

Graduate School Application Workshop

Dr. Jessica Bickel

Department of Physics

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Please sign-in!
(Under professor name)

And Grab some Pizza!!!



Who am I?



Universität Hamburg

DER FORSCHUNG | DER LEHRE | DER BILDUNG



Alexander von Humboldt
Stiftung/Foundation

MOUNT HOLYOKE



Research Experiences
For Undergraduates



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Who is here?

What year will you be in the fall?

- 1) Sophomore
- 2) Junior
- 3) Senior and will graduate December 2023/May 2024
- 4) Senior (but will take an extra year to graduate)



Who is here?

- 1) Science/Engineering
- 2) Health
- 3) Arts and Humanities
- 4) Other



What are your current plans after graduation?

- 1) Get a job in the region
- 2) Get a job nationally
- 3) Travel
- 4) Graduate School
- 5) I'm not really sure



Why are you doing research this summer?

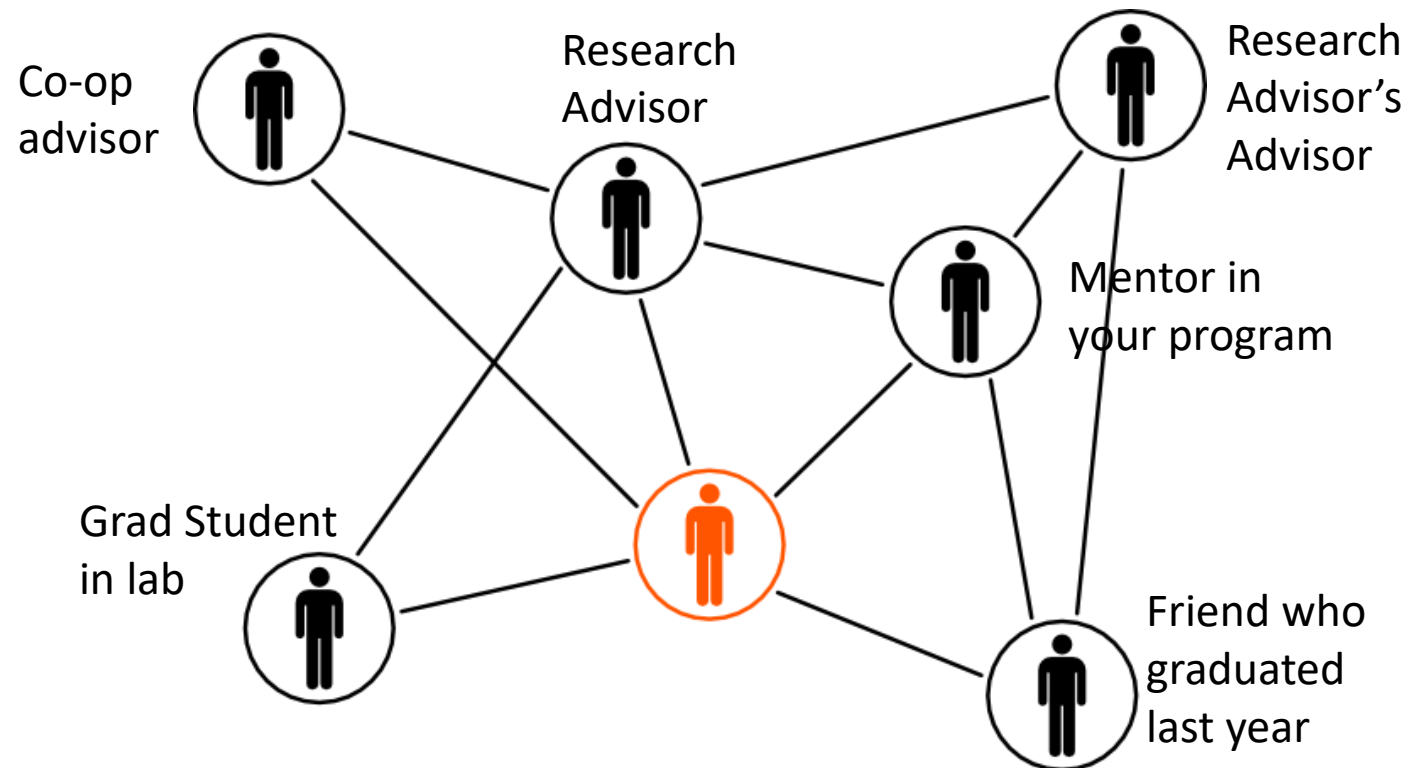


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USRA Summer Seminars
June 14-15, 2023

My biggest piece of Advice:

Use your Network!!!



Where to apply?

- What level?
 - Masters
 - Program details and rankings?
 - Is there a thesis or no?
 - PhD
 - Research Focii?
 - Program details?
 - Is there a Masters along the way?
 - Maybe rankings.... Maybe not
- Location?
- Safety schools
 - Discuss with your network what a safety school is.

