Becoming a PhD student: What does it take?

From now—September
- Decide a subject area
- Research who/where are strong in this area
- Make a list
- As soon as applications open, start
- Research external funding opportunities

GRE (Graduate Record Examination) (US only)
- General test (~$170)
  - Computer based
  - Verbal reasoning
  - Writing
  - Numerical
Subject Test (Paper based)  (~$100-250)
- 65 multiple choice, 2 hrs 50 mins
- 50% Calculus (several variables, ODEs)
- 25% Linear Algebra
- 25% Other topics (complex analysis, discrete mathematics, groups, rings etc., probability, topology, real analysis)

Test dates
- 15th September (Pending)
- 27th October
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**US**
- 5-6 years (including coursework 1-2 years followed by qualifying)
- Don’t need to have specific supervision in mind

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<td>- 3-4 years</td>
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<td>- Need to choose a supervisor beforehand</td>
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<td>- Start emailing people in September</td>
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Typically need 3 reference letters (should be done by now).
In application, you sent emails referencing (Do this early).

Application Materials:
- Personal details
- Academic transcript
- CV (publications, preprints, talks...)
- Personal Statement
- (US) GRE scores
- IELTS, TOEFL, or other test scores/translation
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**UK**. If you get considered for an offer, you have to do a (Skype) interview.
- Cambridge: technical questions, research
- Oxford: more informal research

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<td><strong>US</strong>: Dec 15</td>
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<td><strong>UK</strong>: Throughout Jan</td>
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Offers come out:
- US: Jan - end of Mar
- UK: February, Jan-Feb

Offer deadlines:
- US: Apr 15
- UK: Early March