From REU to grad student: My path to Harvard

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Graduate Student Advising Workshop
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I was just like you
Being an REU showed me if I liked a place

Made Harvard and Berkeley top choices

Received references after summer work
the year of applying

Aug-Oct  Apply for fellowships
Oct-Dec  Take GRE’s and subject test
Dec-Jan  Apply to schools
Feb-Mar  Hear back from schools
Mar-Apr  Visit schools
By April 15th  Make decision
crunch time
going abroad to study

Fellowships Abroad
- Fulbright
- Gates
- Churchill
- Claredon

Great gap year opportunities

Could turn into graduate degree
Located 3 miles from Boston

Birthplace of the Revolution

Home of the Red Sox, Celtics, Bruins, & Patriots

Great public transportation
Grad Population - 16000
Undergrad Population - 6000
Largest Academic Library
Largest Endowment in the World - $27.5B
by the programs

Applied Physics
Applied Mathematics
Computer Science
Engineering Sciences
Electrical, Environmental, Mechanical, & Bioengineering
Classwork: 8 + 2
Oral Qualifying Exam
Dissertation & Defense

Average time: 5.5 years
now onto science...
our laser pulse = 100 fs
our laser pulse = 100 fs

light bulb  sunlight in orbit  sun’s surface  ns laser pulse  fs laser pulse

sun’s surface

sunlight in orbit

fastest cameras

computer processing

a neuron firing

a blink

a minute

time (seconds)

intensity (W/m²)

10⁻¹⁵  10⁻¹²  10⁻⁹  10⁻⁶  10⁻³  10⁰  10³

10⁻¹⁵  10⁻¹²  10⁻⁹  10⁻⁶  10⁻³  10⁰  10³

10⁰  10³  10⁶  10⁹  10¹²  10¹⁵  10¹⁸
using lasers for solar

Graetzel, M. Nature (2001)
using lasers for solar
using lasers for solar microstructures

untreated

air

$O_2$

$N_2$
Be true to yourself

Fit matters

Good luck!