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Waterloo university application form

Edit on July 5, 2020: Hi 2021 applicants, if you have any questions that you have that have not been addressed in this article, feel free to reach out to me on Facebook/LinkedIn :) I am not affiliated with the University of Waterloo or uWaterloo Voice by writing this article. uWaterloo Voice asked me after I published this article if they can also publish under their name to share it with more people. Hey guys! My name is Paul Oh and I am currently a 1A-1B Software Engineering student at the University of Waterloo and I wanted to share my experiences and tips to help you with the adoption! :) Keep in mind that most inputs will be related to Mathematics/CS and Software Engineering.1. OUJAC Applications1.1 Apply to OUJAC as soon as possible. Most, if not all, universities send out their own account system for admission and it usually takes them from a few days a week for them to send out email related to the account for you.1.2 The University of Waterloo is not looking at your OUJAC rankings at all. Other universities, such as the University of Toronto, are known for putting OUJAC rankings into their account. Personally, when I applied to universities knowing that I ranked all my UOFT programs as #1 and #2 on the OUJAC rankings.1.3 Use as soon as you can for all programs while trying to do your best on complementary applications.2. Input Information Form (AIF)2.1 When writing an AIF, most applicants make the mistake of just praising the University of Waterloo. If the question asks you: Why do you want to come to Waterloo?, you want to answer this by combining 2 components. (What uWaterloo has to offer) + (Why do you need / How you use it to meet your goal)An example of just praising uWaterloo states: The University of Waterloo has the best co-op program/engineering program/etc., the University of Waterloo provides the best opportunity to create a startup with its speed launch incubator, and just ends up there because you've already met the 900 character limit. These comments are good for application in nature; However, you want to do more than just praise uWaterloo.2.2 Write a personal anecdote about yourself. As mentioned above, you really need to emphasize your dreams and add how Waterloo can help you.2.3 Do research at the University of Waterloo, and specifically, your program. You want to indicate the uniqueness that Waterloo can offer you, and you want to be detailed about it. Examples:SE provides cohort settings, different from other programs at Waterloo11 from Forbes 30 under 30 for 2019 are Waterloo graduates (*Note: there are many categories of Forbes 30 under 30, and each category has 30 people)Speed is a leading business incubator at the University of WaterlooLargest SK Department in CanadaThe largest EDE department in CanadaE try to develop into such unique qualities about Waterloo into your story.2.4 I will mention important issues in each part of the AIF, giving tips on how to write them. Part AQuestion 1: Reasons for Choosing Your Program and Waterloo (* Required) Please tell us about your educational goals, your interest in the chosen program(s), and your reasons for applying to the University of Waterloo. If you have asked for more than one program, please discuss your interest in each program. (900 character limit) Here, you really want to answer all the questions they have. If you analyze, this question asks three things: Educational goalsInterest in programs that you ask for Reasons for use on uWaterlooYou have to answer all these questions in an unofficial format, as a story. I personally think there is not enough space here to write about what you have researched about the program that you are applying for. Rather, you really write about yourself, what you want to become, why you started liking the areas you are requesting (e.g. computer science), and how the SE/CS program at uWaterloo is needed for your journey to achieve your goals. Due to the limit of 900 characters, write them as accurately as you can and delete any unnecessary comment. Part BQuestion 4: For more information in the specific information required in all AIF issues, tell us something else about yourself that you would like us to know when we will check your application. Before submitting this page, make sure that you have completed all parts of the AIF. (900 character limit) Personally, I used this section to write as an extension of Part A, Question 1. Here you can now explain in more detail what you have prepared so far to achieve your goals (e.g. explain your work experience, the programming challenges you have taken over). Also, though, writing these sections, make sure these sentences really show your ambition and personality as well. To do that, you need to explain the reasons why you made these experiences and how they help you in your life. Also now you can mention the research that you did on SE / CS as I mentioned in section 2.3. Now recognize how you did research in programs that interest you. If you haven't written anything for this question just because it was optional. I don't think you're ambitious enough compared to other applicants to get into the program you want, and that's what admissions