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# Harvard University questions

## General

|   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| <b>Preferred start term</b>                             | Fall 2026        |
| <b>Admission plan</b>                                   | Regular Decision |
| <b>Preferred residence</b>                              | On Campus        |
| <b>Financial aid</b>                                    | Yes              |
| <b>Do you intend to submit supplementary materials?</b> | No               |
| <b>Taken/Will Take SAT or ACT</b>                       | Yes              |

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## Academics

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Field of study 1</b>  | Computer Science  |
| <b>Field of Study 2</b>  | Applied Mathematics   |
| <b>On a scale of 1 (absolutely certain) to 5 (very likely to change), how definite do you consider your academic plans to be?</b>          | 2   |
| <b>On a scale of 1 (absolutely certain) to 5 (very likely to change), how definite do you consider your vocational plans to be?</b>        | 3   |
| <b>On a scale of 1 (absolutely certain) to 5 (very likely to change), how definite are your extracurricular and/or athletic interests?</b> | 3   |
| <b>Are you applying for a program with the New England Conservatory?</b>   | No  |
| <b>Are you applying for a program with Berklee College of Music?</b>   | No  |
| <b>Honors URL</b>  | <a href="https://stats.ioinformatics.org/people/8325">https://stats.ioinformatics.org/people/8325</a> , <a 294="" 56="" 952="" 968"="" data-label="Page-Footer" href="https://ioai-&lt;/a&gt;&lt;/td&gt;&lt;/tr&gt;&lt;/table&gt;&lt;/div&gt;&lt;div data-bbox="><p>CA Goyal, Samik CEEB: Fall 2026</p></a> |

official.org/china-2025/results-2025/,  
https://neurips.cc/virtual/2025/loc/san-diego/131667,  
https://www.irisnationalfair.org/images/IRIS\_NationalFair2025-  
26Shortlist.pdf

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## Activities

|   |                              |
|---|------------------------------|
| <b>Activity 1</b>                               | Badminton                    |
| <b>Intended level of participation (sports)</b> | Club/Intramural/Recreational |
| <b>Activity 2</b>                               | Track/Cross-Country          |
| <b>Intended level of participation (sports)</b> | Intercollegiate              |

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## Contacts

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Have you previously applied to Harvard?</b> | No  |
| <b>How have you learned about Harvard?</b>     | Family Member   |
| <b>Contact Consent</b>                         | Yes, I consent to be contacted by Harvard University at the mobile phone number provided below. |
| <b>Phone Number</b>                            | [REDACTED]  |

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## Family

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| <b>Parent(s) received bachelor's degree</b> | Yes        |
| <b>Parent different address</b>             | Yes        |
| <b>Which parent has a different address</b> | Parent 2   |
| <b>Parent 2 Address</b>                     | [REDACTED] |
| <b>Is parent 1 living?</b>                  | Yes        |
| <b>Parent 1 Occupation</b>                  | [REDACTED] |
| <b>Parent 1 Employment status</b>           | Employed   |
| <b>Parent 1 Position/Title</b>              | [REDACTED] |
| <b>Parent 1 Current employer</b>            | [REDACTED] |

Is parent 2 living? Yes  
Parent 2 Occupation [REDACTED]  
Parent 2 Employment status Employed  
Parent 2 Position/Title [REDACTED]  
Parent 2 Current employer [REDACTED]  
Number of siblings 0

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## Other Information

Please list the cities, states and countries where you have lived, with years of residence. [REDACTED], India, 03/2008 - [REDACTED]

Additional location and date if applicable [REDACTED], India, [REDACTED] - Current

Have you ever been found responsible for a disciplinary violation at any educational institution? No

Have you ever been convicted of, or pled guilty or no contest to, any felony or misdemeanor? No

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## U.S. Military Veterans

U.S. Armed Forces No

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## Short Answers

### Life experiences / contribute to Harvard

I grew up in an ivory tower, a modern university campus with some of the best infrastructure in the country, situated in the middle of a village in a tier-2 city. I have grown up looking at this difference, from dinner-table debates over labour law to street vendors and daily wagers who defy those ideals. I would contribute to Harvard by challenging oversimplified arguments in classroom discussions and helping peers ground policy, technology, and social debates in reality. For instance, in a discussion on public health failures, I pointed out that, rather than illiteracy, charlatans were more accessible and trustworthy to people living in villages, whereas doctors

were strangers living far away.

## **Intellectual discussion**

SPOI is an initiative I co-founded to teach informatics to schoolchildren in India. The program had around 300 members, and we were taking lectures to prepare them for the informatics olympiad. I had proposed a focus group for the top performers. However, others argued this would undermine confidence in the broader lecture series. This dilemma forced me to confront a clash between meritocracy and equity.

I listened to others carefully, asked clarifying questions, and paraphrased their ideas before presenting mine. I realised the importance of presenting my view in a simple and clear way; people gave good feedback when I did so.

In the end, we created something completely new, a way to offer mentorship-style support to all students, not just the top performers. This philosophy has shaped how I develop SPOI. I have learnt that the best ideas are created when thoughts of different people clash and combine.

## **EC/employment/travel/family experiences**

I was supposed to take a flight to Paris, the first leg of a connecting flight to Bolivia for IOI. Since IOI and IOAI overlapped, I had to go directly from IOI to IOAI. The kicker? I had neither a visa nor a passport, which were with the French embassy. When I boarded a last-minute train to New Delhi the day before my supposed flight, I held my luggage, unsure of whether I would get to fly. But I realised that panic will not help. A clear mind will. I focused on what I could do, such as coordinating with organisers and considering alternative routes.

In the end, I was able to fly. While I can't always control what happens to me, I can always control how calmly I respond. This has shaped how I react when things don't go to plan, which is common when I research and innovate.

## **Education plans**

One of the significant challenges I have faced was a lack of awareness of opportunities. While attending the Olympiad training camp, I realised most of the students were from big cities, especially well-resourced private schools with established guidance systems. Seeing that success correlated more with early exposure than raw potential, I am particularly interested in approaching this inequality as an engineering problem, along with a social one.

At Harvard, I want to gain a deeper understanding of this problem. By studying computer science alongside the social sciences, I want to design technological ways to bridge this gap. With Gov 1430, I would learn how tech can solve real-world societal problems and then apply this knowledge by joining Harvard's Tech for Social Good.

After Harvard, I plan to apply these ideas and experiences to build educational programs so that access is not determined by chance.

## **Roommate intro**

- 1) I am always up to try out new food and order unfamiliar and exotic dishes, even if they are a gamble.
  - 2) Playing board and card games is my favourite way to spend time with my friends. My favourite one is Ticket To Ride. I enjoy studying a game in depth, but never at the expense of fun.
  - 3) I love to watch lighthearted comedy movies and shows. I particularly like The Simpsons. It also affects the way I think, making me not take everything to heart and dwell too long on negativity. When a day goes bad, I step back, almost as if watching a scene unfold.
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## Affirmations

By submitting this application, I affirm my understanding of and agreement to the statements found here: <http://www.commonapp.org/affirmations>.