



Is Designing Wardrobes a Micrograph of Applying for Ph.D. Abroad?

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As MBBS students, we always keep an eye on the current trends and opportunities for postgraduate education. Having grown up as social media juggernauts, we tend to begin experimenting with social and professional networking platforms like LinkedIn, Twitter, YouTube as soon as we land on undergraduate studies. As time passes, we either interact directly with academics and researchers in these platforms or get to know the stories, the aspirations and the struggles of current postgraduate students. From this experience, it seems that finding the Ph.D. supervisor and the program you want to pursue has much in common with designing our clothes inside our wardrobes. In a word, it is a time-consuming kind of work, full of repetitions but it increases the chance of acceptability. In a similar manner, maintaining a well-rounded wardrobe increases the chances of getting the right dress in the right time.

What is the most common way to organize your wardrobes? First take out all your dresses. Then short out your dresses which you want to keep and which you want to donate. After that, wash your cloths and then seat for the final designing the wardrobes. There are many ways you can design. Summer clothes, winter clothes or House Clothes, Professional Cloths, Party Clothes or Colour wise like all red clothes, all blue clothes. You can design it according to your convenience. Then place the clothes in the wardrobes. You put all your daily clothes in upper rack, rarely used clothes in lower rack. And yes, you have to change this design according to your convenience. And networking is very important. Like if you put your suits in the corner, you have to put your ties there. So, let's do the naming now. Your all clothes are Research Databases such as PhDportal.eu. Now the priorities while shorting out is your subject interest, your master's thesis and your previous lab experiences. You have to make a list of all supervisors whom you are going to apply. For this you need to go through their profile and research works, papers,

current projects etc. Eventually, a specific amount of clothes will be put in the wardrobes. Now the challenge is how to put the clothes in the right way in the wardrobes. Making an excel spreadsheet may not be common for clothing, but it is a common practice in academia. Make headings with the gross and subheadings with the potential supervisors conducting research in each of these topics. For instance, if you are interested in CAR T cell therapy in Oncology, Cancer Vaccines and Stem cell Therapy in Oncology, make these top headings. Then do list all the supervisors who are working on CART cell therapy in Oncology. Then draft letter of motivations, but make sure you maintain some blank space for the experience, the publications or just the additional motivation you will get by the time of the application.

Letters addressing researchers in the same field can have much in common, however, personalization is the key. It indicates particular interest rather than desperate seeking for a place in postgraduate education. Other documents such as the CV can be the same for all or most of applications, saving a lot of time during the application process. In particular, CV, depending on the requirements of the program, can be as concise and striking as possible. It would be wise for example to mention the number of publications per database and provide a hyperlink proving your claim. Being concise and straightforward is a proof of your skills and it can increase the acceptability in less time. The rest of the time one can use in preparation of IELTS/TOEFL or GRE.

Applying for Ph.D.:

1. Electing the field and the type of your studies is the second phase, is the first influence you might have on your studies, being called to require one amongst individual and structural doctoral programmes for your doctoral studies. This is a compulsory stair in advance for your application for the university admission.¹



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2. Prior to candidacy, you must pass certain courses and qualifying examinations that usually consist of both written and oral components (IELTS/TOEFL).²
3. Network well! Attend as many conferences as you can and try to strike meaningful conversations with potential supervisors. All the schools I applied to accepted my application probably because I had strong research proposals which I came up with after discussing with the respective supervisors.³
4. Email to the Professors, don't send same letter of motivations to everyone. Modify as mentioned before in the paper.
5. And, wait for the interview and acceptance.

Apologize, if we are wrong anywhere. The world, both the real and the virtual one, is full of unique Ph.D. stories. The authors, having a background in healthcare and life sciences and being in the doorsteps of this world have put their effort in summarizing the most common challenges and strategies deployed by Ph.D. candidates worldwide, although certain aspects may be different across countries and fields of research. Designing a wardrobe has in our opinion may similarities with this process and it can be relatable to the experience of most people worldwide. Learning from the experience of others is important but nothing is more difficult, and therefore more precious, than the ability to decide on the basis of facts and vision.

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