officials think even when reading your application. If you're applying for engineering, there's another engineering section. EngineeringBecause flow as I answered these two questions is similar, I will explain both questions at once. Question 1: Engineering objectivesAs know why you are interested in engineering, especially in the program to which you have subscribed. Comment, for example, on your interests and abilities; your career goals; exposure to engineering through school and other experience; and discussions you have had with engineers, teachers, current past Waterloo students. (900 character limit) Question 2: More about your goals What kinds of things would you like to do or achieve at Waterloo Engineering and why? (900 character limit) Explanation: Question 1: Your ambitious goals and what you have done so far to prepare for these goals. They ask specifically about the following: Your interests and abilitiesAlthen career goalsPast exposure engineeringPrelimit large discussions with engineers, teachers and Waterloo studentsCity 2: How can Waterloo Engineering help you? Now, once you've explained your ambitious goals, they want to know more about how Waterloo Engineering will help you and what you'll accomplish here.Compared to the About You section, they ask you about more specific topics in this section. That means they want to get more deep about you. When I wrote these sections, I continued my stream of ideas from question 1 to question 2 and combined it as if it were just one essay. This made my story flow better for the admissions officer to easily understand. If the About You section was on the topic of your broad goals, I wrote these paragraphs specifically focused on what I want to achieve at Waterloo, adding to the details here and there, and using unique facts about Waterloo. I provided a justification for why I need those achievements at Waterloo to succeed in my future goals. The rest of the AIFs are mostly fact-based, which means you only have to list your previous achievements and have fewer opinions/goals about them. For programming the knowledge section, you can also just list your programming knowledge in point form and so.2.5 The really great website that I received my AIF advice from was and (now changed to but read both of these websites). On be sure to read all the comments as well because he answers a few questions in the answer thread. I highly recommend you read the relevant articles on this website before writing to the AIF. Hold here for a moment and open the current copy of your AIF if you have one. Check to see if you can improve your AIF in any way. Slowing down or processing on this application process will cost you your next 4-5 years (and which jobs you get). I don't want to put you under more pressure than you, and this is mostly for those who intend to put off uni apps.3. InterviewYou should take this online conversation as seriously as your AIF. Here are some tips on how to do an interview.3.1 There are 2 questions that Waterloo asks its applicants. The first question is usually about yourself (the applicant) and the second question that it's another one about yourself or about creative/problem solving.3.2 Note that for all questions you have around 30s to 60s to prepare and 60s to answer depending on the question.3.3 When Actually time to do an interview, you should have a pencil and paper ready to write down some points you want to say during the preparation time. During preparation time, one thing I did as a grade 12 was to enter down the points that I want to say that interview question on the word document. You can then face the camera while reading notes during the interview.3.4 Practice! Practice! You can practice unlimited times on the user interface that Waterloo uses for online conversations. For practical questions, they ask real questions that have been asked by another applicant.3.5 I would recommend wearing them formally or formally informally for these types of interviews (admission to university).3.6 Have a monochromatic background with good lighting for less distraction for the admission officer, who follows you.3.7 Make sure that you double-check your microphone and webcam to make sure that the reception officer who monitors this clearly sees and hears you.3.8 Here are some instructions for each of these 2 question categories.1. First question: About yourselfHere, you really more or less describe yourself to admissions officers and want to relate back to why you need to go to Waterloo and why you should be recruited. Basically, you want to have a relative idea of how to answer these questions by answering similar types of questions in advance. You can really remember the answers to the examples I have below if you want.ex. What are your biggest flaws. Tell me about yourself.ex. Why did you decide to use Waterloo Engineeringex.? What type of co-op jobs do you want to get?ex. How can Waterloo prepare you to achieve your goals?ex. How do you manage success and how does it help you in your co-op program?ex. Let's remember, once you worked in a team you weren't happy with. How did you solve the problem?ex. When were you unethical about something you did and how do you think about it? However, these may seem slightly twisted (although it's already general). Please note that questions can be simple or redirected to something like What type of work do you want for your first collaboration?, but basically they ask very similar types of questions.2. Second question: Around a 50/50 chance there is another one about yourself, or creative/problem-solving issues. You can't really remember the answers to creative/problem-solving questions unlike previous questions about you. This means that the best way to prepare these types of questions is by doing more and more procedures in advance. Be sure to use a pencil and paper to prepare time for this one, because you will need to draw diagrams and do calculations to get organized answer.ex. Creative questions: Einstein once said: The real sign of intelligence is not knowledge, but imagination. How does this quote affect your life?ex. Problem solving: The city where you live is hosting the Olympics for next year. How would you allocate budgets to FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS4.1 The correction factor applies only to the faculty of mechanical engineering of the University of Waterloo. There are no correction factors for the Faculty of Math.4.2 Early admission for software engineering (and all other engineering programs) to take 25% of your applicant's place. Last year, early admissions came out on Monday in the last week of February.4.3 Early admissions for engineering are due by February 1, please apply for before they need to be considered for early admission. I remember emailing general admissions, engineering admissions, SE admissions, etc. about it last year as an applicant.4.4 Early admission to the faculty of maths (including computer science) is very rare (although there are only a few) compared to how the faculty of engineering handles their early admission.4.5 You can change the program that you apply for OUJAC for the same university without having to pay an additional fee before OUJAC deadline.4.6 You can even change which engineering you used during admission. Let's say you are applying for environmental engineering and have already received your early admission at the end of February. If you feel that you want to switch the engineering principal you have requested, you can contact the admissions officer to switch engineering applications to ex. Computer engineering, but your previous acceptance will be revoked and your application must now go through computer engineering. You can, but I don't recommend it tbh.4.7 There's Kpop Elective (EASIA 336R) and more or less Anime Elective (EASIA 120R) for those of you interested.4.8 You should really check out this article on Waterloo entry myths and misconceptions: My list of informatics/software engineering programs to apply for in 2019 (at OUJAC)1/2. Software Engineering/Informatics (Co-op) - University of Waterloo3. Mathematics (Co-op) - University of Waterloo4. Computer Science Dev Degree - Carleton University5. Software Engineering Dev Degree - York University6. Engineering Sciences (Machine Intelligence Major) - University of Toronto (St. George)7. Computer Science (Co-op) - University of Toronto (Scarborough)8. Computer Science (Co-op) - McMaster University9. Computer Science (Co-op) - Ryerson University*Disclaimer: Note that it can be very different from person to person, based on their preferences and skills. This part is very subjective. It's just my compilation of which programs I would apply to if I was grade 12 this year and the reasons why I would apply to these programs. You don't have to follow or copy what I wrote here, and if you're a parent reading this, don't make your child relate to these programs. My preferences are more focused on gaining experience in computer science and my choices reflect that.5.1 My 1st/2 successful graduates of the two programmes. The University of Waterloo is known for its innovative graduates in the technology industry. SE / CS programs are very similar in nature (learning CS, preparing for the tech industry) and is based on personal preference for what you want to belong to. Having said that, the choice between SE and CS is of great interest to many students, and I will explain that later on this article in Section 7. Here are more websites for information about SE and CS. /ugradcalendar.uwaterloo.ca/page/ENG-Software-Engineering_ca/future-students/programs/computer-science5.2 My third choice for mathematics at the University of Waterloo is mainly for two reasons: the Data Science program and the uWaterloo job opportunities can still provide its co-op program. According to the Bachelor of Mathematics, a student can declare their principal as Data Science in their second year with approximately an 85+ average in the first year (this could be very difficult and not guaranteed, which is a disadvantage). The Data Science program, in short, includes methods of database management, statistics, machine learning, and distributed/parallel systems. It's the integration of both CS/Statistics, and as a Data Science student, you have the same access as cs students at uWaterloo (now you're basically a CS student). In addition, like BMath, many students still go into the tech industry to pursue software developer jobs if they are still interested in the field, and the WaterlooWorks system still allows BMath students to apply to tech companies.