Name :**Smriti Shyamal**

University :**McMaster University**

**The following are some of the good universities in Canada (name according to rankings):**

1) University of Toronto/McGill University

2) University of British Columbia

3) University of Waterloo/McMaster University/ University of Alberta

4) University of Calgary/University of Western Ontario

Others are good too but not that much popular. But if you go by research fields then ranking would be very different. It is just a guide.

**Following things motivated me to apply to Canadian Universities:**

1) They provide funded Masters. US universities do not (exceptions are there). I was not sure about PhD., so wanted to do only Masters.

2) No need to give GRE! Some university put GRE as recommended but no-where it is compulsory like the US ones.

3) Application deadlines are late so you can even sit for placements peacefully and apply to universities after that.

4) There is a high demand for IITians there and less competition.

5) Canadian Govt. is very supportive to the research and students. You can also settle there after studies easily.

**Apping experience:**

I gave IELTS on 20th October as IELTS/TOEFL is required by most of the universities. (Some of them do not). IELTS is very easy and one needs a couple of days to prepare for it. The important thing to be noted about the Canadian Universities is that you have to contact professors first and talk to them, know if positions are open in their research groups or not. Almost all of them takes online interview. As my CPI is less than 7.5 so I didn't apply to Toronto and British Columbia as they have cutoffs mentioned in their websites for Indian Universities. I will now mention my experience with each of the 5 univs where I applied. My research areas of interest were: Process Control, Colloids and Bio-fuels.

**1) McGill University:** I contacted couple of professors of McGill by October end (McGill deadline is the closest: 15th Jan types). One of them replied and then an interview was fixed. Her research field was Biocolloids. Interview was of 50 minutes and went very well and I completed their application process by November 5th.

**My recos were:**

a) Prof. Sanjay M. Mahajani: As I have been involved in Project BioSynth (biodiesel production) from past 3 years and was also the OC, I requested him at the very first.

b) My Internship Guide: I am in very good terms with him and worked well during my internships.

I had to write a SOP which took me 4-5 days and got it reviewed from some of the batch-mates. I used my 2-page tech placement resume everywhere.

**2) McMaster University:** I contacted two of the professors there who were working in Controls. Both of them took my interview. I completed the application process by mid-December with 2 recos, a SOP and CV. One of the professors' interview was technical in nature and even though I was prepared it didn't go well. He said that he will finalize his research positions by March first week or so. The other professor's interview was not quite a tech one and lasted for 30 minutes. He said that he will reply yes/no by March mid. One day one another professor mailed me that he wanted to set up an interview with me. He is working in optimization and controls. Interview went very good as Optimization was one of my department electives and he finalized my position in his group on 10th April.

**3) University of Waterloo:** Contacted some of the profs, none of them replied and my chances of getting admitted drastically reduced. But I went on to apply to the university. I even converted my application to PhD. later but they said that they cannot offer a position but they asked me if I want to do M.Engg (Masters without a research component and non-funded). I said no.

**4) University of Alberta:** Some of the professors replied. One of them (working in oil-sands) showed a strong interest in taking me but by then I have received an offer letter from McMaster University. Further, Optimization and Controls interest me more than oil-sands. They required 3 recos so I took another from Prof. S.Ganeshan.

**5) University of Calgary:** It was a back-up so without even mailing any professor I just took my chance and completed their application process. No result yet.

So, a desire to do funded Masters and keeping yourself motivated even in the last semester are the two key factors. All the best to all!