

Application overview

September 2020

1 Profile

General info:

- **Undergrad Institution:** International (University of Auckland)
- **Major(s):** mathematics, physics
- **Minor(s):** none GPA: 3.99/4.00
- **Type of Student:** International, Male, of-Asian-descent

GRE:

- **GRE General Test:** Quantitative: 170 (96%), Verbal: 160 (86%), Writing: 5.5 (98%)
- **GRE Subject Test in Mathematics:** Math: 850 (86%)

Other info:

- **Mathematical interests** Application was focused on geometry, with some mathematical physics angles.
- **Research Experience:** Three REUs at my own institution, each three months long, in mathematical biology, topology, and fluid dynamics respectively. Also carried out a year long project for BSc (Honours). No publications.
- **Awards/Honors/Recognitions:** First in graduating cohort for BSc (Hons) in maths (2018). First in graduating cohort for BSc in math (2017). A number of scholarships.
- **Pertinent Activities or Jobs:** Research assistant at a bioengineering institute. Teaching assistant from 2016 through to the time-of-application.
- **Other miscellaneous points that might help my application:** A relatively famous and well-connected recommender. Bilingual.

2 Results

Schools ordered vaguely by priority. I was fortunate to have the means to apply to many (17) schools.

- Stanford Waitlisted 2/01. Admitted 4/11. Accepted offer 4/12.
- MIT Rejected 2/12.
- UChicago Rejected 3/14.
- Harvard Rejected 2/06.
- Princeton Rejected 1/30.
- UC Berkeley Rejected 2/08.
- Cornell Rejected 2/07.
- Columbia Promising contact from faculty 1/27. Rejected 2/07.
- Brown Admitted 2/04. Declined offer 4/13.
- Caltech Waitlisted 2/06. Withdrew from waitlist 2/12.
- UC Los Angeles Rejected 3/14.
- UC San Diego Admitted 1/28. Declined offer 4/12.
- U Washington Admitted 3/06. Declined offer 3/26.
- Stony Brook Admitted 2/20. Declined offer 2/21.
- UC Davis Promising contact from faculty 1/28. Admitted 1/29. Declined offer 2/26.
- UC Santa Barbara Admitted 1/31. Declined offer 2/01.
- UC Irvine Interview request 1/12. Interviewed 1/15. Admitted 2/05. Declined offer 2/11.