* Note that there is also a Bachelor of Computer Science Data Science that is very similar to BMath Data Science. You can check more here: My 4th/5th Choice by Shopify Dev Degree Programs at Carleton University and York University. Shopify Dev Degree guarantees you the position of developer in Shopify for all four years of the university. You are basically getting a BCS degree along with 4 years of experience preparing you as a future software engineer in the technology industry. Optimally, gaining experience in Shopify for the first year, then moving to larger companies or to areas you want to explore would be best. Carleton University would be the third choice instead of York University since Carleton University originally started this program, and it worked well for them; since this is York University's first year to try this program. /www.devdegree.ca/5.4 My 6. Engineering Sciences is a really great program, one of the best engineering programs at the University of Toronto. The only file back is that it's basically an engineering program, so there are a lot of non-CS courses that you should have. In addition, Eng Sci large companies, such as machine intelligence program, start in 3, so you have to wait two years. Still, Machine Intelligence major provides students with cutting-edge education in math, computing, computer hardware and software engineering behind artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning, and big data analysis. There is also a Professional Experience Year (PEY) at U T Engineering where you can work 12-16 months in the company, gaining experience and earning money. My 7th/8th/9th choices are pretty much back-up CS programs with co-op programs. McMaster University and Ryerson University would be on an easier end to get a GPA; whereas U T Scarborough can be heavier and has a so-called label (the label as in U T is perceived positively by employers). Although the tech industry doesn't often value the university that their applicants attended, there are still target schools, which large companies might be looking for students, and U T is one of them.5.6 Programs I did not rank U T St. George Computer ScienceFirstly, their POST 2nd-year cutoff is insanely high, especially stipulation that earning a GPA is very difficult on U T. For those of you who do not know what the post is, it is a special requirement that U T set for their first-year CS students if they want to advance to 2. They have also recently changed their POST requirements so that other large companies apply for 2. Compared to U T Scarborough CS, the post requirement is higher, making it so more competitive to continue as the main CS. You are not guaranteed a major in CS, even if you have been accepted as the main CS. One good thing is that U T CS offers a PEY program as well, but I can't say it is equivalent to a co-op program at Waterloo. I think U T CS is a great program, but the post requirement just really fits me :(You should still use it if you think so. UBC, McGill University I've heard that the CS and CE program at UBC and McGill are pretty good, but for both of these universities, I don't think I have enough knowledge of them to write reviews. There may be other universities with their CS programs, but I haven't heard of them. So no comments on universities that I don't know.6. He wants to do Software Engineering (SE) but do not know what backups should be? Or the SE seems too competitive and wants to apply for another program?6.1 First, I want to clear up confusion about when students should or shouldn't apply for software engineering and consider other engineering majors. I constantly hear people who don't want to apply for software engineering because they seem too competitive. I think it's logical that students should have it, but sometimes people misjed when and when they shouldn't apply for an SE. I. the line where people shouldn't have any of these thoughts is when you have a 93+ average. This could be very different for any case, so I don't want to suggest that you shouldn't pay for an SE if you have a top 6 average below 93. Rather, I try to suggest that if you have a 93+ diameter, you shouldn't be discouraged from covering the SE. The statistics are as follows:Chart of admission chances for 2019: Bishop, William. Chance to enter in autumn 2019. The road to engineering, the University of Waterloo, www.theroadtoengineering.com/2018/09/06/chances-of-admission-for-fall-2019/This is an admissions chance chart for 2019. After the SE curve, blue dotted lines, you have approximately a 14% chance of being taken with 93.6.2 My thoughts on back-up or alternative options. For engineering, common backup options for SE are often:Systems Design Engineering (SYDE)Computer Engineering (CE)Mechatronics Engineering (MTE). People may have a hard time considering between these programs and software engineering or choosing an alternative program between them. First, SYDE and CE can get good programming co-op jobs and are not at a disadvantage. Note that SYDE has its own course system (SYDE XXX course codes) and their academics are a little easier than SE/CE. This also means that you would have more