



# Guidance For Higher Studies (Masters)



# What we'll go through

- How's life like in a foreign land
- Work-Study Culture | Courses
- Financing your education
- Finding Jobs & Internships in US
- What after MS?
- What you need to do!





New Places  
New People  
New Culture  
New mode of  
communication


All together a New Life



# How I felt when I got here ....

- Tired as hell
- Mesmerized by the view
- Felt just like India but a bit more organized

Things you  
would want  
to learn  
before going  
to a foreign  
country

- 
- Cooking
  - Driving
  - Yoga / Meditation
  - Know how to make a conversation
  - Understanding a little about their culture and etiquettes
  - What is lease? How to get an apartment? What's nearby?





# Universities

# Types of Universities

- **State (Public)** : A public university or public college is a university or college that is in state ownership or receives significant public funds through a national or subnational government, as opposed to a private university [wiki]

*{Generally, Not very high fee}*

- **Private** : Private universities (and private colleges) are usually not operated by governments, although many receive tax breaks, public student loans, and grants. Depending on their location, private universities may be subject to government regulation [wiki]

*{Generally, much higher fees}*



Education System /  
Courses



# You have 3 options in total

- Graduate with Masters Project (33 credits)
- Graduate with Masters Thesis (33 credits)
- Graduate with Coursework-only (36 credits)

*But what are credits?*

# Credits & Grades

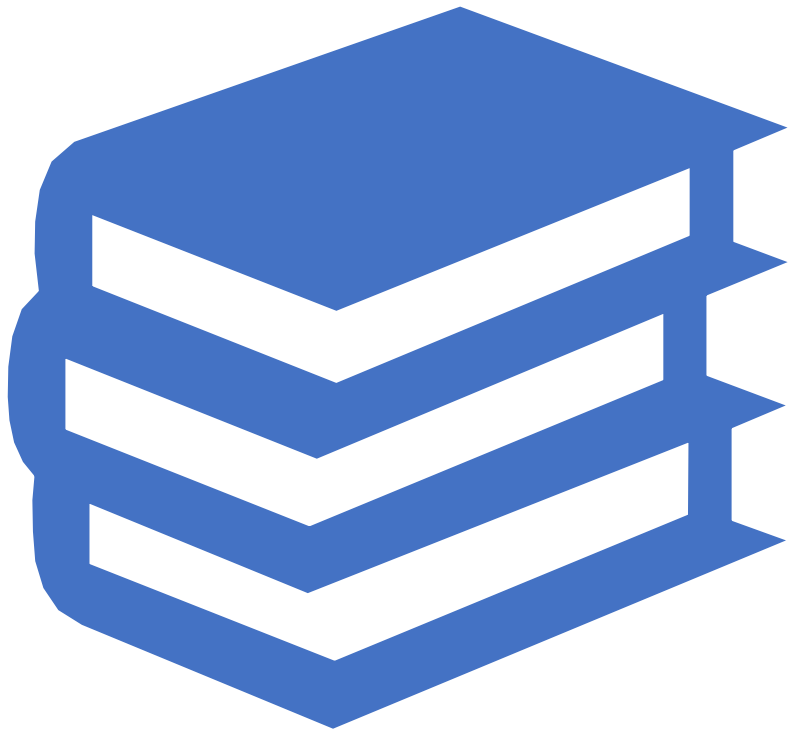
- Most courses are either 3 or 4 **credits**
- **Some are even 6 and more**
- Credits represent -
  - **Hours / week** : 3 credits ~ 3 hours of course per week.  
Though it depends on the number of weeks that course is offered in the university
- Grades (GPA) – (A+ , A , A- , B+ ,.....D-, F)  
(4.0, 4.0, 3.7, 3.3,.....1.0, 0.0)
- There's also an option for S/U (Satisfactory Work / Unsatisfactory Work) , grade for this course won't be counted towards your final grade.
- You need to register for **at least 9 credits** to maintain your F1 Student Visa Status.

# Course deficiencies

- A deficiency in a course is a course-requirement which is not completed in the previous degree.
- For e.g., for taking the course *Computer-Networks-II* you need to complete *Computer-Networks-I* first. In your BTech if you were taught that and you scored well then its not required for you to complete it.

But if I got a bad score already how should I get around that?

You can try to earn a certificate from NPTEL etc. Although this purely the university's decision.



