

The Study Abroad Foundation, Mainland China Office

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SAF SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

SAF 奖学金申请指南

SAF 为每学期学生提供两-三个名额奖学金, 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. 在学期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的6月及 11 月公布。

Student Name Mengqi Yu

Home University Nankai University

Please write an essay on the question below in English.

Essay Question: Why do you want to study abroad?

A lot of my friends are confused with my decision to study abroad for three months, because I've already been admitted to the master program of College of Environmental Science and Engineering, Peking University. And there is no probability that I would give up Peking University. However, this experience means a lot to me.

Firstly, I want to pursue better education in my major, Environmental Science, to improve the environmental quality of China. I grew up in a very scenic village in China where the clear rivulet used to have a lot of fishes and shrimps. However it now becomes turbid due to the untreated wastewater from the coal mines. No longer could I swim in the river or catch fishes for the cats. They were the most unforgettable things in my childhood, and I really miss the happiness I felt. The surface of leaves on the trees is now covered with a thin layer of coal ash. However, this is not just one case, in most Chinese poor villages the environment is always sacrificed for the growth in economics. The clash between economic and environmental concerns that I witnessed in my hometown attracts me to the study of Environmental Science. But the environmental planning and pollution treatment in China are far behind from what's in Western Europe and North America. So I want to learn how American manages the Environmental quality and makes the environmental planning. Then after coming back to China, I can let more people know what I have learned and change their views about the environment. Environmental Studies of University of California, Santa Barbara is among the TOP 20 in the world. I've read a lot of good articles written by professors in UCSB for my research project. From the books and news I've read, I know that American performs a very different way in college education from China. What interests me most is that American students are very active in class and they communicate with teachers very often. I want to experience different class atmosphere and become an innovative thinker. If so, when I come back to China, I can bring the spirit of critical and innovative thinking to influence my classmates and change the atmosphere of classes I will attend in Peking University.

Secondly, I can broaden my view of the world. The culture of America differs a lot from China. And I am fascinated by the American spirit which is deeply rooted in the culture. As one of my professors said, you can never know it until you live it. I want to experience the life style, religion and politics which are not the same with China. I would know what exactly American's attitude toward China, welcome or not. I would know how to fit myself into this world in a better way as a Chinese people. In this way, I would be more proud of Chinese culture and history.

Thirdly, I can improve myself with this study abroad experience. I can learn how to effectively communicate and cooperate with students with distinctive culture background. When working together with foreign classmates, I will see the sparks generated by different thinking patterns influenced by different cultures. It would be necessary to jump out of the box sometimes, especially in the era of information burst. We may need a break from the old thinking patterns and have a fresh restart, in order to find out who we truly are. I believe that my English, especially oral English, would improve a lot in America. My ability of reading English textbooks and papers would also become better, which would be very helpful for my research in graduate school and in future work. Living in a totally new environment abroad independently would be a great challenge for me. Thus, this experience will help me adjust myself to a new environment and be more independent. Last but not least, I can make a lot of foreign friends. That will be a lifetime cherished fortune.

To sum up, I want to study abroad to receive better education, influence more people and find a new me.