

What I Wish I Knew For Grad School

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Lego Grad Student @legogradstudent · Nov 16, 2017

Fending off the advisor's questions about his lack of progress, the grad student doubles down on a new set of unrealistic promises.



24

526

2K



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Why Grad School?

Google For Good Advice (in general)

- <https://www.prepscholar.com/gre/blog/how-to-get-into-grad-school/>
- <https://www.prepscholar.com/gre/blog/when-to-apply-for-grad-school/>
- <https://www.gradschools.com/get-informed/applying-graduate-school/applying/application-fee-waivers-graduate-students>
- <https://pages.gseis.ucla.edu/faculty/agre/grad-school.html>

Takeaways of this Talk

1. Do research as an undergrad

- a. Very important for grad school apps.
- b. If you can get even a simple workshop paper, it can go a long way.

2. Make a good impression on professors

- a. They write letters of rec (critically important).

3. Apply for fellowships

- a. For some fellowships, it'd be too late even as a 1st year grad student.
- b. Just apply! There's no downside to being rejected. :)
- c. E.g. NSF GRFP, {Marshall, Rhodes, Fullbright, Truman, Churchill} Scholarship
 - i. <https://scholarships.engin.umich.edu/featured/major-national-scholarships/>
 - ii. My adviser told me to apply for the NSF GRFP. It was great advice :)
 - iii. I never knew about the {Marshall, Fullbright, etc} Scholarships until too late.

Applying to Grad School: Fall 2015

1. My Plan

- a. Fall 2015: Apply to top PhD programs.
- b. If rejected:
 - i. 2016-2017: Do Masters at UML at same research group.
 - ii. Fall 2016: Apply to more PhD programs.

2. Grad Schools

- a. Prof Recommendations
- b. Personal Statement
- c. Sometimes: Resume
- d. Sometimes: GRE

3. NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program

- a. Prof Recommendations
- b. Personal Statement
- c. Research Proposal

My Perspective

- Initial thought: Did I deserve this?
 - Only got in to 2/5 grad schools
- NSF helped me accept that I don't deserve it any less than others

Thank You!

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