# Financing your Education



# Ways you can finance your education

- Apply for scholarships (Requires)
  - Good GRE & TOEFL Score
  - Good GPA
- Education Loan
- Financial AID (Mostly available for Native (Citizen) Students) but in some universities its available for international students too.
- Get Assistantships

# Graduate Assistantships

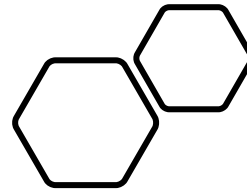
*You can work for 20 hours/week in the Fall (Aug-Dec) and Spring semester(Jan-May) and 40 hours/week in the summer break (if you're not taking any courses in the summer)*

What kind of jobs are available -

- Teaching Assistantship
- Research Assistantship
- Work in the university (Part-time)

During the semesters you are not allowed to work outside the university

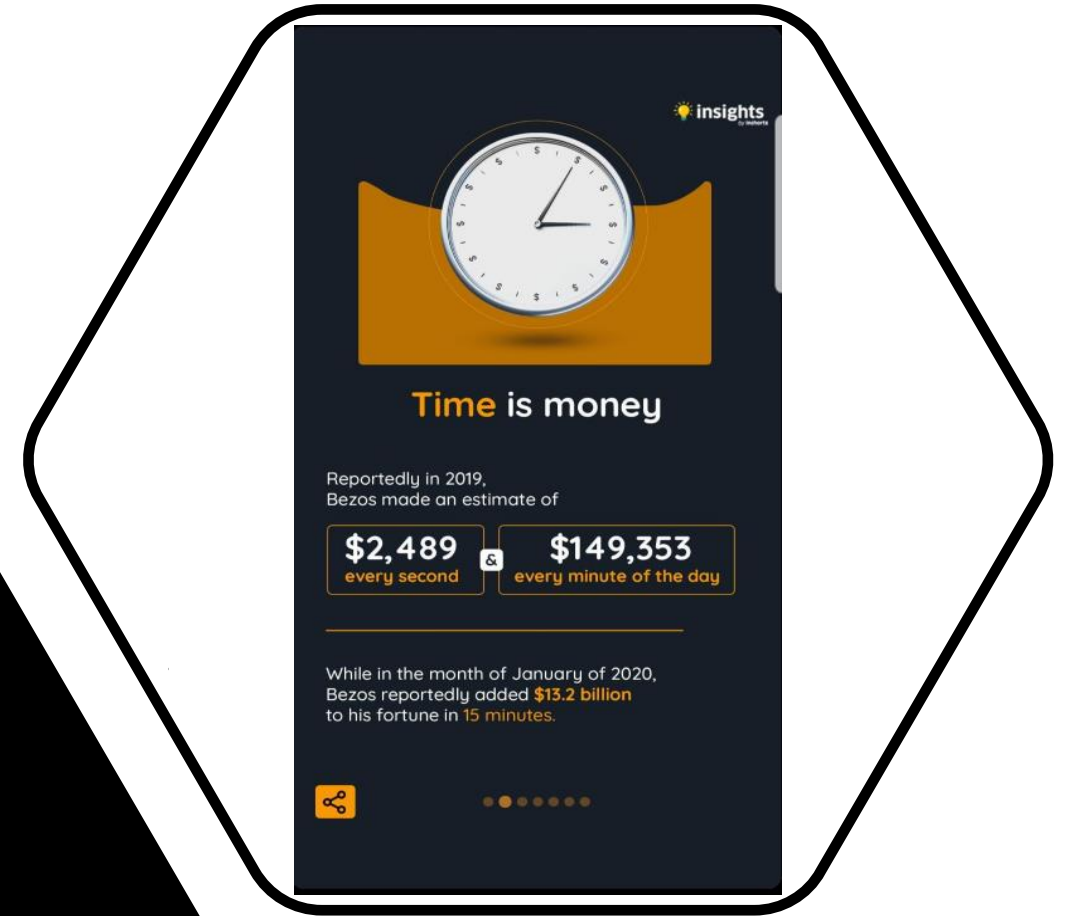
*Your monthly pay will be roughly same as what Jeff Bezos makes per second*



Along with this  
your international fee gets reduced to less  
than half of what you pay!!

So, for most **state** universities with not  
absurdly high fees

You can pay your tuition fee and have some  
savings also



# How to get Assistantships

- For TA (Teaching Assistantship) you must apply for that in your department.
- If don't get in your department you can try to get it in some other department.
- For RA (Research Assistantships) you need to talk to a professor (email him/her, taking his/her class) and he/she will support you





Applying for Jobs /  
Internships

# How to prepare and apply

## **Prepare for**

- Behavioral questions
- Mock Interview Sessions
- Whiteboard Q&A

(Try LinkedIn Learning)

## **Apply through LinkedIn**

- Build your profile as well as you can
- Build your network
- Send connection requests to HRs
- Try to LinkedIn Assessments

Other places to apply - amazon jobs, indeed, google jobs and other sites



What after MS?

