Dear Prospective Graduate Student,

At the most general level, my research interests lie in debates over (what we might call) realism. For a host of different phenomena, I am interested in the question: is the source of that phenomenon somehow in us or in the world around us? Of course, this question is broad and obscure: there are lots of different phenomena we can ask it of and lots of different ways of making it precise. For instance, we might ask: Do moral facts depend on our desires? Are mathematical truths true in virtue of the meaning of mathematical terms? Are probabilistic claims merely expressing the strength of my belief? And so on.

My research approaches questions like these via the study of vagueness. Some people (e.g. those with no hair) are clearly bald. Others (e.g. those with a full head of hair) are clearly not bald. But for some in-between (e.g. those we might describe as ‘sort of bald and sort of not bald’) it’s not clear whether they are bald. And the lack of clarity seems persistent: it’s not as if we can settle the question by counting the hairs on their head. That is, it’s vague whether they are bald. There are two ways the study of vagueness relates to questions of realism. First, I ask whether the source of vagueness lies in us or in the world around us? Second, I ask what vagueness in domains such as morality, ontology, etc. can teach us about realism in those domains.

I am willing to advise students on projects that explore questions of realism in any domain. But I am also happy to advise student in any area of contemporary analytic metaphysics, philosophy of language, meta-ethics, rational choice and epistemology. I enjoy drawing on formal and technical tools in philosophy (e.g. logic) and am eager to advise students who are similarly inclined.

I grew up in Flint, Michigan and attended Columbia University in New York City where I studied economics and philosophy. After a brief stint working as an M&A analyst at an investment bank, I returned to my home state to pursue a PhD in Philosophy at the University of Michigan, where I graduated in 2016. Before coming to Toronto, I spent a couple years at Bates College in Maine.

Sincerely,

Dr. Rohan Sud
Assistant Professor of Philosophy
Ryerson University, Toronto