatial analysis. By engaging in quantitative modeling, I have learned how to program models and quantify the effect of counterfactual experiments. Also, to identify key parameters of the model, we have used an indirect inference procedure in which we estimate those parameters using as moments the results of a difference in difference specification. This approach was eye-opening and revealed to me that, rather than sitting in opposite camps, structural and reduced form methods can work in tandem to deepen our understanding of real-world policy interventions.

Big spatial data has often been present in my work with Prof. ___, including using it for empirical analysis and the design of a survey in ___. First, we combine "dirty" datasets from many sources, which in many cases report the information differently, challenging me to think about how these datasets fit together. Then for the empirical analysis, we estimate the parameters of interest using different, relevant specifications and consider potential robustness checks, which has strengthened my capacity to think about causation. Additionally, we also built on the spatial data from an expansion plan in the transportation system, and used this to create a random sample of places where to survey drivers. This extensive work with spatial data has taught me of the importance of extracting as much value as you can from "dirty" datasets and combining it with fieldwork to answer critical economic questions and spur growth in the developing world."

Looking to future research (1)

“Over the course of this past summer, I also had the chance to work with Professor ___, analyzing how access to e-commerce affects market integration in developing economies. I collected and analyzed data on internet and smartphone adoption by different population groups to use as an instrument for internet penetration in China. Beyond the specifics of our results, the project helped me appreciate the importance of market integration in the broader realm of developing economies, where most people have limited access to jobs, goods, or services. For example, in countries like Brazil or Mexico, internet penetration in 2010 was over 30 p.p. lower than in Germany and France, and this difference is even higher at the left tail of the income distribution. More broadly, I also learned that as a researcher, we could also overcome the challenges of identification by thinking of novel instruments by combining different data sets to answer economic-relevant questions, even if there is not a clear policy intervention.”

“I believe that the combination of my background in a developing country city combined with my exposure to cutting-edge data and methods will allow me to conduct frontier research during the PhD. I want to contribute to the prominent fields of Development, Urban Economics, and International Trade. Growing up in a city from a developing country made me realize how segregation can naturally arise in cities, including phenomena such as low-income workers being displaced to the outskirts, with poor access to jobs, health, and education services. Thus, in my master’s thesis under the supervision of ___, I studied whether a conditional cash transfer on school attendance in ___ also increased the quality of schools that beneficiaries demanded. I found that parents increased their valuation for education as children started to attend better schools. Further, in my tenure as a predoc, I have become particularly interested in how different forms of market integration and gentrification policies affect the structure of cities in developing countries. Hence, under the supervision of ___, I am trying to understand the impact of women-only transportation on female labor supply and how this interacts with classic problems from the labor literature like the gender wage gap, human capital accumulation, or gender differences in the labor supply. I plan on continuing to develop this project while in my Ph.D. program.”



Looking to future research (2)

Research Agenda

"I remain eager to continue this research under the training and guidance of the professors in your program. In particular, I am interested in further studying how to more effectively design and deploy fiscal policies, such as taxes and fines, to increase welfare. One of my proposed projects entails using library fine abolition events, such as a recent reform in Chicago, to study the impacts of fines on patron behavior and their heterogeneity across diverse subpopulations. I would also exploit library self-service technology adoption events—which result in the reduction of stigma but not monetary costs of fines—to estimate the welfare effects of these reforms using a structural approach. Another project I have considered entails fielding a survey and collecting data from major banks in Pakistan to study the extent to which a government-mandated alms tax assessed on bank deposits during the month of Ramadan leads to confusion about religious obligations and withdrawal from financial institutions. In this setting, the question of optimality is binary, since the government can either choose to collect the prescribed tax or leave it as a voluntary contribution. Through studies like these, I endeavor to contribute to the growing behavioral public finance literature."

"Hardship in poor regions: The top of the income distribution is merely one component of income inequality in America; I remain engaged with policy issues confronting the other end of the distribution, especially as they relate to poor communities like my hometown. One active project in this sphere builds on my senior thesis, which uses micro-data from the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS) to investigate whether economic hardship has driven the opioid epidemic in America's heartland. I show that, contrary to popular belief, job displacement seldom spurs prescription opioid abuse. To extend the project, I am applying to access restricted MEPS files which contain geographic identifiers for survey participants. These files, which I hope to access as a graduate student through the Federal Statistical Research Data Center at Berkeley, will enable me to more precisely estimate the effect of job displacement using geography-based shift share research designs."



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Statements of purpose - Why Berkeley?