You have  
these  
options –

and many more....

Another One!	You can go for an additional Master's degrees
Stay	Graduate after getting a job and stay in US. Apply for Green Card (your choice)
Research	Go for doctoral programs - (Ph. D., Ed. D., and others). Apply for Green Card (your choice)
India	Get a job in MNC and try to get an internal transfer back to India



# Some Scary Stuff about MS

- Getting a Job can be difficult – The employers usually apply for your H1B (Work-Visa) which is costly for the employer {OPT is an option though: read more at - <https://www.studyusa.com/en/a/1238/what-is-the-difference-between-opt-and-cpt>}
- You may not find the courses you wanted to explore
- You'll be in constant pressure and must manage all things by yourself



What you need to  
do?

---

# Things to do before giving GRE, TOEFL, IELTS

Prepare Well

Apply for your passport. You'll need that before taking the exam


Make a list of universities you need to apply to

[ Divide into : (Safe, Target, Dream) ]


Memorize their codes you'll need after ETS exams (GRE)

Give Mock tests

Sources : ETS Official Guide, Magoosh, Barron's 333 High Frequency Words,  
Manhattan 5LB etc..



# What's the best time to start preparing

- You should start as early as possible
  - You need at least 3-6 months to prepare well
  - **The application form costs a lot so try to give it your best shot**
- 



# GRE

- GRE - [Graduate Record Examinations](#)
  - Scored Section – 80 points | 1 mark per question (Verbal & Quants, AWA is separate)
  - Unscored Section – 260 points (You already have that)
  - Divided into two sittings with 10 mins gap
  - AWA, Verbal, Quants – 1<sup>st</sup> half
  - Verbal, Quants, \*(Experimental) Verbal or Quants section – 2<sup>nd</sup> half
  - Scores above 310 are considered as decent – (meaning essentially you must score above 50/80 – scored section)
  - **Cost of application form - \$200**
- **AWA** (Analytical Writing Assessment)
  - 2 essays
  - 30 minutes for each essay
  - Score out of 6 (4 and above is good score)
- **Verbal Reasoning**
  - Reading Comprehension (lengthy, dull and painful)
  - Text completion (fill in the blanks, GRE's tough vocab)
  - Sentence Equivalence (multiple choice fill in the blanks questions (2 or 3 blank to fill) , all options should be correct for getting full points)
  - Score out of 40 (20 first half, 20 second half)
- **Quantitative Reasoning** (Mathematics of class 10<sup>th</sup>)

For Mock Test (try) – GRE Power Prep and others..

**Read more at** - [https://www.ets.org/gre/revised\\_general/about/content/](https://www.ets.org/gre/revised_general/about/content/)

# TOEFL

- TOEFL - [Test of English as a Foreign Language - Wikipedia](#)
  - Total Points :  $4 \times 30 = 120$  points (Reading, Listening, Speaking, Writing)
  - Exam happens in 2 halves with 10 min break
  - Any section can come in any order
  - Scoring above 105 is considered as a good score
  - **Cost of application form - \$180**
- **Reading**
  - 4-5 passages
  - Generally easier than GRE's RC but lengthier
- **Listening**
  - 60-90 minutes to perform TOEFL Listening
  - Understand accents, make notes of it while listening. This is considered as the easiest section
- **Speaking**
  - During 20 minutes of the section, you need to answer six questions, which are both simple and integrated.
  - You have only 15 seconds to prepare during the independent task and 30 seconds to prepare for the response in the integrated task
- **Writing**
  - 2 passages you need to write
  - Integrated Writing and Independent Writing

Learn more at : <https://toefl-test.ru/en/>

# IELTS

- IELTS : [International English Language Testing System](#)
  - Kind of like TOEFL
  - Scoring : Bands (0-9)
  - Scoring above 7 in all sections is considered a good score
  - Sections – Reading , Listening , Writing , Speaking
  - **Cost of application form - \$215 - \$ 250**
- **Reading :** The Reading section consists of 40 questions, designed to test a wide range of reading skills.
  - These include reading for gist, reading for main ideas, reading for detail, skimming, understanding logical argument and recognizing writers' opinions, attitudes and purpose.
  - **60 minutes**
- **Listening :**
  - You will listen to four recordings of native English speakers and then write your answers to a series of questions.
  - **30 minutes**
- **Speaking :**
  - The speaking section assesses your use of spoken English. Every test is recorded
  - **11–14 minutes**
- **Writing :** Topics are of general interest to, and suitable for, test takers entering undergraduate and postgraduate studies or seeking professional registration. There are two tasks
  - **Task 1** - you will be presented with a graph, table, chart or diagram and asked to describe, summaries or explain the information in your own words. You may be asked to describe and explain data, describe the stages of a process, how something works or describe an object or event.
  - **Task 2** - you will be asked to write an essay in response to a point of view, argument or problem. Responses to both tasks must be in a formal style.
  - **60 minutes**

