



You mean oti ready lati Japa ☺?

▼ APPLYING TO GRAD SCHOOL

Zainab Saka.
zainababidemisaka@gmail.com

Outline



Why the US?



Funding
Opportunities in
the US.



Application
Requirements.



How to Mail
Professors?



Timeline
Overview for
Application





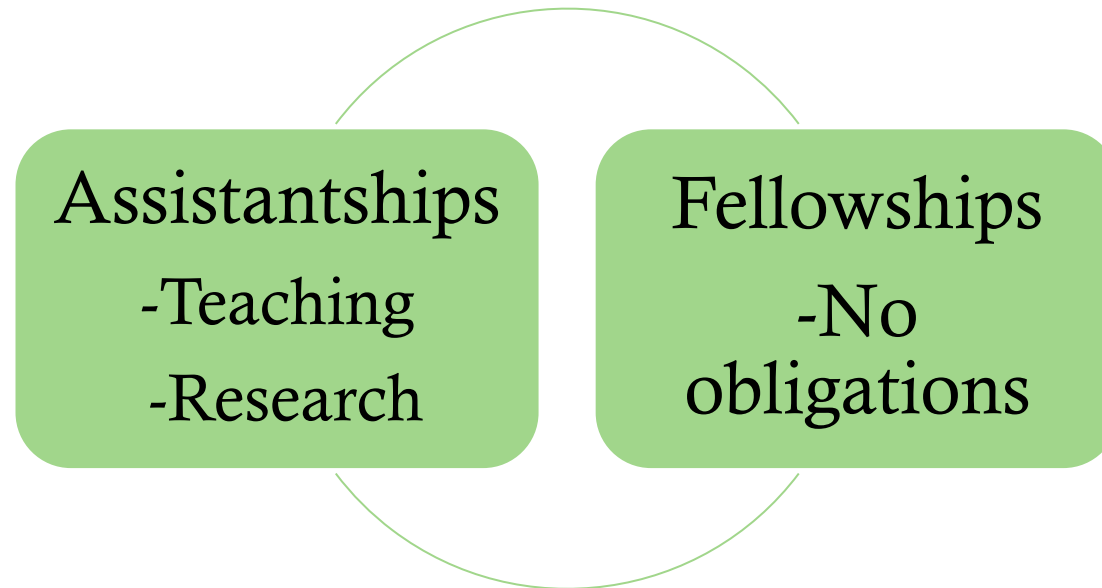
Why the US?

The perspective of an international student...

- Funding x3
- Exhaustive School Options
- World-Class Education (Teaching + Research)
- Has the greatest number of International Students in the World.
- Cultural Diversity
- Employment Opportunities

.....and many more

Funding Opportunities in the US



Funding Opportunities In the US

(contd..)

- How do I know if the program has funding?
- When to ask for funding?
- Do I need to apply for Funding separately or am I being considered for funding automatically?



Application Requirements

....How strong is your application?

- ✓ CV
 - Transcripts
 - Standardized Tests (GRE, TOEFL/IELTS)
 - Diversity Essay
 - Writing Sample
- ✓ Statement of Purpose
 - Recommendation Letters
 - Application Fees

Building your Academic CV

- Education (Can Include Seminar, Thesis, CGPA & Ranking)
- Publications (if any)
- Research Experience (if any)
- Teaching Experience (if any)
- Industrial/Work Experience
- Volunteer Activities
- Leadership Experience
- Awards and Honors
- Professional Memberships
- Educational Learning-MOOCs
- Conferences
- Skills; [Software/Equipment Proficiency][Hobbies][Language]

Statement of Purpose

Every school has its own requirement & standard

.....Structure is very important.

5 Paragraph Structure Sample:

- What motivated you to pursue your field of interest? The first paragraph is vital **-PERSONAL**
- What did you work on in your undergraduate and what competencies have you developed? Why are you interested in that field?- **PAST**
- What is your research interest and what tools can help you in solving or investigating it? How did it lead to your decision to apply to the school? Have you discovered a faculty of interest whose work aligns with your interest? Link 2 to 3. **-PRESENT**
- What is your long-term goal? What have you done up to this moment that has prepared you for grad school- **FUTURE**
- What will the program do for you? Does it help you achieve your goals? Why did you choose the school? Ranking? Be assertive and confident you are fit for the program. **–HOPE & PRAISES.**

Tone=Convincing

1st paragraph Sample:

I got motivated to pursue excellence at a young age. When I was 7, my primary school's proprietress commented on my report sheet for my father to buy me a bicycle because of my excellent performances. This motivation for excellence laid a significant foundation in all aspects of my life. I decided to study Surveying and Geoinformatics because I was confident it would enable me to express my strengths and discover my weaknesses.

Sending Emails to Professors

- The Subject is Important- e.g., “FALL 21 Prospective Graduate Student”
- Timing is important. i.e., Always be mindful of time zones.
- Read papers ahead to be familiar with research and how it aligns with your interests.
- Keep it simple, not verbose.
- Your prior work experience, skills, and previous research that align with the Professor’s research.
- Attach your CV, transcript, and any other relevant document that helps your case.
- Keep it strictly formal.