Example 1: "I am drawn to the economics PhD program at Berkeley because the depth and breadth of Berkeley's faculty expertise in macroeconomics is unmatched. Specifically, I am interested in the work conducted by Emi Nakamura and Jon Steinsson's on monetary non-neutrality, forward guidance, and housing wealth effects. I am also interested in Yuriy Gorodnichenko's research on consumer and firm inflation expectations and Ulrike Malmendier's research on inflation experiences, overconfidence, and altruism. Furthermore, I am excited by Christina Romer's work on financial crises and monetary shocks"

Example 2: "Why Berkeley? I am excited at the prospect of enrolling in Berkeley's graduate program in economics because of its exceptional record of training leading scholars of inequality. Relative to other universities to which I am applying, Berkeley has an especially vibrant community of researchers – across the economics and political science departments, as well as the Goldman School and Haas School – who use cutting-edge methods to speak to questions at the core of my research agenda. I have the necessary preparation, creativity, and work ethic to be a productive member of this community"



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Statements of purpose - 1-slide summary

(1) Make it clear the type of work that you could see yourself working on 10 years from now. This can concern a topic (e.g. climate change, inequality, causal inference) or for more applied programs, a context/data source (e.g. Indian labor markets, remote sensing).

- Remember this is **not a binding contract**: just because you say something doesn't mean you will be forced to do it once you're admitted!

(2) Be clear about **why** you want to work on this (e.g. climate change is getting worse/inequality is growing, we know little about X and it's important because Y).

- This can relate to your personal history but try not to be repetitive.
- Be clear about **how** you're qualified - experience with X, class on Y.

(3) Give a roadmap of how you'll get there -- work with person X, start by looking at  Yetc: Economists for Equity at Berkeley

GRE: common questions (1)

- **When should you take the GRE?**
 - You should have your official scores by the deadline so probably 15-20 days before the deadline, i.e. next week at the absolute latest!
- **What matters for my score?**
 - Only the quant score matters here!
- **What's the cutoff?**
 - **Econ:** used to be 165 - but GRE is no longer required
 - **ARE:** no cutoff but the lowest bound is probably the 90th percentile
- Even with the cutoff, all applications were being reviewed - even the ones below cutoff. Same for the GPA cutoff



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GRE: common questions (2)

- **Is the GRE required?**
 - Econ: No
 - ARE: Yes but you can waive the requirement. Don't let the GRE be the reason why you don't submit an application!
- **How to show quantitative ability without the GRE?**
 - Getting As in technical classes!
 - Direct research experience and proficiency with econometric tools
- **Should you submit the score if it's (sort of) optional?**
 - Econ: you will not be able to submit it at all
 - ARE: the waiver is in case of "exceptional" circumstances - you have to write a paragraph explaining why you can't submit
 - You will not be penalized for not submitting it but depending on your score, probably in your best interest to submit it! (for ARE/international students)
 - Exceptional means financial/logistical difficulties in being able to take the GRE or any other very valid reasons why taking the GRE was not possible for you



10 min break

- If you have any questions on anything we have talked about so far:
 - please put them in the chat
 - and we will address them during the Q&A



Personal history

- **Goal: Tell the Department Who You Are**
 - Are you an underrepresented minority, or a first generation college student?
 - Talk about background, any hardships it has posed
 - Highlight any leadership roles or mentoring experiences; contributions to diversity
 - Volunteering, activism, tutoring URM students, socially impactful work
 - Inform the department on any oddities in your applications.
 - Bad grades due to unforeseen circumstances and life events
 - Gaps in schooling
 - Non-econ background

Dont assume that the reasons are clear. If you don't tell the reader/departments how will they know?



Personal history: examples

Example 1: “My journey from a poor Midwestern community to study at [top 3 private], however, was a more potent education in inequality than either my coursework or research could have possibly provided. My undergraduate peers’ parents were bankers and software engineers; I had never met a banker or software engineer. Their schools sent one or two graduates to [top 3 private] each year; according to my high school principal, I am the first from my school to study at an Ivy League university, and one of only a handful over the last decade to matriculate at a selective college.”

Example 3: “During college, my interests in inequality extended beyond the classroom, motivating me to become active in teaching and mentoring. As a freshman and sophomore, I worked with [city] high school students participating in the X Summer Academy, a [university]-affiliated college access program. Spending time with these students acquainted me with an “America left behind” that both differed from and resembled my eastern Indiana hometown. My work with [them] afforded me opportunities to level the playing field by advising on schoolwork, college, and beyond. I am excited to continue this line of work in my future roles at Berkeley.”

Example 2: “Humans have the natural desire to improve their living standards and escape from poverty. Most certainly, people in my community in [African country] are no exception as they yearn for a certain financial wellness too. [...] It was not easy for me to grow up in such community, to come from a modest financial background and to deal with limited resources. The process of continuously looking for means to escape these conditions was demanding and mentally draining. However, the serious dissatisfaction that came with the situation was a blessing in disguise: it led to a natural urge to seek out better conditions and to an infallible determination to make the most out of every opportunity at hand.”



Personal history

- **Goal: Also tell the Department how you became interested in econ and how it relates to who you are**

Example 1: “I have spent the bulk of my time since graduating high school studying and researching inequality, as an undergraduate and, more recently, a research assistant for Professor X. (...) Thinking back to the awe I felt towards my [top 5 private] classmates reminds me of the words of Berkeley’s own David Card, who, reflecting on his experience researching returns to education, remarked in a 2006 interview: “We live in a stratified society. There are many families with very high levels of education who are doing extremely well, others with much lower levels of education who earn a modest living. I think it is important for labor economists to have some insights into the lower group as well as the higher group.” Economists across all sub-disciplines should grapple with this idea. As economics makes progress in studying inequality, the costs of trade, and regional divergence, the ranks of economists should include individuals such as myself whose lived experience helps them understand these topics.”

