

MAIA Alumni Story Sharing by Ms. Yang Yuting: All We Have Is Now — My Ph.D. Application Journey



My name is Yang Yuting. I graduated from the Master of Arts in International Accounting (MAIA) programme offered by the Department of Accountancy, the City University of Hong Kong. Beginning in September 2023, I will be attending Durham University in the U.K. to pursue Ph.D. studies. I am very honoured to have the opportunity to share my Ph.D. application experience.

Immediate action is the first step in doing anything. Once I made up my mind to apply for a Ph.D., I consulted with professors and classmates about the application requirements and collected relevant information online, striving to find a target university that matched my background and strengths. I was also motivated by my dream universities and supervisors, as I hope one day to become an excellent researcher like them.

We all know that the future is bright, but the road is winding. This means that we will encounter various difficulties, and what is most important is how we respond. For example, there may be scheduling conflicts during the preparation of application materials. Therefore, it is important to be organized, by first making a clear schedule and plan and then completing each to-do item step by step. The way to solve difficulties is to face them.

During the application process, your strengths and background are very important. If you want to go to a highly rated university, you should focus your time and energy on improving your background, which is something you have control over. For example, you should create a polished, standardized research proposal, achieve high scores on the GRE and GMAT exams, strive for high grades in graduate studies, and carefully prepare for your Ph.D. interviews. Performing these tasks will add a lot of points to your application, as they will demonstrate your efforts.

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With a clear goal in mind, one can move forward without hesitation, whether one is applying for a Ph.D. or doing something else. And lastly, I am very grateful to Dr. XIN Xiangang, who encouraged me to make a Ph.D. application, and to Dr. Zheng Liu and the Department of Accountancy for their support and companionship. My journey to Ph.D. studies has been long, but luckily, they have been with me.

Of course, applying for a Ph.D. is a tug-of-war that lasts for several months. Whenever I felt confused, I communicated with the people around me. They made me feel warm and loved, letting me know I was not alone. Even if they did not solve my doubts, discussing the issues with them helped me sort through the material and clear my mind. I also played sports, which I find enjoyable and which helped renew my energies.

