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APPLICATION TO US UNIVERSITIES FOR Ph.D.

- Connect to WSR website: google - Sultana N Nahar - Women in STEM Roadshow (in the middle row)
- Click to button EducationUSA & Admissions
- Go over the 5 steps of EducationUSA

Four things to keep in mind

- Have a practice to work on your CV
- Applying to universities is like taking a class. It will need your time to prepare materials
- AIM: Get acceptance from a US university
- Acceptance is informed in the winter and classes start after summer
- **Academic criteria for admissions:**
 - i) Requires 4 years of undergraduate study
 - 3 years bachelor degree + 1 year of Master in India will give 4 years of college study

- Better to complete Master degree in India since it fullfills 4 years + research experience (GRE may not be needed)
- ii) Do well, that is, maintain a high rank in your class
 - Explain the grading system in a statement (e.g. over 60% is 1st division and is equivalent to letter grade A⁻ not C
 - Add all Honors/Prizes/Recognition received
- iii) Take both exams of GRE (Graduate Record Exam), General and Subject separately (required for all applicants)
 - Get above average in the General but good scores in the Subject tests
- iv) Take one English test (required for applicants from non-English speaking countries): TOEFL (passing 79 out of 120) or IELTS (passing 7 out of 12) for admission
 - OSU needs 90 points for TA or RAship. So after acceptance with lower points you will take some English classes requiring time from your own subject and may need to pay by yourself
 - GRE and TOEFL/IELTS scores are relaxed in small to medium size universities, like in the south or in small towns which do not get many international applications.

- **Research experience**

- Almost all universities now require research experience of the applicants
- Research publications are valued most
- Report any research presentations, experiences
- Ask a professor to assign you to a research project. It may involve simple task, but learn about the project to write a very good summary of it.
- With no research publications and experience, engage yourself to projects at website "Citizen Science projects". Should be able to write a good summary report of the project findings

- **Research statements**

- You will be writing a research statement stating area of interest and your background
- Remain focus to one topic instead of various topics
- Relate your research statement to the research of at least one faculty member of the Department

- Contact the research faculty with your CV and inform your application and interest. Comment of that faculty to the admission committee will add points to the admission
- After admission, you can always change the topic

Recommendations Letters:

- Get at least one page of recommendation letter from each reference. Give the faculty of reference

i) a draft recommendation letter for a person who has exactly same credentials like you. Mention everything. Leadership is a valued quality

ii) Your CV to the faculty of reference

- The faculty should add adjectives to your qualifications

Financial Aid

- Fill out the financial aid option. 3 types of funds:

i) University Fellowship - an Honor. Based on the qualifications, Department may suggest you to write a statement for the Fellowship

ii) Research Assistantship (RA) - The faculty you will be working with may have grant to support your living expenses and tuition

iii) Teaching Assistantship (TA, needs some communication skill) - Help in the undergraduate courses (computer grading, proctoring exams, office hours for students) - best option for teaching experience

- For the US visa, university will issue I-20 when the student has the fund to study

- At the visa office, answer exactly what is asked and do not give information which is not asked

- Private universities give more funds than state universities.

- **No support from the university - What to do**

- Go to "Find-Financial-Aid" webpage of EducationUSA and find various sources relevant to your study

- Apply to as many as possible → they may add to give enough fund. - Ex: Fulbright is a prestigious scholarship

- Manage one year of support. University will tell how much the parents should pay

- get I-20 from the university

- Your Department and the university will find jobs for you to earn enough

- **Waiver of Application Fees**

- Apply online. The applicant has to be in the university system for any consideration. Admission office will send the completed applications to the respective Departments

- Apply to about 10 universities:

- 1-3 your dream universities,

- 4-5 universities that you know or heard of,

- 4-5 universities smaller universities

- Always apply for Ph.D., unless the university offers only Master degree, for higher possibility of financial support.

- University charges \$75 to \$120 application processing fee

- Contact the Chair of the Admission committee or the Department or the professor you contacted stating you can not pay the application fees, but will pay if you get acceptance

- Then the Department may ask the admission office to forward the applications to the department

- **Fees for GRE, TOEFL**

- These fees are not paid by any agency

- However, some organizations such as alumni association in the US pay for these test

Bachelor

- Fund for bachelor degree is much more limited
- Sign up for online courses and get certificates

On-LINE COURSES: MOOCS at the Ohio State

- Global Grant for Women (for one semester)
- Study in US Institutes (SUSI) during the summer
- Educational opportunities at "exchanges.state.gov"

High Schools

- Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study (YES) program, funded by the U.S. Department of State, provides scholarships for secondary school students (age 15-17) from countries [www.yesprograms.org] with significant Muslim populations to spend one academic year in the United States.
- Exchange program for short courses

Benefits in study in a US university

- Best schools and all maintain a high standard
- More opportunities for research
- Courses are real life oriented
- Change and choose subjects
- Students are judged according to merit regardless of origin
- Teachers are friendly and more accessible
- Freedom of living choices as long as it does not harm anyone
- Make friendship internationally and a long term network
- Modification of personality to take challenge, accommodate others, team spirit, all qualities needed to build up careers