

Personal History Statement

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Born and raised in a beautiful median-sized city in Central China, studied in the best junior and senior high in my hometown, and then spent four years in Peking University, one of China's best universities, I have been lucky to be well-educated through my early life and kept broadening my sight and horizons. In retrospect, I found that my twenty-two year life history can be naturally divided into three parts: the hard working and academic success during my early years; the confusing and dark period right after my successful entrance into the top university; and then fruitful pursuit in science and technology with great passion and inner peace.

In my early years, as I was raised and a little spoiled by my grandparents during the childhood, I did not behave well in the school, and neither knew how to study hard in the class. Later on, it was math that triggered a sudden change of my personality. At that time, I became obsessed in math, as I felt it was magic to use math to depict everything in a neat, clean and quantitative way. I learned by myself a lot of advanced math which was not taught in textbooks and gradually became the best student in math in the class. Then I got much applause and acknowledgement from my classmates and teachers. This brought me great satisfaction and I was further motivated to be the best student in every other subjects. Little by little, I made it and achieved top academic performances in my hometown. As a result, I earned an opportunity to be admitted to Peking University, China's best university, and became the first student in my hometown to enter Peking University.

Being not a mature young person, I became arrogant in my hometown. I did neither stay hungry and foolish after entering Peking University. This arrogance brought me into the darkness in my first two years in Peking University. I was not able to control myself, motivate myself, and find passion for anything in my life. I was neither able to keep a good academic record in the university as in my high school. Things got worse and worse. I had to face at the same time the ignorance or even mock from my classmates, as well as the high expectation from people in my hometown. In those two years, the darkest time in my early life, I have been learning how to put aside other people's comments, whether good or bad, and how to find inner peace in daily life.

Fortunately, I finally stepped out of the darkness and found my true interest, scientific research. It was in my third year in college when I went into Prof. Zhigang Zhang's group to participate in researches in lasers and fibers. I suddenly managed to find back the 'active me' in research. My brain was filled with all kinds of interesting and unknown problems in my research, without any more space to consider about others' comments and expectations. After I solved some problems, other new problems emerged; I felt never boiling, just like in a highway with beautiful sceneries kept appearing. With this strong motivation, I almost spent all my time in the lab in these two years and managed to complete six research projects and one industrial intern, and harvested two scientific publications and some awards. I gained great joy in my heart.

In retrospect, I knew exactly how scientific research has greatly influenced my personality and dragged me out from my darkest days in the life. I greatly cherished my passion and true love in scientific research. That's why I would like to continue my pursuit for a graduate program in the U. S. I am prepared to make more achievements in my future life.