

Menempuh Pendidikan Doktoral di Amerika Serikat

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We are thankful for inputs and suggestions from Novendra (Chemical Engineering, UC Davis), Gumilang Aryo Sahadewo, PhD (Economics, 2017, University of Pittsburg), Gde Metera (Political Science, Northwestern University) and other fellow students and alumni whom we have crossed path and learned from.

Katanya, tak kenal maka tak sayang...

Rizki Nauli Siregar - Rizki atau Kiki

- PhD Candidate, Department of Economics, University of California Davis
- S1: Ilmu Ekonomi, UI; S2: Economics, Boston University

Arridhana Ciptadi - Arri

- Machine-learning scientist di salah satu perusahaan teknologi di Silicon Valley
- PhD in Computer Science, Georgia Tech (2016)
- S1: Computer Engineering, NTU

outline

- tentang studi doktor

- pendanaan

- admission criteria

- proses: #1 ● masa persiapan
- #2 ● masa pendaftaran
- #3 ● memilih pilihan
- #4 ● masa studi

- the ultimate guidance and strength

- other resources

tentang studi doktor

mengapa?

mengapa ambil studi doktoral?

- alasan personal tiap orang bisa berbeda
- tapi PhD itu tentang riset: all personal reasons have to be tied back to your drive to do research
- jangan takut untuk mencoba: walaupun tidak diselesaikan (karena satu dan lain hal), alasannya tetap valid. *Nothing goes to waste, insha Allah.*
- manfaat dari program PhD secara praktis dan pragmatis:
 - program PhD memberikan ekosistem untuk belajar menjadi peneliti: lengkap dengan komponen ekosistem seperti mentorship (kualitas hubungan dengan advisor sangat menentukan), feedback loop yang intensif dari peer maupun faculties, memberi gambaran akan proses menjadi peneliti.

mengapa?

mengapa di Amerika Serikat?

- memberikan ruang untuk eksplorasi *research direction*
- untuk bidang tertentu, ada eksternalitas dari kedekatan antarinststitusi maupun dengan industri

struktur studi doktor di AS dan implikasinya

- kurikulum: disusun agar lulusan memiliki *breadth and depth*
- pasti ada *coursework*: untuk *breadth*, namun juga untuk menyiapkan spesialisasi riset.
- lama studi: 5-6 tahun, namun untuk ilmu sosial cukup umum 7-9 tahun.
- **implikasi 1**: kalau mau cepat, sebaiknya pikir ulang untuk ambil studi doktoral di AS.
- **implikasi 2**: tidak harus ambil studi master dulu.
- **implikasi 3**: umum sekali ada tes dan ujian yang menentukan kelanjutan studi.
- **implikasi 4**: tidak harus sudah memiliki supervisor ketika baru mulai studi, namun rencanakan beberapa opsi supervisors.

pendanaan

- tidak harus punya beasiswa

- sebagian besar mahasiswa doktor menjalani studi dengan pendanaan kampus: fellowship, TA-ship, RA-ship.
 - dengan employment dari kampus, otomatis biaya sekolah dan asuransi kesehatan dibayarkan kampus
 - ketika dapat admission offer, juga diberi financial offer
- external funding memang bisa memberi "ruang gerak", namun bukan necessary condition.
- beberapa external funding:
- LPDP
 - Fulbright
 - Arryman Fellows and Scholars program

admission criteria

ability to do independent research

get meaningful research experiences to cultivate the ability to do independent research

- DO ACTUAL RESEARCH:

- You cannot bypass this process.
- It's okay if you find you do not fit in research, you can excel and contribute in the society in so many other amazing ways. Before taking a bigger take on research by entering a PhD program, doing actual research is a great check and reflection.

- Reflect your **ability to do independent research** from your research experiences in the application:

1. *strong* letters of recommendation:

- You need at least 3 letters, from someone who has good research credentials and possibly recognized by the admission committees.
- the referees should vouch for you: testimonies on how you perform and your potential.
- Yes, this process shows that it takes "a village" to support you :)

2. research track record that shows ability to do independent research

3. essay(s) to highlight not only your research interest but you can do research independently

4. CV that shows your research experiences.

periode #1 - masa persiapan

tujuan masa persiapan

mempersiapkan profile untuk dapat diterima di target sekolah

sehingga perlu pelajari:

- apa saja program yang ada dan apa requirement-nya
- sekolah mana saja yang punya keahlian dan ahli yang sesuai dengan minat
- seperti apa profile mahasiswa yang diterima
- lulusannya kemana saja setelah lulus

lalu:

