

# Overseas Research Fellowship (ORF) Sharing Session



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Major in Statistics

ORF Participant (2024-25)

22nd, Jan, 2026

# Outline

**Application**

**Personal  
Experience**

# Application Procedure



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✓ Find Potential Supervisor

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✓ Application Materials

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✓ Interview

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✓ Visa

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# Find Potential Supervisor

## **A: External Programs**

- eg: Caltech SURF
- Pros: quota, organized
- Cons: separate application, competitive

## **B: Exchange Institute**

- Pros: meet in person, easy to find and extend visa
- Cons: limited opportunity

## **C: Emails**

- Pros: flexible topics and location
- Cons: high efforts for searching, low response rate



# Tips for Emails

1. If no response, send more emails
2. Things might want to mention: research experience, related coursework, funding...
3. Be concise
4. Tricks: HKU alumni

# Application Materials

## Deadlines

- **February 16, 2026 (Monday)**
- April 13, 2026 (Monday)

## Research Proposal

- Limit: 500 words
- Discuss with your supervisor

## Recommendation Letters

- External Supervisor
- Internal Supervisor

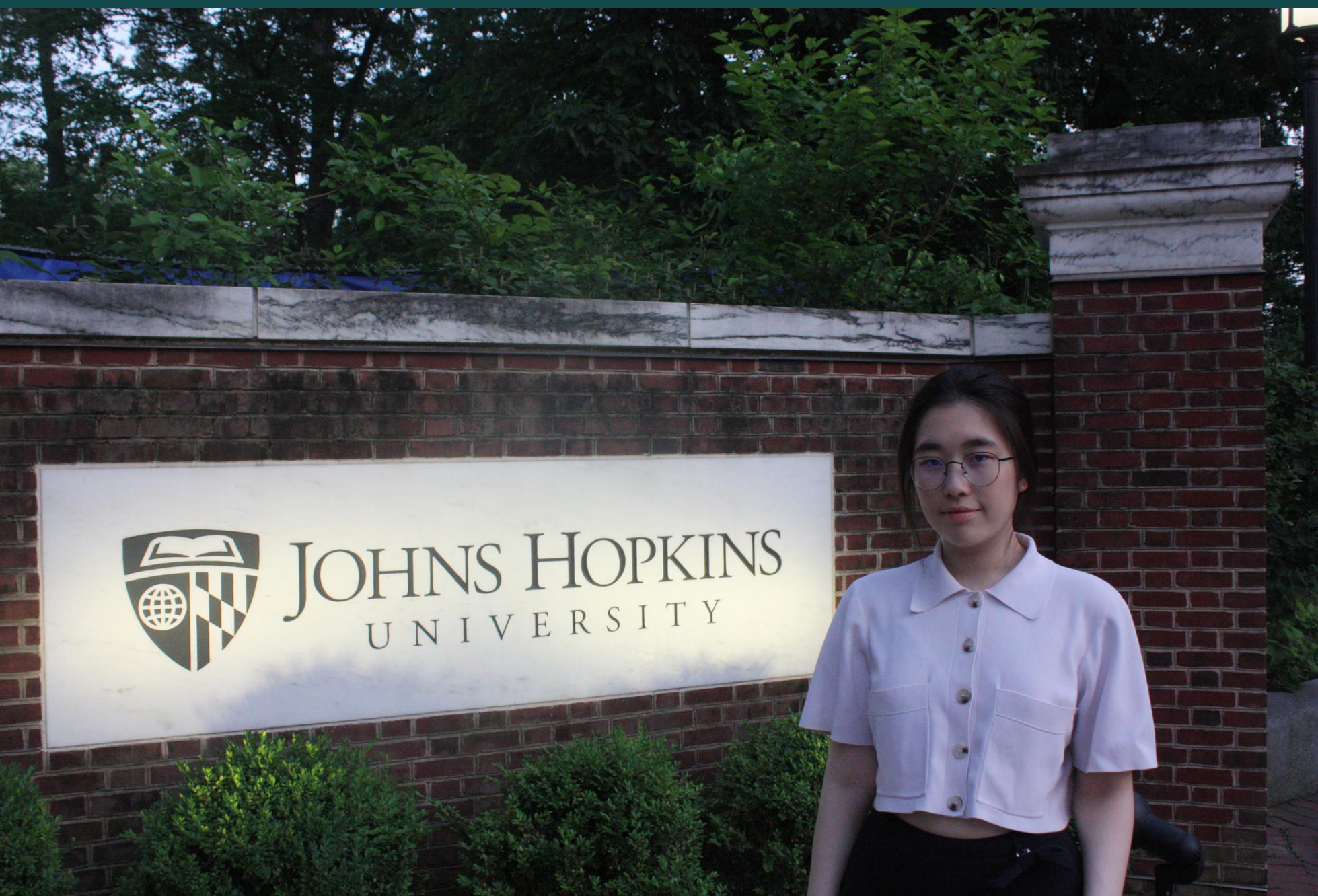
Submit through Science Online Application Submission System (OASS)

# Interview

- Know your proposal well

# Visa

- Result known around April (if applied by 1<sup>st</sup> ddl)
- Apply for visa ASAP!
- Extension: get approval from exchange institute, HKU, and research institute.



