

Statement of Purpose

The movie A Beautiful Mind touched me in the following two aspects: Jr. John Forbes Nash, the protagonist, craved to be a genius and entertained the fantasy of executing gifted task in a frantic way; true love and great inner strength helped him overcome disease. At the end of the movie, scholars approached and put the pen on Nash's table one after another to salute him, which was an affecting scene. I realized that dream and pain would stick to us in our entire life.

Same as Mr. Nash, I want to be an extraordinary man, too. This desire is becoming more and more intense as time goes on, which impels me to further study abroad. I recommend myself to you first because of my outstanding education background. My university is among the Top 30 universities in China with its engineering programs among the best 10. During undergraduate study, my academic performance always ranked top 5 among 352 students in my major. I won First Prizes 5 times in Mathematics Contest and Mathematical Contest in Modeling at all levels, and this achievement was quite unique in our university. Solid academic foundation is a crucial criterion and only with it will you feel secure to seek the applicant's other qualities.

At the very beginning, I was keen on mathematics, feeling that becoming a mathematician was not bad. Then after learning specialty, I gradually had a penchant for computer science. It doesn't mean I'm fickle. The truth is that they are somewhat closely connected with one another, just like Nash could combine mathematics and economics. Although understanding the computer---a complicated system functioning in reality---was not as simple as solving mathematics problems, four years' intensive study made me at least have a general idea on various branches in Computer Science. In my view, this is a discipline that requires remarkable intellect and creativity.

To sharpen your intellect, the first step might be to experience some tough activities, such as solving ACM/ICPC programming problems, which are supposed to be mental gymnastics for CS players. Instead of working out problems as many as possible, I prefer to focus on difficult ones. After attempting time and again, I discarded non-practical ideas while getting nearer to the right solutions, and then made efforts to optimize them. At last I learned from various problem-solving reports online written by other players, whose thorough analysis inspired me. I'm so addicted to ACM/ICPC programming that it becomes my favorite activity.

There are many interesting competitions in our university, where excellent youths strive to demonstrate their ability. Soon after entering college, I, an emulative boy, chose the Mathematical Modeling Contest with the most contestants, tried boldly and won the first battle. Later I joined the Mathematical Modeling Group of the Innovative Center in our college. The key role of this contest lies in diversifying my skills and broadening my horizons. I self-studied various subjects, such as Operations Research, Statistical Analysis, Neural Networks, Genetic Algorithm and Game Theory

etc.. I've been through this contest six times, which not only made me an expert of multi-discipline, but also offered me the chance to help the juniors and share my experience with them. In the 2008 Mathematical Contest in Modeling (MCM), our team was designated as Meritorious Winners. As I see it, what made us stand out from 1162 international teams was our creativity and prudence. It was a dance of thinking, just like Nash thought how to let everyone in the party have a dance partner, and then got the most innovative theory in his mind---Dynamic Management. It wasn't that difficult to conceive of original ideas, was it?

In the third academic year, I applied the project "ACM/ICPC Online Judge System". As a matter of fact, system development was a field I lacked confidence as few time was paid on it. However, I deemed it as an opportunity to challenge myself. I went through thick and thin and programmed day and night. Also, teammates' experience benefited me much. Finally, I was extremely excited while looking at our beautiful operation interface and steady operation environment. We've done a terrific job! More importantly, my hands-on ability was sharply improved through this practice.

My various experiences offered me the chance to enter the Lab of Intelligent Computing and Information Processing of our college to become a Research Assistant. In order to comprehend the theory on Data Mining researched by our teachers, I undertook extensive reading, including introduction works and some papers. Then, I, under the guidance of Mr. Zhang, chose the theme---*Applications of Evolutionary Computing Technologies in Data Mining* to write a survey. With my indomitable will and earnest attitude, I managed to cope with obstacles alone.

In our school, some students like me were recommended to Tsinghua University or Peking University---the best two universities in China, but I gave up this opportunity for my lasting idea is adapting myself to the international environment. University of Nebraska Lincoln captivates my attention for its marvelous, tradition-oriented and pleasant academic atmosphere. Its department of CSE has a collection of vigorous scientists, which made it a perfect land for accumulating knowledge and honing skills. I intend to choose Data Mining, Database System, and Constraint Database as my specialization. I believe this field is where I can display all my intelligence and inspiration, as well as taking advantage of my experience in modeling. My competence in the research in the lab also convinces me that I can do well in it. When it comes to my ultimate goal, I will try to cultivate myself as a modest, knowledgeable and righteous scholar so as to dedicate my industry and wisdom to my beloved subject---Computer Science.

I'd like to tell you three things as follows: firstly, I didn't waste my time in university and always quested and overcame difficulties with a hearty spirit. Furthermore, my dream never fades after numerous failures, setbacks and give-ups. Thirdly, I particularly want to mention my mom. She always supports me with her broad wisdom and understanding, though I will leave her. I know what supports Nash is his wife's beautiful mind, just like the way my mom stands by me.