Example 2: “It is in this quest for a practical field that I embraced development economics in general and social economics in particular during my time at [top 5 private]. Development economics resonated with me for the tools it gives me to understand social phenomena and individual behaviors and their impact on the wellbeing of communities. As for social economics, my attachment to it is due to the importance that social institutions and collective norms have in my home country of [African country]. Many of these institutions, from child fostering to polygamy to women’s and farmers’ association, informally provide economic tools and address economic needs in the absence of developed financial markets. Even though these institutions correct for systemic deficiencies, the shortcomings they have brought to the public sphere suggest a need for a heavier and stricter scrutiny and call for better policy analyses and recommendations. Addressing the limitations of these institutions is important given that children and women are often left to bear the economic and social damages that stems from them.”

Berkeley page on the personal history statement: [link](#)



Letters of recommendation: who?

- **How to choose your letter writers?**
 - Choose a faculty member (someone who already has a PhD), not a TA/grad student
 - Do not choose a professor you have never met directly (in office hours/in smaller classes)
 - Any faculty member who can speak to your ability to go through 1st year math is good
 - Math or CS faculty: Yes 
 - English lit faculty: No 
 - For int'l students: better to choose int'l faculty who has studied in the US



Letters of recommendation: who else?

- **How to choose your letter writers?**
 - Non-econ/non-PhD recommenders are probably fine
 - (keep to 1 at the most - better if they can speak to your ability to do research or math though)
 - Recommenders from post-college experience
 - also fine, better if they are PhDs/econ PhDs
 - **Balancing prestige and knowledge of you:**
 - probably better to choose someone who knows you best over someone prestigious who won't spend as much time and energy in your letter
 - probably less true for international students - prestigious professor is most likely to be recognized/known by people reading your LOR



Letters of recommendation: What they should write about

- Your math ability
- The quality of your work in your undergraduate thesis
- That you will be successful in a top 5 school, if applying to a top 5 school!
- Anything you want to say in your SOP, make sure the letter writer can say it for you!



Letters of recommendation: Tell them what to write

- If you haven't yet, please do so **ASAP!**
- I sent a full packet with:
 - CV/resume;
 - GRE/TOEFL scores;
 - transcripts along with explanation of grades/academic background;
 - A few sentences on my research interests
 - Full list of programs with the deadline
 - Detailed list of contributions/accomplishments at work
- Answer some prompts for them to write about:
 - How would you describe yourself? What are your strengths? What are your weaknesses?
 - What are some of your academic and nonacademic accomplishments?
 - What makes me (letter writer) particularly qualified to write a letter for you?
 - What makes you particularly qualified for an Economics Ph.D?

Notes on what i did at work/contributions at work:

██████████ (since July 2016):

- Data management:
 - Participation to midline training
 - Support and coordination of CAPI development during midline and endline training
 - Participation to pilot days after training (midline + endline)
 - Participating and leading endline training
 - Regular data checks after midline data collection (August 2016) and endline data collection (August 2018)
- Data cleaning:
 - Preparation of datasets for midline analysis
 - Help with dataset preparation for other analyses
- Data analysis:
 - Support of midline data analysis
 - Construction of knowledge and IYCF indicators for CS
 - Support to ██████ for CS impact analysis



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Letters of recommendation: What to look out for

- Make sure that they will write you a strong letter!
- Ask them point blank:
 - “For which programs do you feel comfortable writing me a strong letter?”
- Make sure they send it in time!
 - Ask them if they want to be reminded of the deadline
 - Doctoral programs usually ok with late letters but not NSF! Letters for NSF need to be sent by the deadline.
- In general, keep track (spreadsheet!) of who is sending a letter to which school and when



Q & A

- We'll take questions from the chat/unanswered questions from the google form first
- Please use the “Raise hand” feature on the Participants Tab and our moderator will call your name
- Use the chat as well to ask your questions and we will try to go through all of them in the next 30 mins



General application questions

- **Should I reapply if I applied before and was rejected?** Absolutely yes! Make sure to show progress, what you have done to be a better candidate between now and your last attempt
- **Should I apply now as an undergrad?** Yes! Being rejected is not at all reflective of your value as an applicant - competition is just really tough and people take many years to get ready to apply!
- **Should I apply X years after my master's?** Also yes! You will be rusty and going back to school is hard but there's no age limit and you should apply!
- **How soon will we know about application results?** Early/mid Feb
- **Should I contact any faculty/potential advisor before applying?** Nope
- **Department/campus environment?**



Feedback survey

- Please fill it out!
- Helps us improve the event for next spring/next year
- Contains questions to determine eligibility to fee remission
 - Restricted to domestic applicants
 - Based on UC Berkeley's definition of URM (econ depts usually have a different definition)
- Link to feedback survey: [link](#)





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Building an equitable equilibrium

Thank you!

We will stay on the Zoom for ~10 more min for questions



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