freedom to explore other options than just programming and working on side projects. If you want to explore more about what you want to do later, whether it's a developer, product manager, consultant, etc., I highly recommend this program. Looking at my friends' courses in CE, there are a lot of overlaps in the first year and they diverge afterwards. Also, both CE and SE seem to be at the same level of difficulty. The only major difference is that SE takes CS and MATH courses offered by the Faculty of Math, while CE courses are offered mainly by ece departments. If you want to know more about the computer as a whole, I suggest you apply for the CE. I also wrote a comparison between SE vs CS vs CE below, so check that out. MTE is not focused on programming jobs and deals with more robotics and machines. These jobs require more robotics knowledge (like hardware and software, but mostly robotics-oriented hardware) and this may not be the best alternative if you want to work in software. However, if you are really interested in robotics from high school (First Canada, Robotics Competition, etc.), I recommend this program. Tbh, I think all these programs are very good, and it's really important to find out which one would suit what you want to do most in the future. Please take an in depth look at each of these programs in the following links instead of assessing the main based on its title. A lot of people relate to their big companies without knowing much about them, just to find out that they don't really like them or their job prospects don't fit the main are The difference between software engineering, computer science, computer engineering at Waterloo University has an article about it here: I will show my perspective on them as a first-year student with the help of my friends who are in each of these disciplines. First, most of the time, students in all 3 disciplines have relatively equal job prospects: software engineer/developer. The difference really comes when talking about academics and learning environments. Software engineering (SE)The general focus of SE is spent on software applications compared to CS and CE. It's more about the whole software development process from idea to final productSE 1A 2018: 125 studentsAll 5 years are taken with the same cohort. This means that you are in a class with the same group of people for all, if not most, of your courses. This will help you build stronger friendships/connections during your time at the universityAss influenced by both engineering faculties and faculty of math. Note that your promotion requirements and rules are different for each faculty, so you should check them out to see the trend of SE students getting better professors than CE students in comparison, but it might just be my subjective first-year observationsThere are hardly any choices for electricians compared to SE because it has many required courses. Continuing double degrees/majors/joints/minors/options may be difficult on your course term, but it is still very possiblehere is free freedom to switch majors in the SE than other programs at Waterloo. You can easily switch from SE to CS or CE, but on the contrary it will require you to maintain an extremely high GPA/rankingComputer Science (CS)The general focus of CS is about basic concepts of computer science, learning data structures, algorithms, programming techniques, and so on. Due to its flexibility, you can choose to specialize in one or more areas of computer science in the upper years by taking specific coursesCS 1A 2018: ~300 studentsAll of your courses are largely with different people, so people that you meet during a certain class, you may never see againDuch or triple the percentage of international students compared to SE / CE. That's mainly because the Canadian government sets a ceiling of 15% for the maximum percentage of international students in the engineering program. CS is within the faculty of mathematics, so it does not have thatstrikme according to the mathematics faculty, it changes many things actually (term requirements for support, graduation requirements, etc.) Many and many voters! Many CS students end up doing double degrees/majors/joints/underage/options (and mix the whole bunch). This is actually very important if you want to do more than just CS for 5-years and do something else you also likeComputer Engineering (CE)The general focus of CE is spent on system computers, digital computer hardware and software that manages itECE 1A 2018: 372 students (meaning both EE and CE students)A little cohort. Most courses are only accepted with ECE students, but there are many ECE students in the first place, so it is not grouped, like SEStrictly by engineering facultySimilar on SE, there are not many options for voters due to the high burden of required courses. Doing double degrees/joints/underage/options can be difficult on your term course, but it is still very possible. Really good references to SE vs. CS vs. CE: /uwaterloo.ca/software-engineering/future-undergraduate-students/frequently-asked-questions I know most of you have already started writing your application for Waterloo, but I'm still hoping it cleared away some of the questions that you had in your mind about Waterloo! Waterloo!