

The Study Abroad Foundation, Mainland China Office

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SAF SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

SAF 奖学金申请指南

SAF 为学生提供两个名额奖学金, 每个名额奖学金金额为 2000 美元。请有意申请 SAF 奖学金的同学按照以下流程进行 SAF 奖学金申请。

1. 用英文根据下面问题撰写文章;
2. 在报名申请截止日期之前, 将 SAF 奖学金申请表和 SAF 项目申请材料一起递交给 SAF 国际项目中国办公室;

SAF 奖学金获奖名单将在每年 6 月及 11 月公布。

Date Applied 2012.3.6

Student Name Meng Du

Home University Beijing Normal University

Please write an essay on the question below in English.

Essay Question: Why do you want to study abroad?

Nowadays, students applying for overseas programs are increasingly eager. Although our chance is also growing, we still have to be competitive enough to win better opportunities. For me, there are several special reasons to study abroad.

First and foremost, my enthusiasm in my major, psychology, firms my determination to study abroad.

Looking behind and trying to figure out how my strong interest in psychology and neuroscience was developed, at times I find it hard to say. Although it seems that this choice of major was so natural and fit for me even when it first caught my sight, yet I know it was not built in one day. Looking back, special moments flowed into my mind. I recalled when I, as a little child, lost myself in the fascinating world illustrated by an encyclopedia, and when I realized everyone thought differently and tried to figure out others' pattern. I recalled when my mother suffered from brain tumors since I was young, gradually started to be incoherent, and eventually passed away after twelve years' struggle and three craniotomies. I recalled when I heard one of my previous classmates was absent from the university due to mental problems, causing discussions and rumors.... Some memories are grieving, but they taught me to live freely and curiously, to stay firm and strong, and to face with calm the fluctuations of life, as well as death. Possibly, everything that I have experienced in my life contributes to how I choose and who I am, thus, I know the choices are definitely the appropriate ones for me.

I love reasoning and exploring, for the fantastic feeling of discovery remarkably appeals to me. This is also one of the reasons why I chose psychology as my major, and especially interested in cognitive neuroscience: the work of delving into the amazing brain and thoughts, particularly by quantitative and experimental methods, is so creative as well as so logical, thus it surprisingly generates my excitement. Through two-year study and participations in several projects, I understand psychology much better, and consolidated my determination to study further on this subject.

Although I can continue my study in China more easily, I chose to apply this program and plan to go aboard for further study after graduating from college, in order to seek for better education on psychology. I have got a relatively high score in Gaokao (the college entrance exam in China), and a satisfying admission result. Up to now, however, my study experience turned out to be so disappointing. Claiming itself as the best school of psychology in China, our faculty cannot even fulfill their teaching plan. Some courses may never be taught due to the lack of teachers. And to meet the requirement of credit, our selection of courses is very limited. Nonetheless, it is not only our university, I suppose, but also its surroundings, the imperfection of the whole society system, that result in the messiness of management, the limitation of sources, the irresponsibility of teaching and researching, etc. Certainly, I love my country and my home university indeed, and I know for sure that they are getting better and better, yet faultiness has to be acknowledged. I have also realized that the subject of psychology in China still has plenty of room to be improved and promoted. For example, there is a lack of professional staff and advanced equipment, and misunderstanding about psychology among the public. And I am looking forward to making contribution to its advancement after I have accumulated rich enough.

Second, my overseas experiences make me aspire to study abroad. I have been to the United States twice. The first time was a tour, during which I was impressed by both the scenery and the culture of America. And last year, I participated in the summer session of UC Berkeley. For about three weeks, I took courses, did assignment and attended exams, which made me felt as a local student instead of a foreigner. Consequently, I did not only accumulate more experiences and knowledge about the United States, but also gradually fell in love with the atmosphere of freedom, the excellent teaching of professors, and the friendliness of staff. As a result, my desire to learning abroad grew stronger.

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Third, while browsing through the website of the oversea universities, I was impressed by the various courses and programs, the diversity of students and activities, and all kinds of opportunities they provide for students, which are hardly seen in the universities of China. Thus, I believe studying abroad can provide for me with plenty of opportunities to learn, to research, and to earn a promising future career, which I am always seeking for.

According to all the reasons mentioned above, I believe through the one-year oversea program, I can develop my expertise, research ability and language skills, thereby taking one step closer toward my dream of psychology.



Student Signature

02/07/2012

Date (Month/Date/Year)