1. pilih target sekolah (sekitar minimal 10 sekolah): **spicy**, **medium**, **mild**
2. sesuaikan profile diri dengan target sekolah

ada dua metode yang dapat dilakukan:

1. have a mentor who knows "the game" and can help you navigate the process
2. try to calibrate your profile

be entrepreneurial, reach out.

collect meaningful research experiences

- (kalau bisa) aim to get published in a peer reviewed journal or conference
- work with the right mentor or superordinate
 - reach out ke orang yg bisa memberikan the right experience, sampai kerja bareng sama dia, dapat relevant research experience dan letter of recommendation dari dia.
 - pemberi surat rekomendasi harus dapat menjelaskan potensi dan pengalaman kandidat dalam melakukan riset
- help you shape your research interest, what drives you to do research

periode #2 - masa pendaftaran

be a warrior

- **timeline:**

- sebagian besar deadline pada Desember, jadi hitung mundur untuk semua persiapan
- berikan waktu yang cukup untuk pemberi rekomendasi menyiapkan surat
- kalau nilai tes masih kurang kompetitif, retake!

- **siapkan dana untuk proses mendaftar**

- tests: GRE, TOEFL
- admission fee
- pengiriman hasil tests (GRE dan TOEFL) ke kampus
- pengiriman transkrip ke kampus

be a warrior

- **always tailor your application for each school**

- kenapa pilih program tersebut
- apakah ada faculty yang risetnya beririsan dengan research interest kita
- sesuaikan cerita di essay untuk bisa fit dengan profile sekolah/faculty
- sesuaikan dengan instruksi essay dari masing-masing sekolah

on writing essays

- main point: create a narrative that you can do independent research
- tailor to each specific target school
- get feedbacks from a or some PhD students or those who hold the degree

periode #3 - menentukan pilihan

acceptance letter = WE WANT YOU!

- kalau bisa, visit.
- whether you can visit or not: talk to the potential advisors, talk to current students.
- kalau dapat lebih dari 1 acceptance letter, di beberapa program (misalnya economics), sangat lumrah untuk negotiate financial offer yang didapat (misalnya: lama dari guaranteed teaching assistantship).
- beberapa blog menyarankan: tanyakan placement history

periode #4 - masa studi

it's a marathon.

- "sekolah phd di mana aja, pasti nangis bombay" - Dr Vivi Alatas
- "there is no such a thing as perfect circumstances" - Dr Liza Munira
- "expect external shocks that may affect your study and adjust accordingly" - Dr Gumilang A. Sahadewo
- build long-term relationship: to yourself, to your professors, to your peers, etc.

the ultimate guidance & strength

DOA

other resources

to pursue phd or not

- 9 things you should consider before embarking on a PhD: [link](#)
- Why You Shouldn't Get a PhD: [link](#)
- Chriss Blattman: [link](#)
- Mankiw: [link](#)

applying to phd in economics

- Miles Kimball: [link](#)
- Jeff Smith: [link](#)
- Resources from schools:
 - Yale: [link](#)
 - UCSB: [link](#)
- Resources from the AEA: [link](#)
 - timeline: [link](#) [▶ timeline](#)

semoga bermanfaat dan terima kasih

contact us:

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Suggested timeline by AEA

**May to
September**

Research and begin selecting schools

To decide which program is the best fit, potential students should consider their own qualifications (including their GRE scores, their GPA, and their mathematical preparation) as well as the methodological approach, fields of specialization, predominant ideology, size of program, program culture (cooperative, competitive, etc.), typical time-to-degree, required examinations, financial aid, emphasis on mathematics, job prospects, and location of the programs to which they apply.

September

Practice for the GRE

This could include using an on-line preparation website, a printed or electronic study guide (widely available at bookstores), or taking a specific course. The test is administered by Educational Testing Service, and their website (www.ets.org) provides extensive information on the GRE.

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October

Take the GRE for first time by October

Contact individuals to solicit letters of recommendation. Potential factors to consider when soliciting letter writers are the degree to which he/she can assess your potential abilities in graduate school (including your mathematical background and your analytical skills) and his/her prestige. Non-native speakers may also want to have supplementary letters addressing written and verbal communication skills.

November

Re-take the GRE, if needed, and prepare applications and statement of purpose

**December to
Early January**

Applications generally due around this time

**February to
April**

Acceptance decisions released