The screenshot shows the US News Best Physics Schools rankings page. The page title is "Best Physics Schools" and it is ranked in 2022, part of the Best Science Schools. The page includes a summary, social media sharing options, and a list of 188 schools. The top three schools are Stanford University (ranked #1 in Physics with a peer assessment score of 5.0), California Institute of Technology (ranked #2 in Physics (tie) with a score of 4.9), and Harvard University (ranked #2 in Physics (tie) with a score of 4.9). The page also features filters for program rankings, school name, and location, and a table of more rankings including Atomic / Molecular / Optical, Condensed Matter, Cosmology / Relativity / Gravity, and Elementary Particles / Field / String Theory.

NAME/RANK	PEER ASSESSMENT SCORE
Stanford University Stanford, CA #1 in Physics	5.0
California Institute of Technology Pasadena, CA #2 in Physics (tie)	4.9
Harvard University Cambridge, MA #2 in Physics (tie)	4.9



A typical application

- Basic Application
- Transcript and GPA
- GRE and/or subject GRE
 - Program specific
- English Language Proficiency
- Resume
- Personal Statement / Statement of Purpose
- Letters of Recommendation
- Application Fee



Resume

- What do you think we're looking for on the resume?
- Put the things that matter first!
 - Hint, Hint: THIS RESEARCH MATTERS!!!
- Use your resources: CSU has writing center and Career Services Center
 - <https://levin.csuohio.edu/office-of-field-services/csu-career-services>

Be targeted in your approach

Offer the specific qualifications you possess to perform the job advertised. Use a customized resume for each position. If you choose to use a general resume, than customize your cover letter to the position.

Resume Checklist



Header

- First and Last Name
- One Working Phone Number
- Professional E-Mail Address

Work Experience

- Company Name and Job Title
- Month and Year of Employment
- Three to Six Bullet Point Job Description
- Keywords from the Job Description You're Applying For
- Written in Third-Person, Past-Tense

Education

- Required Education Level Highlighted
- Any Current Certifications That Relate To Employment
- Anticipated Date of Completion if Necessary

Miscellaneous

- No Dates Past Ten Years Old
- Summary Statement That Sells Transferrable Skills
- Military Service Record
- Community Involvement

<https://grad.msu.edu/phdcareers/resume-formatting-essentials>

Personal Statement/Statement of Purpose

University of Michigan:

- **Academic Statement of Purpose** - The Statement of Purpose should be a concise, well-written statement about your academic and research background, your career goals, and how Michigan's graduate program will help you meet your career and educational objectives.
- **Personal Statement** - The Personal Statement should contain your background and life experiences, including cultural, geographical, financial, educational or other opportunities or challenges, which motivated your decision to pursue a graduate degree at the University of Michigan. For example, if you grew up in a community where educational, cultural, or other opportunities were either especially plentiful or especially lacking, or are undocumented or DACAmented, you might discuss the impact this had on your development and interests. This should be a discussion of the journey that has led to your decision to seek a graduate degree.



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Personal Statement/Statement of Purpose

Ohio State:

- Your statement of purpose should be no more than two pages in length, double-spaced, in Times New Roman, Arial, or Calibri size 10 or 12 font and it should address the following topics:
- Give examples of experiences or demonstrated attributes that have prepared you to be successful in graduate school.
- Identify the reason you want to pursue a graduate degree. Identify career goals and how you see a graduate degree enabling your career goals.
- Describe a personal or academic challenge that you have faced and how you successfully handled this challenge.
- Incorporate some information about your extracurricular activities into your statement of purpose where it makes sense to do so. Those activities and how they have shaped you are crucial if you wish to be competitive for fellowship consideration.
- Do not include "fluff" or filler content. Focus on why you are qualified and what you want to do in graduate school.
- Proofread your statement of purpose before you submit it and make sure it's relevant to your application to Ohio State and clearly written/free of errors. Expressing interest in faculty members or research that are not available at Ohio State or our department can negatively impact an applicants chances of admission greatly.



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Personal Statement/Statement of Purpose

- Be sure to read the specific requirements for the school.
- Address any weaknesses in your application here and explain why they are not a negative for your application.
- Proofread!!
- Use your Network: Have a mentor read your statement.



Letters of Recommendation

- Who should you choose to write your letters of recommendation?
- When should you approach them?
- What should you give them?

<https://graduate.rice.edu/news/current-news/grad-applications-101-getting-letters-rec>



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The grad school visit

- Talk to current students in the program
- Choose an advisor over a program



Application Fee Waivers

The screenshot shows the gradschools.com website. The main heading is "Graduate School Application Fee Waiver". Below this, there is a featured school section for Capella University with the text "Pursue an Online Masters Degree from Capella" and a "VISIT SCHOOL" button. To the right, there is a sponsored listing for Southern New Hampshire University with the text "Find Your Perfect Graduate School!" and a "GET MATCHED FOR FREE" button. The page also includes a "What is Fee Waiver for Graduate School Application?" section and a "How to Get Application Fee Waiver for Grad School?" section.



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Questions?

