

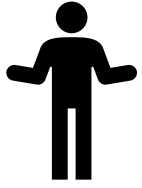
Finding 'the One' - Towards a Painless PhD Application Journey

A 'retrospective' review of my miserable migration from Bioengineering to Chemical Engineering

Binghuan Webster Li | Department of Chemical Engineering

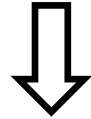
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1 November 2023

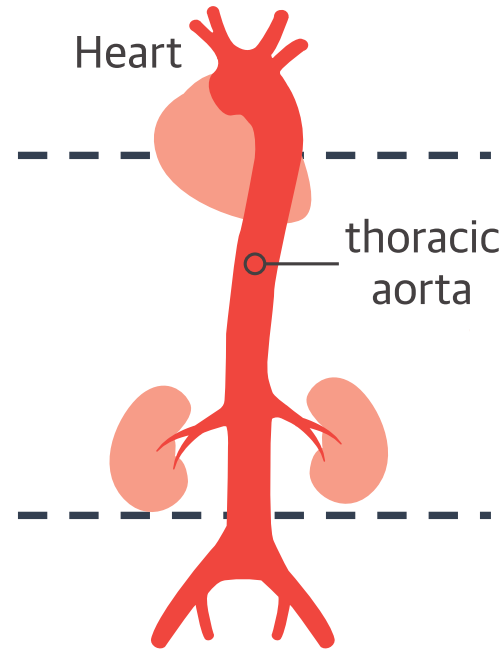


About me...

MEng, Biomedical
Engineering (2019-23)



Research PG,
Chemical Engineering,
(2023 - ?)



*Learned nothing...
probably*

*Endeavouring on
learning... no guarantee*

本人郑重承诺：
我仅代表 Imperial College
最低教育水平，不能体现该
校平均实力，特此声明。



Bioengineering

Biomechanics and Mechanobiology

Biomedical Sensing, Diagnostics and Imaging

Computational and Theoretical Modelling

Medical Devices

Molecular and Cellular Bioengineering

Neurotechnology and Robotics

Regenerative medicine and Biomaterials



Chemical Engineering

Biomedical engineering and industrial biotechnology

Energy and environmental engineering

Materials

Multiphase transport processes

Multiscale thermodynamics and molecular systems

Reaction engineering and applied catalysis

Separation

Soft matter engineering

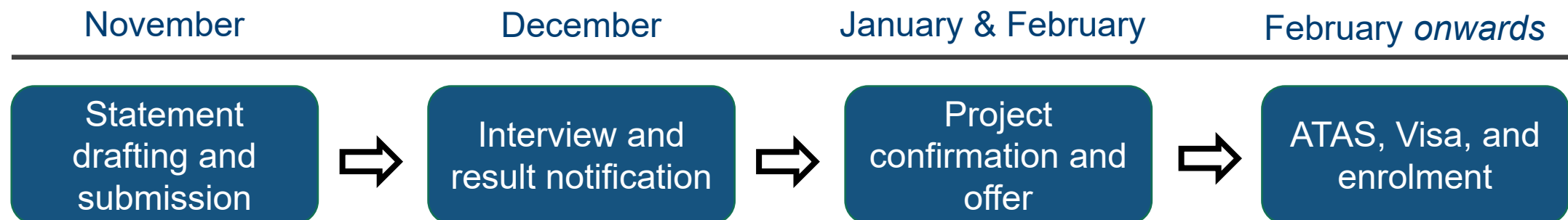
PhD at Chemical Engineering

- 3 round applications + rolling-basis acceptance

- 10 departmental scholarships – regardless of fee status
- 5 EPSRC DTP scholarships for home students
- Funding offered by Academics

Round	Departmental application deadline
1	31 October 2023
2	31 December 2023
3	28 February 2024

- *“I want to be considered for the scholarship”*



Make an action!

Identify your
research interest



Where is my
potential supervisor?



Approaching
supervisors

- What subject area interests you?
- What do you not want to do within that subject area?
- Have several ideas

- Your current supervisor? Or someone from Imperial?
- Who's the big guy in your field?
- FindAPhD-like webs?

- Who are the key academic groups and researchers?
- ***Linking up!***
- CV, motivation email, and summary of your ideas

Prepare your answers

Why research captivate you?

What are the current limitations in your proj.?

What do you know about this area of work?

past

now



Why do you wish to pursue a PhD?

How would you like to plan your research?

How do you envision your research impact?

Where will it take you?

future

Be persuasive!

- *Professional*
- *Intension-revealing*
- *Motivated*
- *Visionary*

But... pitfalls!

Identify your research interest

- “I definitely need to know the methods I will use very well.”
- “I don’t have publications...”

