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Vijay Ramesh is a (soon-to-be) finishing PhD candidate at Columbia University. His work is broadly focused on how climatic and landscape changes impact bird communities in the Western Ghats of south India.

I wanted to share a few resources (some maybe North America specific) that really helped me when I was applying to grad school (while most are broadly catered for ecology/evolution PhDs, I believe some of the advice is pretty generic and useful):

Anusha Shankar's excellent blog page on grad school advice -

<https://anushashankar.weebly.com/grad-school-advice.html>

Jennie Miller's (Anusha's is sort of modeled after Jennie's) grad school advice page - <https://www.jennie-miller.com/career-advice.html>

Going by the current timelines:

- a) May-August: Make a list of all the folks you want to apply to (This might also be a good time to give your GRE, if you are applying to a school that still wants GRE).
 - b) September-October: Start emailing professors that you had made a big list of.
 - c) October-November: Schedule skype calls with professors and grad students in their labs who expressed interest to work with you. **I think this is critical because we rarely get the opportunity to simply fly to the US/Europe to meet our prospective advisors.** This will give you a better sense of whether you would like to work with prof X/Y.
 - d) October-December: Around the same time, start drafting your applications - SOPs are critical and most important for ecology programs. Reach out to your recommenders early enough so that they send a letter in time.
- Wrap up apps by mid-December and then begins the anxious process of waiting to hear from schools