

## 1) Personal Details

- a) Name :Lakshmi Pathi
- b) CPI/DR :8.4/10
- c) GRE Score (Vocab+Quat+Anal Writing) : 400+790+4.0
- d) TOEFL Score: 283
- e) Any papers published/How many? None
- f) Professors from whom recos are taken/For what did he give reco/How good the reco was/ Ne comments on the reco given by your professor?

*Reco1: P.Seshu BTP / Very good reco(have not seen)-good prof but believes that CPI is the thing which helps students get scholarship-I don't know if he has any contacts. He didn't help me with any of his contacs.*

*Reco2: M.S.SivaKumar(IIT Chennai)-Summer Internship-good one(if he gives, he gives strong recos-I didn't open and see his recos)-very helpful prof if apping in solmech.*

*Reco3:D.N.Pawaskar-Seminar-good one(closed reco and sends himself-I feel he gave a good reco). He is little strict and I never understood his philosophy.*

## 2) Which universities did you apply to? Which field/department in that university? Which program.

| <i>SNo</i> | <i>University</i> | <i>Field</i>      | <i>Phd/MS</i> | <i>TA/RA/Fellow/Reject</i> |
|------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------|----------------------------|
| 1.         | U.Texas-Austin    | Solids-structures | PhD           | Result Not announced       |
| 2.         | U. Minnesota      | Solids            | PhD           | TAship                     |
| 3.         | RPI               | Solids            | PhD           | Reject                     |
| 4.         | UCSB              | Solids            | PhD           | Reject                     |
| 5.         | Duke              | Solids            | PhD           | Reject                     |

## 3) On what basis did you choose the universities? USNEWS/Seniors/Profs/Visited all sites?

Mostly US-News. I felt with my CPI and GRE Univs with ranking between 10 and 20 would give me schol. I did not take any risk applying top univs. I still do not have how to choose the Univs. But at the end of my apping I did get into good school minnesota. Both Siva Kumar and Pawaskar told me that it is extremely good for

solmech. Faculty is extremely good unlike our IIT and they are doing some fundamental research.

4) Also specific information about the universities (comments like Good faculty/Good Research/Easily gives admit/Gives high importance to GRE Score/Any professor in our department whose reco is valuable in this university etc etc → Kindly answer this question comprehensively as this part will be very helpful

| <i>SNo</i> | <i>University</i> | <i>Information(answer the above question in this column)</i>  |
|------------|-------------------|---|
| 1.         | Texas-Austin      | Does not look for GRE. Good research. But they want very good students(CPI,Publications etc).   |
| 2.         | Minnesota         | Don't GRE at all. Very good faculty. Prof. Siva Kumar's reco helped me get there.   |
| 3.         | RPI               | I think GRE is important. My GRE was below their cutoff   |
| 4.         | UCSB              | I read in their site that Aid will be based on GRE. But I am not sure how important GRE is. Pawaskar told me that it is a very good school. |
| 5.         | Duke              | This was my safe.   |

5) Did you send suck mails? How useful are the suck mails? Ne fundae about these? I did send suck mails. I received positive mails from 2 univs, RPI and Duke. But I got rejects from both. I received no replies from UCSB. I didn't send any to Minnesota as I already knew that they don't consider such things. But the department there is really good and makes sure that good students are given chance. I feel RPI and Duke rejected because of my low GRE. But I also feel CPI is the thing which makes drastic difference. I feel profs are looking fore good students. I think most profs who reply dont just take us like that. We will be considered amongst the applicants they receive. Their replies will just give us an idea where we stand and if we have any chances of getting admitted and funded. However, if our guide directly forwards our resume it makes a strong impact.

6) Which app are you choosing? Why?

Minnesota-Because that is the only one I have. Other reason could be it is extremely

good.

**7) What is your BTP Topic? Who is your BTP guide? Seminar guide? Why chose him?**

**Shape control of Reflector antenna. Seshu is my BTP guide. Pawaskar was my seminar guide. I thought seshu works in FEM so he may help me. Actually I thought of continuing BTP under Pawaskar. But I felt he is just assistant professor and his reco may not help me. Also, I personally felt he is not enthusiastic in helping me. He basically tries to maintain some kind of professionalism. Seshu is on the other hand is very free though sometimes he plays politics.**

**8) If you can share your SOP? Please send it to me. *(You may say that SOP is to be written by self which is absolutely true. But after writing a SOP by self, it can be very well polished by looking at other SOPs, I plan to put a word of caution for all the people (juniors) not to copy our SOPs blindly and advise them to write it on your own and use our SOPs only for reference.)***

**I was not able to write well before applying. But after writing lot of suck mails I really improved in writing. I feel if we make rough draft much before and try to improve upon it, it will turn out extremely good. I feel excessive exaggeration is useless. I feel they look for sincerity, research interests and our ability to pursue graduate study.**

**9) Any other inputs/comments concerning app?**

**I think SOP should be ready much by november end(Atleast rough draft should be ready). GRE should be given at the end of second year itself. PT should be related to our field of apping. Should choose BTP guide safely (whether helpful, field of research matches, enthusiastic etc). Should consult him during apping. I think suck mails lead to nothing. Apping to US schools is very competitive. Students all over the world app. And profs there are already frustrated with suck mails. However, if guide directly recommends forwarding your resume it will make lot of impact. This happens if your guide goes to any conferences etc.**

**10) Your contact info (Mail id which you will be using after passing out) ?**

[clpathi@yahoo.co.in](mailto:clpathi@yahoo.co.in)