Approaching supervisors

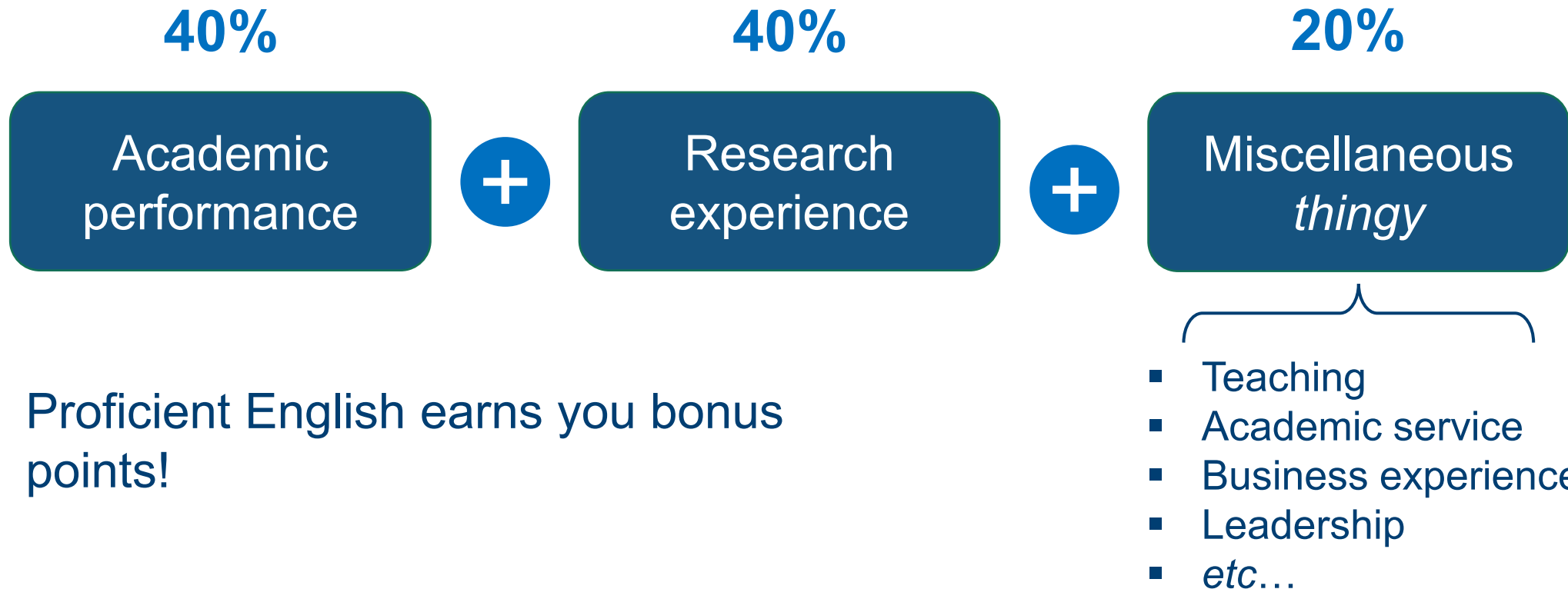
- Wordy (e.g., lengthy email)
- Over-simplified (e.g., 1 page CV)
- I will be waiting forever...

Statement and Interview

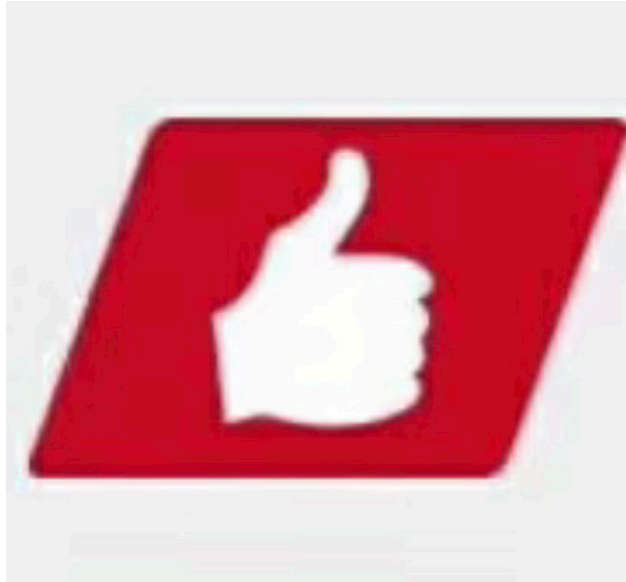
- “Ummm... I don’t really need know all details of the project I involved; they won’t ask anyways.”
- Disparage – please don’t

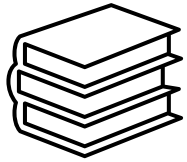
What qualifies you...

- A very personal perspective - *weighted sum* fashion



- Proficient English earns you bonus points!





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