Note: There is no one-way guide to this, everyone can have a different approach and style of emailing professors.

Sample 1

Dear Professor XXXXX,

I have a keen interest in pursuing my Ph.D. in Xxxxx Engineering at the Lyles School of Civil Engineering under your supervision.

I am XXXX XXXX, I graduated from the Department of Surveying and Geoinformatics, Federal University of Technology, Akure, Nigeria. I finished with a CGPA of X.xx/5.00 (X.xx of 4.0 unofficial WES) and topped my cohorts (top 2%). My research interests are in LIDAR, Unmanned Aircraft Systems, and Geographic Information science for sustainability.

Your publication on "Evaluation of UAV LIDAR for mapping coastal environments" interests me because of how it examined a geospatial problem. In this research, you reviewed current remote sensing techniques being used for coastal monitoring for comparison. The ability of the UAV LIDAR was accessed with the quality of the point clouds evaluated. I am passionate about sustainability and this paper presented a method with an advantage for large coverage which I am highly interested in.

My undergraduate studies research was on creating a topographical information system for managing geospatial problems of a selected physical environment using Total Station and DGPS for data acquisition.

Pursuing my graduate studies at a prestigious institution like Purdue University under your supervision would afford me a great opportunity for advancement in achieving my career goals. I am really fascinated with CE-CAUSE. Attached are my CV and transcripts for your perusal. Thank you for your time and I keenly await your kind reply.

Best Regards,

XXXX.

Sample 2- Email to GC

Dear Dr. XXXX,

I am XXXXXX, a graduate of the Department of XXXXXXXX, University of XXXXX, Nigeria. I intend to put in for a direct Ph.D. program in Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of XYZ by Fall 2022. After getting relevant information about the program on the department's website, I wish to clarify a few things:

When is the next (Fall 2022) application period commencing, and the deadline for priority consideration for funding?

What is the possibility of applying for a direct Ph.D. with my BSc?

I would want to know what specific test scores (GRE and TOEFL) and GPA requirements are currently required for the application process.

Do I need to secure a project supervisor to be considered for admission?

What specific funding opportunities are available and what requirements are needed to secure full funding opportunities?

Also, the admission requirements include official transcripts. However, I have an unofficial one stamped by my university, while the (hardcopy) official one is usually sent directly by my university which isn't an easy process. Hence, can I proceed with an application and secure admission with the copy I have, and send the official one after admission?

Finally, can I be considered for an application fee waiver for this program?

Thanks, in anticipation of your response to these inquiries.

Kind regards,

XXXXX.



Timeline Overview for Application

Understanding the US Semesters		
FALL	SPRING	SUMMER
Starts in Mid-August/Early September	Starts in January	Starts in Late May/Early June
Applications are mostly open for Fall resumption. (Most/all)	Not all schools accept Applications for Spring semester	Fewer classes, Special programs, Internship period, etc.
First Semester of the year	Second	End of Session
Most financial aids offered during this period	Funding opportunities are lesser than in the Fall	-----

Major Pre-Application Tasks

- Get your international Passport
- Budget some money for application fees.
- Identify target schools and their requirements. At least 7 schools. Classify them accordingly.
- Attend graduate school webinars
- Contact all graduate coordinators for clarification on requirements you are unsure of.
- Prepare for standardized tests (advisable depending on the school requirements or strength of your application)
- Cold Emails to Professors.
- Identify recommenders and stay in touch.
- Prepare your well-structured CV and SOP
- Work on your LinkedIn profile.
- Submit the application as early as possible.

18 MONTHS PLAN

March-May	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Research Various Schools aligning with your intended Study.-Work towards getting your passport, Helps to keep you motivated-Identify potential recommenders. Start preparing for Standardized tests.-Be in the right groups.-Build the right relationships. “Similar Goals”
June-August	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Take as many practice tests as possible so you can take the test by or before August-Apply for transcripts on time depending on schools.-Start working on your SOP-Attend Grad Webinars-Email Grad Coordinators-Email Professors
September-December	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Write, Rewrite, Review, Repeat “SOP”-Start Submitting Applications, most priority deadlines are between these months.-Keep Emailing Professors and Grad-Cords-Discover new schools through groups.-Apply to as many schools as you can.

Stay in touch with recommenders

18 MONTHS PLAN

January-
March

- Second Priority deadlines are usually in January/February. “Some deadlines go as far as March”.
- Apply if you missed a deadline or discover a school but always double check with Grad Cords.
- Update intending PIs after submitting applications.
- Await decisions from schools.
- School Interviews (if applicable)

April-August

- Request i-20
- Start Filling DS-160
- Create CGI Profile
- Pay SEVIS
- Prepare for the Visa Interview
- Get Visa
- Book Flight
- Stay Safe lol.

August

WELCOME TO AMERICA



▼ Thank You for
Listening.

Zainab.