Read more at :

<https://takeielts.britishcouncil.org/take-ielts/what-ielts>

<https://www.ielts.org/en-us/about-the-test/test-format>

# Which tests should you give

- Most foreign universities accept GRE and IELTS
- TOEFL is mainly accepted by US and Canada.
- Countries like UK, Germany etc.. Mainly require IELTS

# Applying to universities

- First you need to send (ship) your score cards through ETS and then start the application process (\$\$). After taking GRE, ETS allows you to send your scores to 4 universities for free. After which you need to manage
- Documents needed
  - SOP (Statement of Purpose)
  - LOR (Letter Of Recommendation) → Should be sent in a sealed envelope
  - Provisional Degree / Transcripts
  - Resume (Optional)
  - and more...
- You need to mail some documents also. For that you can checkout DHL, FedEx and ***Yocket.in (\$\$)***

# Statement of Purpose

- A statement of purpose (SOP), in the context of [applying for graduate school](#), is an essay that's one of the most important aspects of your application because it tells the admission committee who you are, why you're applying, why you're a good candidate, and what you want to do in the future.
- It's sometimes called an SOP letter, application essay, personal background, objectives for graduate study, cover letter, or something like one of these.
- My SOP - [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gezUit1xMBEesM\\_4A95-r87s-BfKAh71/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gezUit1xMBEesM_4A95-r87s-BfKAh71/view?usp=sharing)

## SOP

1. Try to fit the SOP in one page
2. Don't copy your SOP otherwise you'll be in trouble. (#Plagerism)
3. Read 2-3 samples before Drafting your first SOP
5. Compose such that it leaves a lasting impression
6. Be genuine
7. Read and make necessary changes to your SOP multiple times until you're satisfied with the content (\* Make it a masterpiece)

8. FORMAT : (\*This format is according to the SOP I wrote)

Para 1 :- (keep it short: 5-6 lines)  
Why did you decided for MS in \*\_\_\*?  
What do you want to explore? (Course)  
A solid introduction to it's significance which shows your interest

Para 2 :- (Longer than Para 1 : 12-16 lines)  
Talk about your academic records  
Courses which you were interested in your

Para 2 :- (Longer than Para 1 : 12-16 lines)  
Talk about your academic records  
Courses which you were interested in your undergrad  
How your interest developed in \*\_\_your field\_\_\*  
Conclude such that it ties back to the premise (you going for your Masters)

Para 3: (Same as para 2 : 12-16 lines)  
Talk about your research / Major projects(\* which you wanaa mention) which is aligned with your field of interest.  
It's significance  
Your experience while making it (with/without your peers)

Para 4: ( A little shorter than previous para : 5-10 lines)  
Talk about achievements other than your academic  
Milestones like  
Extra curricular activities  
Seminar/Webinars/Workshops attended  
Courses learnt online  
Certifications  
etc

5-10 lines)  
Talk about achievements other than your academic  
Milestones like  
Extra curricular activities  
Seminar/Webinars/Workshops attended  
Courses learnt online  
Certifications  
etc

and its impact on your decision

Para 5:- (Conclusion : 4-7 lines)

--> Masters expanding your horizons  
How will it shape your research and you as a graduate  
Your wish to pursue \*\_\_\* in \*\_\_\* University which is well suited for your goals.  
Your intended contribution and future in that university once you're admitted

-----  
The End  
-----

# My notes on SOP

---



# Letter of Recommendations

- You need 3 to 4 letters of recommendations from our college.
- You can your instructors, Head of Department, Dean, Director whomsoever you're comfortable with to write your letter of recommendation.
- Samples - <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1-u3J1jEs1d8dcVYzKvCBoSgoNLUFki8m?usp=sharing>

