**Few apping pointers:**

-Who can app?

Anyone in their 2nd or 3rd year. DD students can app in their 4th year too.

-Should one not app if their CPI isn’t very high (in excess of 8)?

No! Anyone can app. There are several factors that help one secure a foreign research intern. Definitely, CPI is one of them but not the only one. If one has some background in the research work of a certain professor (through an ongoing/completed project), he might still consider that student in spite of a low CPI.

-How to start?

Before apping, you need to understand that securing a fully sponsored foreign intern is difficult for sophies as the professors want to take more senior students who have had a good knowledge of their branch subjects. If you have decided to app, you can start as early as September/October in your sophie year.

A good resume is important. It should show at least some kind of inclination towards research. In your third semester, try taking up a project under one of your department professors and include it in your resume. (For Chemical Engineering students: Prof. Rochich Thaokar, Sandip Roy, Supreet Saini, Abhijit Chatterjee, Sanjay Mahajani generally have projects which sophies can work on).

For **selecting universities**, you can go to **QS world rankings** website which gives subject wise rankings as well. Go to the websites of these universities and search for the faculty list of your department. Be aware of the fact that many universities don’t have certain departments (many European universities do not have Chemical Engineering. In such universities, you can check if they have related department (Chemistry/Material Science). Many European universities have their websites in their local language so it becomes a little difficult. Find if there is an English version or use Google Translate.

**Another way** is **sciencedirect.com** where you can simply mention the field of your interest (e.g. Fluid Mechanics/Fuel cells) and you will get a list of publications. The contact details of professors are given as well. This way is useful for students who are already involved in some research and hence target the professors in that field.

**The Email**: Send the email keeping in mind the time-zone of that place. Your mail should reach them in the morning. Personally, I feel that Tuesdays and Wednesdays are better days for mailing than Mondays (A professor has a lot of emails to read and respond to on a Monday morning). Do not mail during weekends. Try not to attach the resume with the mail (Professors have filters for mails with attachments). Instead, give a link to your resume in the body of mail (You can upload your resume on your department website).

**Body of mail:** Address the professor as Dear Professor XYZ. Give a short (1-2 line) intro about yourself (Name, DD/Btech, which year, institute). In the next para, mention that you have gone through his research work in the field of “ ” and that you are seeking an opportunity to work with him/her (mention the duration here). In this para, you have to tell him if you have done any work in the same field or if you are doing a course/lab very relevant to his work or if you have read any of his publications. If yes, mention what you would really like to work on or if you have any suggestions. Treat this para as your SOP.

In the next para, give your research background (your current project/past work, if any). Mention the projects here even if they are there in your resume.

Give the link to your resume and conclude.

**Important:** Do not mail all the professors in a university (without going through their work). Mail only a few. Professors generally work on projects together and it is bad if you have mailed all the professors. Please remember you are carrying IITB’s name. Your over-enthusiastic apping can cost your juniors some good foreign intern opportunities.

One observation I made was that professors from universities in USA, Australia, Korea, NUS seldom reply. There are more replies from Canadian and European Universities so that could be your starting point.

**The most important lesson of apping is to remain patient and hopeful.**