

Personal History Statement

Born and raised in Dalian, a beautiful coastal city in the eastern China, and studied in Beijing, the economic and cultural center of China, I have been lucky enough to obtain an open, advanced and diversified education. In retrospect, I found my twenty-one-year life history falls naturally into three stages: my early pursuit in music and mathematics; the efforts to be a versatile person; and now the exploration into the frontier of music and electrical engineering.

In early age, while most of my playmates were busy playing computer games or hanging out, I showed great curiosity in music and science. With the help of my parents, I developed a strong interest in music. I began to learn piano from five years old and gradually got in touch with various music styles, spanning over classical music and modern music. Five years later, I proudly passed the Grade Ten, the highest honor for an amateur piano player. Meanwhile, I also found great joy and satisfaction in the world of mathematics. I was fond of the neat logic and clean deduction in math, so I self-learned many advanced math knowledge outside classrooms, and kept thinking interesting mathematical issues almost every day. With such a strong interest, I participated in the competition of National Olympiad in Mathematics (NOIM) and won the first prize.

In the middle school, unlike other students who mainly focus on course study, I cultivated myself into a versatile person. Study is only a small component of my daily life; I also spent much time playing piano, listening to music, doing exercise every day. In the vacations, I traveled to different places in the world, including Canada, Japan, Korea, Singapore etc., to refresh myself with diversified culture and value. Furthermore, I served as the President of the Student Union of our school, Yuming High School, the best middle school in our province. In three years, I organized weekly meetings and several big events, and initiated two exchange programs with two middle schools in Korea and Japan. With a heavy burden in extracurricular work, I still kept good academic performances and ranked the 4/34000 in the whole city in the final College Entrance Examination, which won me the opportunity to enter Tsinghua University, one of the Top 2 universities in China.

At Tsinghua, I launched a journey different from my peers, a journey into the frontier of music and electrical engineering (EE). From sophomore year, I have gradually explored a way to apply my EE knowledge to the music study. I independently took one research in academia and then participated in an intern, both trying to use a quantitative and engineering way to study music, a form of subjective and perceptual art. These experiences in return equipped me a deeper and broader understanding of music, and therefore enabled me to go further in my music pursuit. I founded a band named "B52" with dynamic and diversified music styles, and I am now serving as the lead singer and keyboard player for the band. In less than one year, our band has grown to be the most popular band at Tsinghua and I was awarded the *Best Composer* and *Most Popular Singer* in the Tsinghua Singing Contest.

This is me, a young man who has unique thinking and pursuit, eager to make a difference and also desired to realize his dream. I believe the choice of a master study in XXX University is optimal for me, and my background will certainly contribute to the diversity of your program.