# Personal Experience

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- Institute: Johns Hopkins University
- Location: Baltimore, United States
- Time: May-September
- Supervisor: Prof. Haoyang Cao
- Research Topic: Stochastic Control

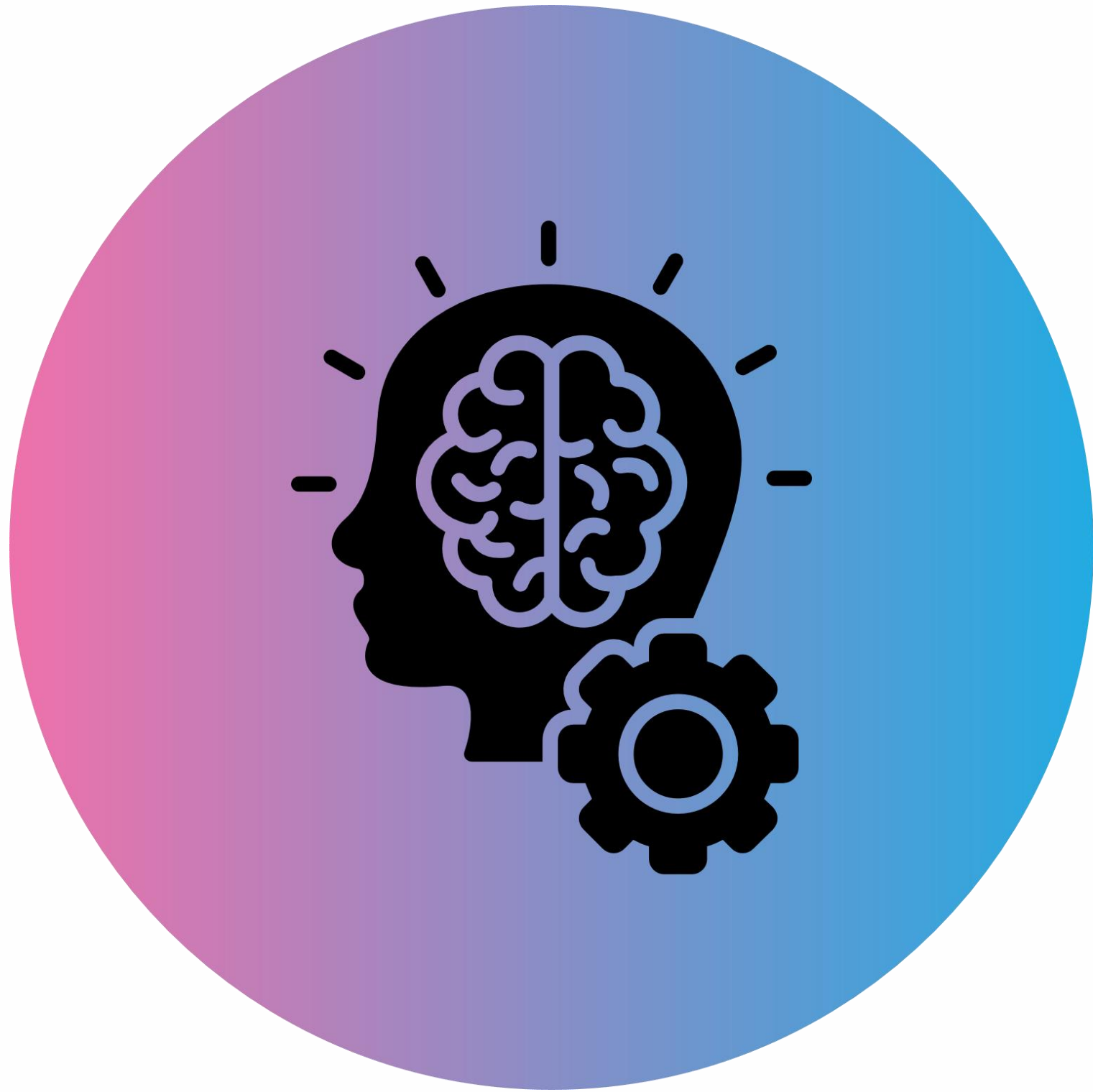


## **At first...**

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PhD-level textbook and give lectures

Intense meetings twice a week



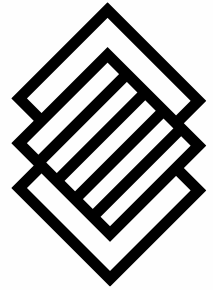
# Later

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Build up foundations

Clear academic direction

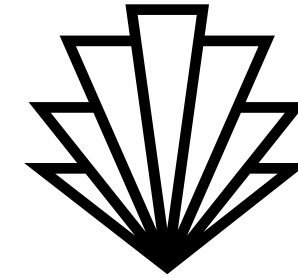
# Final Takeaways



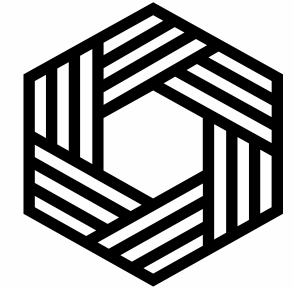
Self learning



Active learning



Be passionate



Keep contact  
with your  
supervisor

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**Thank You  
Good Luck!**