## DOCUMENTS TO CARRY

**\*\*Lamination of documents is a problem in US as it seems forged\*\***

**\*\*Documents to kept in clear file\*\***

Carry multiple copies of all the documents possible: atleast 3 each

### Must Carry

i20  
Passport / Visa  
DS-160  
Sevis Fee Receipt

### Essentials

Birth Certificate  
GRE & TOEFL scorecard  
Letter Of Appreciation  
House agreement (your accommodation in US)  
Debit Cards  
Forex Cards(Bookmyforex)

### Forex Cards(Bookmyforex)

#### College

Marksheets (\*optional)  
Character Certificate from college  
Signed Provisional Degree  
8th Sem Transcript

#### Bank

Bank Statement & Affidavit Of Support  
CA Report  
Loan Sanction Letter  
Passbook of International Bank : Standard Chartered(\*optional)

#### Others

other i20s  
Health Reports (copy) & Prescriptions  
10th & 12th Marksheet  
Aadhar Card Copy

# Documents you'll need

- Here's a list of documents I carried

# After getting i20

- Fill your DS160 form?? (Please read more about it online)
- Schedule your US visa appointment (Do this as soon as possible)
- SEVIS fee payment

Read more at :

- <https://yocket.in/blog/what-you-do-after-receiving-your-i20-follow-the-next-3-steps-946>

# Visa

- Prepare Well for your Visa Interview
- Don't be nervous while giving answers
- Try to convince the Visa officer that you have enough funding pay tuition fee for 1 year or so..
- Some sample questions can be found here :
- <https://www.internationalstudent.com/immigration/f1-student-visa/f1-visa-interview-questions/>

# Things to do after getting Visa :-

## Things to do after getting your Visa

\*BOOK YOUR FLIGHT TICKETS IMMEDIATELY (if not booked) : Source - Student Universe, Expedia, Skyscanner.

1. Collect your Passport from the pickup location within 14 days / Wait for it to arrive at your location
2. Get your provisional degree signed from the institute.
3. Apply for your final transcripts
4. Get a forex card from bookmyforex or your bank --> whichever suits you.
5. Start packing (\*\*Check Packing List)
6. Create backups of everything on cloud
7. Get 2-3 spectacles (\*\* If required)
8. Don't forget to keep your health reports (MRI,CT,Blood,TB etc)
9. Learn how to wire transfer (for yourself & your parents)
10. Try to get a temporary international SIM from India.

That's it...

# When can you go for MS?

- Just after Bachelors
  - Pros : Academic flow is maintained,
  - Cons : If no experience at all, its difficult to get calls for hiring
  - Try and get an internship or work free lance
- After getting Some experience
  - Pros : Higher chance of getting calls from companies for hiring
  - Cons : Returning to academic environment is not easy
  - Try to start reading and revising some stuff (if possible)



# Benefits of doing Masters (MS)

- Get a good teaching position
- Get a better job
- Get a chance to study at top universities worldwide
- More possibilities to improve your language and communication skills
- A graduate degree is a way to boost your confidence and responsibility.
- An international diploma helps you stand out on the job market.

Read more at : <https://www.mastersportal.com/articles/382/why-study-a-masters-abroad-top-4-pros-and-cons.html>

## Some Cons :

- Courses might not meet your expectations
- You'll have **greater expenses** with your studies
- You might find it hard to adapt to your new life and deal with homesickness
- The admissions process might be unfamiliar and intimidating

Read more at : <https://www.mastersportal.com/articles/382/why-study-a-masters-abroad-top-4-pros-and-cons.html>

# Some links for Exploration

- <https://yocket.in/blog/>
- <https://gradly.us/>
- [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQEkgUtOXa-1PSzg4fC\\_H8g](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQEkgUtOXa-1PSzg4fC_H8g)

(Parth Vijayvergiya)

- <https://www.ets.org/>
- [www.studyusa.com](http://www.studyusa.com)
- <https://www.usnews.com/>
- <https://studyabroad.shiksha.com/>

## Things you should know :-

- Pay attention to the foundational subjects (Will help you later for sure!!)
- Start **Exploring** more.
- Have some solid projects
- Build a LinkedIn profile and **Start Networking**
- For CS Students
  - Practice coding!! ( GeeksforGeeks, Hackerank, Codechef, **\*\*LeetCode\*\***)
  - GitHub is your new Resume.** Build it as well as you can!!
  - Will help you lot when looking for Jobs in US

Having a good Start is highly rewarding and relaxing

## **Bye-Bye Notes :**

Enjoy Yourself

**Don't stress out too much.** You have time.

But remember

to

**Start early so as get as further as you can**

Learn now to have a good start in things you do

Any Questions

