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How to apply and succeed in U.S. graduate schools



Former ATC instructor Vahé Heboyan, PhD in Applied Economics, the University of Georgia, met with the ATC seniors at a regular Friday seminar on December 2 to advise on how to apply and succeed in American graduate schools. Dr. Heboyan was on a short-term mission in Armenia and was happy to speak to the current students and see the progress the school has achieved over the recent years.

Dr. Heboyan provided hands-on advice on: timing, requirements, university screening and the application process itself that he divided into four major parts: initial inquiry to the department, graduate school application, departmental application, and immigration matters. Two of Dr. Heboyan's main recommendations to those planning to go to the U.S. graduate schools were departmental approach in application process and preference of assistantships rather than scholarships in looking for desirable financial support. As to the issue on how to succeed once they are in a U.S. grad school, he advised to start early, set the right goals, select the right

advisors, diversify the knowledge, and get actively involved in scholarly activity and cultural emersion.

Dr. Heboyan told about his own experience going through all these processes 11 years ago. Then he was selected by the USDA Marketing Assistance Project to study in the U.S. among the six best Armenian State Agrarian University graduates. After his MS degree at the University of Georgia, he came back to Armenia and taught at the ATC for three years, followed by PhD studies back in Georgia. Dr. Heboyan is an instructor and researcher at UGA and combines this activity with advisory work in industry.

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